

Transforming Lives Through Meaningful Work



Abundant Grace
COASTSIDE WORKER

Where Generosity Meets Needs

We stand at the crossroads of your generosity and the needs of our neighbors on the streets. We are nothing but grateful...

April 2021

Notes from AGCW

by Eric DeBode

We are getting closer to the Grand Opening of the Workforce Development Center. We've renovated two bathrooms with showers, two washers and dryers, and remodeled the backyard. This space is its



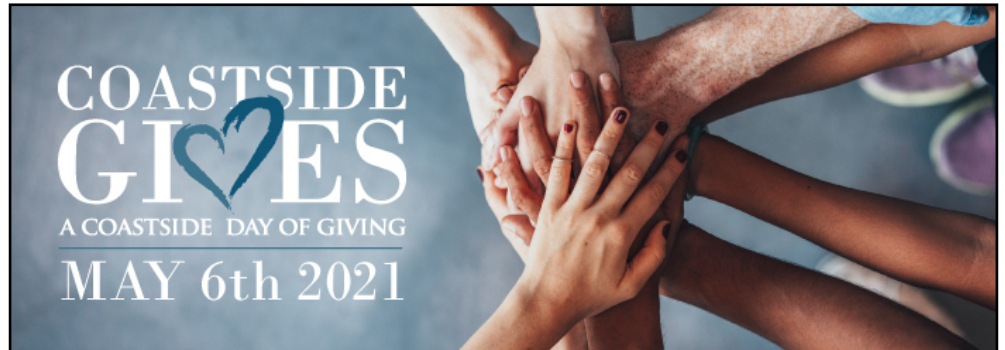
These three photos were all taken from the same position and show the evolution of the accessible bathroom.

own program now, and we offer special services and supports through the new center.



Kitchen cleaners!

If it seems like a lot is



We know that none of our services would be possible without the nearly 1,000 donors who support us throughout the year. And one of our biggest annual fundraisers is the Coastside Gives Day on May 6th this year. Go to: <https://www.coastsidegives.org/AbundantGraceCW> to make a contribution. All donations this year fund programming.

We are celebrating our brand new conservation project this month; teaching about native plant restoration, carbon sequestration and environmental issues. It's so exciting! Farm Managers Jay and Suzie Trexler have written the following reflection:

by Jay and Suzie Trexler

As the farm managers of Potrero Nuevo Farm, we've been helping run Abundant Grace's programs for close to a decade. We are always looking for new opportunities to provide for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. For years, we contemplated the idea of venturing into the wilderness areas of the 300-acre farm. Farm owners Christine Pielenz and Bill Laven have stewarded the land with sustainable practices, and with our new Carbon Farm Plan from the Resource Conservation



The view of Potrero Nuevo Farm from the conservation crew site.



The crew hiking up to their work site

District, This new year was the perfect time to launch our latest program initiative: **the Conservation Crew**. Now, program participants can move beyond the agricultural fields and engage in important environmental work, while improving their teamwork skills and collaborating to complete a successful project.

happening, it is! There are four work days at Potrero Nuevo Farm, four days at the Coastsides Clean Team and the center is open 6 days each week.

We even hosted two days of Covid vaccinations for the homeless community.



The old fence comes down

We are busy! Thanks to all of you and your generous support, each program is



The new fence goes up, thanks to the Rotary Club!

thriving. This year for Coastsides Gives, we are asking you to once again, be generous! We

appreciate every single gift since each one enhances and



The new pavers being installed in the backyard.

improves our work time with the homeless community. Go to:

<https://www.coastsidegives.org/AbundantGraceCW> to make a contribution.

Thank you,

Eric

Follow our progress online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AbundantGraceCW>

The Conservation Crew adds a fourth day of programming at the Farm. We are able to offer 5 rounds of this pilot program this year for groups of 6 participants who have completed an application and demonstrated their commitment through our regular farm activities. As with all of AGCW's job-readiness programs, participants receive a stipend at the end of each work session.

We are pleased to report that the inaugural round of the Conservation Crew was a hugely positive experience! Together with AGCW's Program Director, Judy Bross, our team was able to clear an entire field of more than 1,000 invasive species, including the prolific Pampas Grass that is taking over our grazing pastures. We also cleared an overgrown trail and addressed a bank in danger of eroding by seeding it with grass and native plants.



Gilberto is helping plant native plants at the conservation site.

The highlight of the first round was partnering with the Resource Conservation District and Point Blue Conservation Science on a pond restoration project. The Crew learned a lot from the pros, including how to plant native plants and actively maintain them. Looking ahead this season, we're excited to continue with the

Conservation Crew through 4 more rounds. The Carbon Farm Plan provides an assessment and ideas for how we could continue to sequester carbon on the farm.

We're thrilled that many of the projects are perfect for the Conservation Crew, especially things like invasive species removal, new plantings, and erosion control. We at Potrero Nuevo Farm are proud to partner with Abundant Grace and share a place that



Julianna (left) working with Suzie in the greenhouse

provides refuge, a sense of community, confidence building, and a catalyst for positive change in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Republic Services and Rebuilding Together

We are very excited to announce that AGCW is partnering with Rebuilding Together Peninsula and Republic Services to continue renovations at the Workforce Development Center. Beginning with a volunteer work day in June, Republic Services employees will help us build a farm stand to distribute produce from Potrero Nuevo Farm. Rebuilding Together will continue the work to help us update the kitchen, fix the floor of the garage, and install pavers and planters in the front of the building. We are so grateful to be a part of this exciting partnership. Thank you Republic Services and Rebuilding Together!

