



**Board of Directors**

Susan Carson  
*Board Chair*  
Justin Hansel  
*First Vice Chair*  
Julie Wilder  
*Second Vice Chair*  
Michael Diemer  
*Secretary Treasurer*  
Lydia Cameron  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
Sandy Benson  
*Member at Large*  
Laura Arends  
Earl Barron III  
Mary Beth Benedetti  
Michael Bristow  
Mike Christian  
Victor Deksnys  
Danny Fish  
Greg Freitas  
Jason Henderson  
Mary Anne Hoover  
Jonathan Lacey  
Ed Still  
Mike Tomasini

**Leadership Council**

Russell A. Colombo, Chair  
*Bank of Marin*  
Marcus Benedetti  
*Clover Stornetta Farms*  
Ed Berberian  
*County of Marin District Attorney*  
John Bisges  
*Dynacraft*  
Sara Brandenburg  
*Associated Propane*  
Mary Jane Burke  
*County of Marin Office of Education*  
David Wain Coon  
*College of Marin*  
Robert Doyle  
*County of Marin Sheriff*  
Steve Freitas  
*County of Sonoma Sheriff*  
Patty Garbarino  
*Marin Sanitary Services*  
Nina H. Gardner, J.D.  
*Filice Insurance*  
Mike Ghilotti  
*Ghilotti Bros., Inc.*  
Dick Ghilotti  
*Ghilotti Construction*  
Henry Hansel  
*Hansel Auto Group*  
Leslie Murphy  
*W. Bradley Electric, Inc.*  
Craig Nelson  
*Nelson Family of Companies*  
Steve Page  
*Sonoma Raceway*  
Bruce Raabe  
*Relevant Wealth Advisors*  
Dr. Jane Saldana-Talley  
*Santa Rosa Junior College*  
Cecilia Zamora  
*Latino Council*  
  
Robert Marcus  
*President & CEO*

**For Immediate Release**  
August 15, 2016

**Contact:**  
Angela Colombo  
Director of Development & Communications  
415.299.7144 mobile  
[acolombo@mpbgc.org](mailto:acolombo@mpbgc.org)

**CEO with Marin roots donates 1,000 backpacks to Boys & Girls Clubs youth in need for Back to School at Marin City event**

*Marin Association of Realtors®, Marriot Hotels & Resorts join in efforts in collaborative Back to School effort*

(San Rafael, CA)— Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma (BGCMP) announced today that BGCMP Clubmembers would be going back to school prepared this school year thanks to a donation of 1,000 youth backpacks from Fitmark. Fitmark Founder and CEO, Mark Samuel, a native to Marin County, said, "From the beginning as a company, we've made a commitment to work hard so that we achieve our growth projections, but we also want to give back to the community to our full potential. Fitmark provides bags to kids who not only work hard in school and participate in after-school programs, but particularly to those kids who are less fortunate. I grew up in Marin and I wish there was a Club to go to when I was young. I'm thrilled that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma is filling the need in the North Bay by expanding to Marin County and to be able to make this donation to such a worthy cause aligns directly with our philanthropic goals for our company and for me personally."

For every \$100 netted through Fitmark's web sales, Mark has made the commitment to donate one bag to a handful of Boys & Girls Clubs around the country, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma is now on that list.

In addition to the Fitmark donation, Marin Association of REALTORS®, Marriot Hotels & Resorts and several community members and donors came forward to further spur the donation with \$25 Staples gift cards to accompany the donated backpacks. The Boys & Girls Clubs will be distributing the backpacks and gift cards throughout their 15 Clubhouses before school begins and at a kick-off event this Tues., Aug. 16, 2016 from 2-4pm at Rocky Graham Park in the 100 Lot, 850 Drake Ave. in Marin City for the Martin Luther King Jr. Academy Clubmembers.

Robert Marcus, President & CEO said, "These types of corporate and community partnerships not only benefit the organization and most importantly the youth we serve, but they are in line with our core values in teaching our Clubmembers the importance of community involvement and giving back. I commend Fitmark and all of the donors who have come forward to further spur our efforts, especially when it comes to community building."

Since expanding to Marin County from Petaluma eight years ago, Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma has been able to serve youth at five Clubhouses including the Martin Luther King Jr. Clubhouse in Marin City, the Cove School Clubhouse in Corte Madera, the Davidson Middle School Clubhouse in San Rafael, the San Jose Middle School Clubhouse in Novato and an upcoming teen program, in addition to eight Clubhouses in Petaluma, serving 5,300 youth ages 6-18 years old and 70,000 meals annually. Two-thirds of the population served at BGCMP is eligible for free or reduced lunch program and at the MLK Clubhouse 99% of the youth served are eligible. BGCMP serves 100 of the 125 youth at the

### (cont on next page)



**Board of Directors**

Susan Carson  
*Board Chair*  
Justin Hansel  
*First Vice Chair*  
Julie Wilder  
*Second Vice Chair*  
Michael Diemer  
*Secretary Treasurer*  
Lydia Cameron  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
Sandy Benson  
*Member at Large*  
Laura Arends  
Earl Barron III  
Mary Beth Benedetti  
Michael Bristow  
Mike Christian  
Victor Deksnys  
Danny Fish  
Greg Freitas  
Jason Henderson  
Mary Anne Hoover  
Jonathan Lacey  
Ed Still  
Mike Tomasin

**Leadership Council**

Russell A. Colombo, Chair  
*Bank of Marin*  
Marcus Benedetti  
*Clover Stormetta Farms*  
Ed Berberian  
*County of Marin District Attorney*  
John Bisges  
*Dynacraft*  
Sara Brandenburg  
*Associated Propane*  
Mary Jane Burke  
*County of Marin Office of Education*  
David Wain Coon  
*College of Marin*  
Robert Doyle  
*County of Marin Sheriff*  
Steve Freitas  
*County of Sonoma Sheriff*  
Patty Garbarino  
*Marin Sanitary Services*  
Nina H. Gardner, J.D.  
*Filice Insurance*  
Mike Ghilotti  
*Ghilotti Bros., Inc.*  
Dick Ghilotti  
*Ghilotti Construction*  
Henry Hansel  
*Hansel Auto Group*  
Leslie Murphy  
*W. Bradley Electric, Inc.*  
Craig Nelson  
*Nelson Family of Companies*  
Steve Page  
*Sonoma Raceway*  
Bruce Raabe  
*Relevant Wealth Advisors*  
Dr. Jane Saldana-Talley  
*Santa Rosa Junior College*  
Cecilia Zamora  
*Latino Council*  
  
Robert Marcus  
*President & CEO*

MLK Academy and there are no program fees associated with the program so that all youth willing to participate are able to.

**What:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma Back to School Backpack giveaway event

**When:** Tues., Aug. 16, 2016 2-4pm

**Where:** 105 Drake Ave., 100 Lot, Marin City (at the corner of Donahue and Drake Ave.)

*As you exit the freeway, from Donahue St., turn left onto Drake Ave. and the parking lot is the first left, this is permit only parking. Parking is accessible on the street or at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church across the street. The event will be held next to the skate park and basketball courts closest to Donahue.*

**Mark Samuel Bio:**

*Mark Samuel is a serial entrepreneur with over 15 years of start-up experience. He is the founder and CEO of a successful sport and meal prep bag company, Fitmark ([www.fitmarkbags.com](http://www.fitmarkbags.com)). He is also founder and CEO of a newly launched high protein, organic snack company, i won! nutrition ([www.iwonnutrition.com](http://www.iwonnutrition.com)). Mark is passionate about growing his business, supporting youth organizations, and teaching other entrepreneurs how to build successful companies.*

**About BGCMP:**

*For more than sixty years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Petaluma has enabled all youth, especially those who need it most, to realize and achieve their great futures as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Today, 15 Clubhouses serve more than 5,300 young people and 70,000 meals annually through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs provide a safe environment, caring adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development after-school and summer programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives.*

###