

An excerpt from About Town by Robin Collins of 'The Patch'
<http://sanrafael.patch.com/articles/the-elves-are-energized>

December 7, 2010

Elves at Friends of Marin Center give away free tickets to the arts

Jayle Hale, executive director [Friends of Marin Center](#), and her elves, gave away more than 500 seats for Stapleton's Nutcracker ballet at the Marin Memorial Veterans Auditorium this past weekend. They are also distributing tickets for upcoming performances of the Mayflower Community Chorus and Marin Dance's Sophie's Enchanted Toy Shop this holiday season.

Working with more than 120 nonprofits every year, FOMC coordinates the giving of more than 4,200 tickets to seniors, students, and those with physical or mental challenges in our community who otherwise couldn't afford or would not be able to experience live performances including plays, opera and symphony.

Hale receives a daily dose of hugs in the form of thank you notes from individuals, agencies and schools. All the letters I read talk about excitement, anticipation, and joy observed in the faces of audience members. Each one overflows with gratitude and I even saw a few tear stains.

A wonderful thank you note described the fantastic FOMC programs and went on to say that FOMC has changed the lives of the developmentally disabled adults who are still talking about shows they attended three years ago. The Center for Attitudinal Healing called FOMC "a Valentine to the community." But, wait, that's another holiday.