



December 1, 2010

### May we borrow your name?

**The strength of any project comes from the support of individuals and business leaders who embrace their community. I had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of *The Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund* for 15 years. In addition to the strength of the newspaper, the drive is successful due to endorsements from noted civic leaders.**

Now, new necessary support systems are being created as society's needs climb economic ladders. In 2008, families facing foreclosure began arriving at Marin Family Action, a small non-profit in San Rafael's Marin Justice Center. To meet the growing community need, Families Fighting Foreclosure was established and combined with ongoing Financial Literacy classes. Marin Family Action now represents more than 300 North Bay residents who have paid their dues through property, state and federal taxes throughout their working lives; they are viable members of our community who have fallen on one of the most difficult times of their lives. No one is turned away from Marin Family Action: Every age, race, gender, and every profession is up against America's current challenges. These individuals mirror America's at-risk middle class educated workers: They don't know how to ask for assistance.

Most of the families came from other non-profits that turned them away after saying nothing could be done. Thankfully, Marin Family Action has proven them wrong in many instances. More than a dozen families paid fees to a Southern California attorney. In one instance, that attorney admittedly missed a deadline which caused a 74-year-old Mill Valley resident to be evicted from her home. His advice: "Move back into your home. The bank doesn't own it." After following his advice, she was handcuffed and taken to county jail. Because of Marin Family Action's buddy system, she was out of jail and in a safe home within hours.

Marin Family Action is making headway, as indicated in the attached newsletter, but we need funds to stabilize working families and keep their children in Marin's fine schools. At weekly free meetings, each family's situation is assessed in depth and solutions considered: Included are loan modifications, forensic audits, legal action as necessary, or home sales if mandatory. Participants also attend Financial Literacy Workshops to learn new ways to budget in order to avoid future economic strife.

Marin Family Action's overhead is extremely low. Our attorneys and forensic auditors work for low fees. Dozens of volunteers lend support. The families—who are highly educated professionals and exceptionally talented individuals—do much of the research themselves.

**So, will you [donate today](#) and allow us to "borrow your name" by including you in our [list of supporters](#) and/or join [Marin Family Shops](#)? Thank you for any consideration.**

D.A. Levy for Marin Family Action

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