

News
from ICS's

Growing
Excellence
in Marin

AUTUMN
2010



The days are getting shorter, there is a crispness in the air, and the turning colors of the poison oak leaves remind us that the season is changing... Autumnal Equinox is September 21st. We wish you a very happy Autumn from the GEM staff: Liza Buckner (Program Manager), Kristi Jacobson (Program Coordinator), Jamey Howell (Garden Educator), and Nicole Mercier (Garden Educator).

GEM's opening was celebrated on July 23rd with a ribbon cutting by the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce.



Our GEMs were commissioned to create a beautiful display of potted flowers for a remembrance ceremony which took place on September 12th in the Sha'arei Shalom (Gates of Peace) area within the Mount Tamalpais Cemetery.

We completed our first *Situational Assessment* on September 15th for a client referred to ascertain his stamina for work and interest in horticulture.

We will have potted narcissus & amaryllis bulbs in flower towards the holiday season!

Growing People & Plants Together

On Friday, September 10th we awarded one of our GEMs the Nursery Worker I certificate. After 6 weeks of full time attendance, Lauren has acquired the basic skills needed to seek competitive employment for an entry-level nursery job. Lauren has decided to continue with the program and work towards gaining skill mastery and her Nursery Level II certificate!

Each day presents opportunities for our participants to learn new skills and to deepen a basic understanding and gain mastery of a wide range of horticultural skills. The work-day begins with a walk through of the greenhouse and surrounding growing space to assess watering needs, interventions for insects or pests, and to determine if seedlings are ready for transplanting into pots or beds. Lessons are delivered via hands-on demonstrations concurrent with lecture format. The GEM team provides participants with group and independent work, individualized attention, and modifications to the curriculum.

Outreach connections have been made with the surrounding community of support agencies including: (MBIN) Marin Brain Injury Network, (MCIL) Marin Center for Independent Living, Marin Employment Connection, (NAMI) National Alliance on Mental Illness, Marin County Community Mental Health, and (MCOE) Marin County Office of Education.



Nicole (one of our Garden Educators) instructing GEM participants on transplanting and watering-in skills.

Donate to GEM

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