

Corte Madera will soon be boosting its emergency readiness with a second mobile disaster trailer sponsored by the Corte Madera Community Foundation, thanks to a very generous donation of \$7,500 by public-spirited residents Marla and Peter Orth.

Marla Orth was instrumental in getting the Foundation's first mobile disaster unit funded last summer by a County grant obtained through Supervisor Steve Kinsey. A member of CERT and the Marin Medical Reserve Corps, Marla worked with Dr. Bob Bundy and John Howard of the Mariner Cove Neighborhood Disaster Council to get the trailer purchased and equipped. By agreement with the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District, it is stationed at the San Clemente School site where a new school will be built in 2013.

The Foundation had previously set aside several thousand dollars toward a second disaster trailer, and the Orths' donation of \$7,500 makes it possible to get one now for deployment on the west side of town. David Stainbrook and Pat Williams of Madera Gardens have stepped up to oversee acquisition and outfitting of the second trailer, which may be stationed at Neil Cummins School.

Both Marla and Peter have lived in Marin for more than fifty years, and Marla grew up in Corte Madera, attending local schools. They have engaged in greenbelt stewardship and local emergency preparedness initiatives for many years. Frustrated by lack of adequate resources, Marla embarked on a mission several years ago to raise funds from private and public sources for emergency response trailers, equipment, and tools to better serve the needs of the community in time of need.

Marla jokes that she really does have a regular day job other than cajoling, begging, pleading, and groveling before funding sources for disaster preparedness support. She is deeply involved in advancing new drugs and treatments for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease and manages several large clinical trials in the US and Korea, along with advocating for health care insurance reform at the state and federal levels.

Peter is happily retired but actively involved in land stewardship and emergency disaster planning from a pragmatic point-of-view. He was formerly in charge of emergency response for the US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX (CA, NV, AZ, Hawaii, and the Trust Territories) and coordinated all first-responders at all levels of government under HazMat conditions. He was very involved in developing the incident command reporting system, which is the gold standard for all first-responders and agencies in emergency response situations.

The Corte Madera Community Foundation is grateful for the generous support provided by Marla and Peter Orth, who exemplify what being "public spirited" is all about.