

## Larkspur volunteer among Marin Community Clinics honorees

By Chris Rooney Marinscope contributor | Posted: Thursday, June 18, 2015 5:21 pm

It's time for some unsung heroes to get a little attention.

On Wed., June 24, Marin Community Clinics will honor three community members and a regional health care organization that have made extraordinary contributions to the health and wellness of Marin County residents.

This year's honorees are:

- Leslie Cunningham (Larkspur), a physical therapist who volunteers at the clinics four to six days a month, providing services to uninsured patients recovering from surgery, injuries and stroke, as well as those suffering from chronic pain.

"I love working with the people at Marin Community Clinics," Cunningham said. "They are so dedicated and care so much about the community. It is an honor to be associated with such a wonderful organization."

- Operation Access, a regional nonprofit that has been providing free outpatient surgical procedures and diagnostic services to uninsured Marin residents since 1993.

Working Marin's community clinics, three hospitals, and participating surgery centers and diagnostic centers, Operation Access facilitates care so that low-income residents can receive much-needed specialty services. In just 2014 alone, Operation Access provided more than \$4 million in charity care to Marin residents.

- Carolina Perez, a senior at Novato High School, has been an active community volunteer since she was in ninth grade, both locally and internationally. Currently, she assists with the MCC/Lift-Levantate weekly Community Health Hub at the Novato Clinic site, where she is both an intern trainer and set-up coordinator and assists attendees. To date, she has logged more than 160 volunteer hours. Her aspiration is to become a community advocate.

- Maria Benitez, also a Novato High School senior, has been an active volunteer with a number of community service agencies, including the Friday Night Club, which helps prevent teens from using alcohol. She is also a peer educator at the Novato Wellness Center's Teen Clinic, where she has contributed 200 hours to date. Her goal is to become a nurse.

"Operation Access is honored to be recognized by Marin Community Clinics as a health champion," said Jason Beers, president and CEO of Operation Access.

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