

1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an "unconditional War on Poverty in America" and launched the national network of Community Action Agencies.

1966 Community Action Marin is founded in Marin City as the Marin Economic Opportunity Council with a \$40,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

1967 Designated "the official anti-poverty agency for Marin County" by Board of Supervisors. Gail Theller joins to run a summer children's program in Marin City. In 1978, she becomes the agency's Executive Director and leads for more than 40 years.

1971 Name changes from the Marin Economic Opportunity Council to Community Action Marin (CAM).

1978 Programs grow to include Head Start, the Single Parent Resource Center, Marin City Multi-Service Center, and the Canal Child Care Center, among others. The Emergency Services Center located at 16 Ritter Street will later spin off and become Ritter Center.

1981 President Reagan creates the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), delivering funding for Community Action Agencies directly to states. CAM's initial CSBG allocation is \$160,000. **120 children served in six preschools.**

1984 The main office on Lincoln Avenue destroyed by fire and agency moves to **408 Fourth St, San Rafael.** For the next 34 years, CAM's main conference room has a fireplace.

1987 Marin Citizens for Energy Planning joins CAM, bringing utility assistance and weatherization services. Later, CAM runs the county's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

1988 Marin Community Child Development Program leaves the Marin County Office of Education, adding the Old Gallinas Children's Center, Las Palmas, and the Novato Children's Center (Hamilton).

1989 Property at **46 Louise Street in San Rafael** leased to house the Canal Child Care Center.

1990 Budget reaches **\$5 million with 100 employees**. The Network of Mental Health Clients, a program of the Mental Health Association of Marin, joins CAM. Program budget is \$40,000 per year and it's located in a classroom at an old elementary school in San Anselmo. Head Start and the Child Development Program at 5520 Nave in Novato burns down.

1995 CAM shuts down Weatherization warehouse and crew. CAM purchases 29 Mary St, San Rafael for \$750,000. **First Peer Mental Health program launches.**

1998 Marin Jobs and Career Services created and helps **200 people find jobs** in its first year, with the average wage \$8.68 per hour. CAM launches its Water Conservation Project aka "the toilet exchange."

1999 Marin People Care joins CAM and opens a detox center, later renamed the Helen Vine Detox Center. Agency budget hits \$7.5 million. Canal Child Care preschooler John Lam (now a principal dancer with the Boston Ballet) dances in Marin Ballet's production of The Nutcracker.

2000 Head Start begins offering full-day, full-year programming. The Marin County Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Training Collaborative increases the number of certified preschool teachers. Sites in Marin City, San Rafael and Novato support **80 early education workforce students.**

2001 Canal Child Care Center moves to 215 Mission Ave., leasing from San Rafael City Schools. They dig up their fruit trees to take with them. **Head Start opens at Short School in San Rafael.**

2002 Under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, **Hamilton Children's Center** (now known as Las Palmas) is conveyed to CAM at a "public benefit allowance discount" of \$1 with the condition that it is "utilized solely and continually" for the purpose of providing an early childhood education.

2003 Board reorganizes early education: Marin Learning Center, Marin Community Child Development Program, and Canal Child Care Center become the **Child Development Program (CDP).** Collective Bargaining Agreement with Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

2004 Employee Benefit Allowance raised to \$300 per month. **Launch of the Community Alternative Response & Engagement (CARE) Team,** an outreach team for the unhoused.

2005 Bob Weir of Grateful Dead fame performs as a CAM fundraiser.

2007 Bay Area's first Dream House Raffle held at CAM, raising **\$1,600,000.** Mazanita School in Marin City torn down to make way for Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, displacing Marin City Head Start, Manzanita Children's Center, and CAM's Central Kitchen.

2010 CAM expands to include **Early Head Start.** Prosperity Partners Program launches and later becomes SparkPoint Marin.

2011 Budget is \$17.6M. **Head Start** serves children at Center Point, San Rafael High School, Indian Valley College, and Pilgrim Hill.

2014 Gail Theller retires as Executive Director after 47 years leading CAM.

2017 29 Mary Street office sold and **large-scale reorganization ensues.**

2018 Agency headquarters relocates to 555 Northgate Drive in San Rafael with 65 onsite staff. **Chandra Alexandre becomes the agency's first Chief Executive Officer.**

2019 **Centralized client intake efforts begin and the Production Farm is seeded.** Workforce Accelerator launched to help precariously housed and unhoused women with a state grant of \$455,000.

2020 **Awarded the 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year.** Head Start and the Child Development Program merge to become one department: Children and Family Services. Agency-wide minimum wage is \$15 per hour and bilingual policy established. Operation of essential services during COVID, including childcare to medical staff. **Launch of CAM 2.0 and a Whole Family Approach.**

2021 Agency-wide minimum wage increases to \$17.50 per hour. De Colores Children's Center opens in downtown San Rafael. **Equity and Well-being Roadmap launched.**

2022 Minimum wage increases to \$18.50 per hour. **Central Kitchen now provides meals to older adults at county-operated senior centers.** CAM wins a \$370,000 grant to support its launch of Community Supports with CalAIM.

2023 **CAM minimum wage increases to \$22 per hour.** CAM's Community Needs Assessment revealed that access to housing, education, and health were the greatest concerns. Secured \$1.5M grant to launch program to support Transitional Age Youth (TAY).

THE HEART OF MARIN

2024
\$31M budget
200+ employees

CAM launches the county's **Benefits Enrollment Center** to provide older adults access to LIHEAP, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program processed 281 returns and helped taxpayers access \$383,648 in refunds.

Production farm produces 2,000+ pounds of food annually.

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