



# Winter at GEM

December 2010

Sending **warm** and **bright** wishes to you all for the *Solstice* and *New Year!*

Growing Excellence in Marin is a horticultural vocational training program with Integrated Community Services

## GEM News

**Lauren** has completed the GEM program and is now in the process of looking for part time work with the assistance of ICS's Employment Specialist.

**Jonathan** has earned his Nursery Level I certificate and applied and was called back for an interview at Sloat! Until he lands that nursery job he plans to stay on at GEM and continue building his skill-mastery.

**Paul** earned his Nursery Level I certificate and also plans to attend College of Marin part-time and stay at GEM while starting to look for work after the holidays.

Welcome to our newest GEM's:  
**Cristin, Allan, Kory** and **Christopher!**

**Happy Holidays from  
The GEM staff:  
Nicole, Jamey, Kristi  
and Liza**

## Marin Re-Entry Task Force

GEM is part of the planning team for Celebration of Collaboration in January; featuring Dr. Rachel Pinderhughes, Professor of Urban Studies & Planning at SFSU. The task-force is also preparing for Road-to-Work coming up in March 2011.

## What's Growing?

We have sweetly-scented Narcissus "Paper Whites" in bloom and stunning Amaryllis; either would make the very best holiday hostess gift or brighten up any spot in your home or office! We always have delicious, fresh, crisp, seasonal lettuces, edible greens (arugula, kale, chard, broccoli rabe and broccoli), and herbs.

## Mini Mobile Market

ICS Staff, Board members and some of our work-place neighbors have participated in our mini mobile market. Each week, on Tuesdays and/or Fridays, we bring our seasonal, fresh flowers and edible greens to you. If you would like to be added to the weekly availability list please send an email to [Kristi@connectics.org](mailto:Kristi@connectics.org)

## Growing People & Plants Together

This season our GEMs have had the opportunity to spend time at the Falkirk Cultural Center greenhouse and grounds learning about landscape maintenance.

Summer at GEM will be quite active as outgoing high school seniors (and some juniors) from San Rafael High, Drake High and San Andreas High schools are starting to sign up to gain the skills needed for their first job in the nursery field.

