

Child Development Team



Child Development Program Director

Emily Bugos

Emily is a long-time member of the Novato community and has dedicated her career to the Child Development industry. She obtained a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education in December 2020 from San Francisco State University. Prior to this, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Education with a focus on community-based public health and holds a Child Development Director Permit. Emily worked as a Head Teacher for several years, serving children ages 0-5 and has worked as a lecturer within SFSU's Graduate College of Education. Emily is a Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) Certified Trainer, a Certified Inclusion Facilitator, a consultant and Board Member with Early Care Educators of San Francisco, and serves on the Marin Child Care Commission. Emily progressed through the NUSD public school system, from kindergarten through high school, and is an alumna of the Novato Youth Center afterschool program. Working with children and families has always been a passion for Emily, who believes that these relationships are at the heart of the work that we do.



School Age Assistant Manager

Anne Varner

Anne's career started at the center back in June of 1985 when she started as a Youth-In-Training employee through Marin County. Anne has worked at NMCS for over 36 years and is currently the Assistant School Age Program Manager, School Age teacher for 3rd-5th grade, and Art Teacher. Over the years she has met some amazing families, co-workers and many students, some of whom have their own children here at the center. Anne met her husband Tim while working at NMCS and has one son Mason, who was a NMCS student from Toddlers through 5th Grade. Anne's education has been ongoing and she has taken many trainings and workshops in Early Childhood Education, Anti-Bias, Teaching Pyramid, CPR and First Aide, and Trauma-Informed Care. On her off time,

she loves to spend time with her family and friends, watch & read Sci-fi and horror books and films and take photos of landscapes and animals. Black & white photography is her favorite! Anne: "I get to Live, Laugh, and Love & Teach every day!"



**ECE Assistant Manager
Michelle Keane**

Michelle Keane began her journey at North Marin Community Services (then the Novato Youth Center) in December of 1998. She began as the After School Kindergarten Aide, and since then has taken on a variety of classroom roles in all Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs - from the infant room to preschool. In 2017 she became the Preschool Head Teacher and focused on providing quality care, and an enriching, developmentally appropriate environment for the children in her care. In 2020, she was promoted to ECE Assistant Manager, where she splits her time between the classroom and providing more focused support to the ECE Program. She also runs the Developmental Playgroup Program, offering support to families that don't have access to affordable and high-quality preschool. Michelle holds an AA degree in Early Childhood Development from Santa Rosa Junior College.



**Bilingual Child Development Specialist
Yenin Calderon-Perez**

Yenin is an experienced family case worker with a strong background in child welfare and family services. Being born in Mexico and moving to the United State at the age of 5 is an experience that shaped her deep commitment to community service. Yenin double majored in Sociology and Spanish at Sonoma State University and has spent the last 8 years working in the nonprofit sector, specializing in family casework. Her expertise in child welfare and family services is complemented by a strong dedication to advocating for children's rights and promoting healthy family environments. Yenin is passionate about community outreach and driven to make a positive difference in the lives of those she serves. Yenin says, "My work is fueled by a deep commitment to community and a passion for advocating for children's rights, ensuring that every family has the resources and support they need."



Preschool Head Teacher

Katie Ladowicz

Katie is excited to start working at North Marin Community services this August! She has been working with children for over 12 years in the Bay Area and recently moved to Novato. Katie got her Masters in Early Childhood Education and Special Education from Mills College in 2016. She has spent the past 8 years working with preschoolers in an inclusion setting, including children who are English Language Learners, have speech and language disorders, and children on the Autism Spectrum. Katie believes that bringing together children with diverse needs and strengths leads to extraordinary growth in all children. She loves leading dance parties, creating messy art projects, and making sure the classroom is a fun and safe environment for all children. Outside of school, Katie likes finding new hiking trails, spending time with family, and traveling.



Preschool Teacher

Ali Ratto

Ali Ratto started working as a substitute at North Marin Community Services (then Novato Youth Center) in 2014. Since then, she has taken on various roles throughout the Child Development Program, from infant to kindergarten. She currently works in the preschool classroom. Ali's favorite part of working with children and their families is the relationships that build and how she gets to see firsthand the positive impact that the center has in their lives. Ali studied Child Development at Santa Rosa Junior College. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her husband and their daughter.



**Preschool Teacher
Jasmine Romero**

Jasmine grew up in Novato and used to be a Novato Youth Center student. She's now worked at NMCS for 3 years. She started out as a floater working in the infant/ toddler room and is now a full-time Preschool Teacher. She graduated from Novato High School, obtained her Child Development Associate Teacher Permit, and is now majoring in Early Childhood Education in College of Marin. Jasmine loves to play with her dog, listen to music, and spend time with her nieces.



**Preschool Floater Teacher
Adriana Mendieta**

Adriana Mendieta has worked at North Marin Community Services since 2020. She is the Floater Teacher, which means she supports and helps out in both the School-Age and ECE Programs. She has taken several Early Childhood Education classes at the College of Marin. Adriana has a passion for children and making a positive impact on their lives. She loves to watch them learn and grow daily. When Adriana is not at work, she is busy taking care of her four young children. In her free time, she loves hiking and enjoys reading with a hot cup of tea.



**Preschool Teacher
Ana Ramos**

Ana began her journey with NMCS as a volunteer and Promotora 11 years ago before becoming a staff member in 2015. Ana has held many roles, including driving in the after-school program, assisting with the food program, and working as the Kindergarten Teacher. Ana's passion in working with children encouraged her to take ECE classes at College of Marin in order to increase her knowledge and strengthen her skills in early childhood education. She obtained her Child Development Associate Teacher Permit in 2020. She is very enthusiastic about teaching young children. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and their dog, Nala.



**Preschool Teacher Aide
Tatiana Mayo**

Tatiana Mayo is excited to join North Marine Community Services as an Early Childhood Education Teachers Aide. Tatiana has her BA in Psychology from San Francisco State University. She has experience working with children since 2018, and hopes to continue to inspire and guide the new generation. Her hobbies include painting and building things from IKEA.



**Preschool Teacher Aide
Andrea Martinez**

Andrea has lived in Novato most of her life and considers NMCS her second home! Andrea and her family received services through the Novato Youth Center, where she attended the Child Development program from the age of 3 months up until she finished middle school at age 14. She decided to come back and give back to her community! She states, "I have pictures and amazing memories of coming to the facilities and receiving support through various NMCS programs. I am looking forward to this new chapter and helping Novato's youth the same way I was helped."



**Enrollment Coordinator/School Age Head
Teacher
Gaby Garcia**

Gaby first joined the NMCS team in 2016 as a substitute teacher. While finishing college she did internships in both the general and special education field at the local schools in Chico. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Child Development from California State University, Chico in May 2017. She took a gap year to focus on expanding her skills as an Elementary Teacher, working with the 1st and 2nd graders and often helping out in the ECE and School Age classrooms. She enrolled in the master's program at Sonoma State University in 2018 and obtained her Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education in December 2021. In addition to working as a teacher, Gaby has taken on other roles at NMCS such as assisting NMCS staff with various projects, administrative work, and Spanish translation. Gaby was promoted to School Age Head Teacher in October of 2021 and she now works with the 3rd-5th grade group. In her free time, Gaby enjoys hiking with her dog, going to the gym, playing soccer and reading.



School Age Teacher
Omahar Diaz

Omahar Alí Díaz Montenegro has been working with North Marin Community Services since September 2021. He currently works with 1st and 2nd graders in the Friends Room. Omahar moved to the US from Perú in 2019 where he worked for 12 years as a school teacher and 3 years as a school principal. He holds a master's degree in Education and a Child Development Associate Teacher Permit. To further his bilingual language skills, Omahar is enrolled in English classes at College of Marin. He lives locally with his wife and his three children.



Middle School Head Teacher
Allysa Wiltz

Allysa Wiltz began working at North Marin Community Services in September of 2018 as a School Age Teacher Aide and Driver. Since then, she transitioned to working as a Teacher Assistant for the Middle School program. This is where she found her passion in working with children of this age group. In 2020, she was promoted to Middle School Head Teacher where she focuses on providing an enriching, social-emotional environment for the children. She appreciates being able to connect and build relationships with children and their families. Allysa holds an Associate Teacher Permit and has obtained a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a focus on American Multicultural Studies from Sonoma State University. In her personal time, Allysa loves reading, trying new foods, and traveling.



**Kindergarten Teacher
Aracelia Mendoza**

Aracelia has been a long-time NMCS parent whose 4 children have gone through the Child Development program. She joined NMCS as a driver and substitute teacher in 2018. Aracelia has her Associate Teacher permit and continues to take classes in early childhood education and special education. In her free time, she enjoys doing activities with her children, baking delicious churros, and working and volunteering with the senior community in Novato.



**Driver/Fleet Manager
Steve Bugos**

Steve joined NMCS as a driver in 2017 after retiring from a 35 year career with the IRS. He oversees the maintenance and safety of the NMCS vans and transports the elementary school students to NMCS after school and on field trips. Steve has 3 grown children, is a long-time Novato resident, and enjoys playing tennis and racquetball and visiting the public library in his free time.



Driver

Luis Monterrosa

Luis moved to Los Angeles from El Salvador when he was 19 years old. He worked as a cook for 12 years. He later returned to El Salvador, worked as a kid's driver, and later went back to school and graduated from a local university obtaining a degree in Market Strategy. For 28 years, Luis worked for a local company in El Salvador, before opening his own parcel business that served all of Central America. Due to the political instability in his country, he closed his business and moved back to the US. He was employed by Mercedes Benz in San Rafael and later started working for the Marin Country Club, he was employed for 14 years, and retired recently. Luis is now excited to join North Marin community services team and serve as a part-time driver.



Driver

Peyton Oga

Peyton is excited to be joining the North Marin Community Services team. Peyton grew up in Novato and graduated high school from San Marin in 2019. Peyton went on to CSU Long Beach but had to come back to Novato during the COVID-19 lockdown. In 2021 while taking classes online, he started delivering free school lunches to NUSD students that were also still learning from home. In 2023 Peyton finished up his degree, graduating from CSU Long Beach with a degree in Anthropology. Professionally, He has worked as a youth swim instructor and coach for six years and a youth water polo coach for three. In his free time, he loves collecting vinyl's, listening and playing music. Peyton is looking to utilize his skill and passion for uplifting the community to help foster equity, diversity, and inclusivity within the community so that all feel welcomed



Kitchen Assistant
Ana Rodriguez

Ana is excited to join North Marin Community Services as the Kitchen Assistant supporting our Child Development Food Program. Ana worked in the food service industry for over 7 years. During this time, Ana has learned different culinary techniques working in different business settings while receiving guidance from various professional chefs. Ana enjoys bringing her creative side to the kitchen preparing homemade recipes while following food and regulations. Ana supports the food program and Head Cook with meal planning and preparation while maintaining compliance with the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Title 22 and Title 5, and CalOSHA regulations. In her free time, Ana loves to play basketball and go for hikes with her daughter and dog.



Substitute Teacher
Sara Paculdo

Sara Paculdo is very excited to join North Marin Community Services as a substitute teacher. She has an eclectic background and has a degree in Physics and an MFA in Industrial Design. She has worked on a satellite experiment for NASA, written educational content and authored board books, created cat and dog products, and most recently designed sustainable kids' toys. She is now steering her career in more service-focused roles, specifically in education. Her two children went through the childcare program at NMCS, and their experience was very positive and enriching. She is looking forward to helping provide that great experience for others. When she's not working, she enjoys planting succulents and spending time with her cat, dog, and kids.



**Substitute Teacher
Michael Masters**

Michael is very excited to join North Marin Community Services as a Substitute Teacher. Michael started working with children in 2023 as a paraprofessional at NUSD schools. He works to make sure he can provide support and help to make sure children feel heard. In his free time, he enjoys playing music, going to concerts, hiking and hanging out with friends.



**Substitute Teacher
Darla Tillman**

Darla has worked with children since adolescence, including volunteering and working at day camps and daycare centers in Santa Rosa. She worked as a Special Education teaching assistant for the Sonoma County Office of Education from 2009-2016 and has been working as a Special Education teacher since 2016. Darla has worked as a substitute teacher with NMCS and as a Special Education teacher at Rincon Valley Middle School since 2019. She typically returns to NMCS during school breaks to support the school age children and staff. Darla holds a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Simpson University and a California Teaching Credential in Mild/Moderate Special Education. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, singing/listening to music, going for walks, and trying new things, such as river rafting.



**Substitute Teacher
Cassidy Stanton**

Cassidy comes to us with a career committed to community service in the Bay Area. After graduating from UC Davis with a degree in Gender Studies and Sociology, she went on to work as a mental health counselor and serve at local community-based resource centers. Her focus on early childhood education has been on helping school-aged children to build socio-emotional skills, particularly through exploration of nature. In her free time, Cassidy enjoys gardening, cooking, and spending time with family. As a Teacher Aide in the ECE program, Cassidy will be supporting the other classroom teachers with curriculum implementation, family, communication, and the children’s continued strengthening of skills across all areas of development.



**Substitute Teacher
Alexandra Covington**

Alex has joined the NMCS team as a substitute childcare teacher. Her extensive background of 15+ years in childcare and education makes her a valuable addition to our team. Alex has supported dozens of families as a nanny, tutor, and preschool teacher (to name a few). She even worked as an educator in Dubai for 6 years! She loves to share her passion for travel, the outdoors, music, and arts & crafts with young learners.



**Substitute Teacher
Kathrina Nopuente**

Kathrina has been an early childhood educator for 18 years. She is dedicated to creating inclusive learning experiences for children that acknowledge each child's diverse backgrounds. Born and raised in the Philippines, she enjoys visiting friends and family back home. In the Bay Area, she loves going on hikes and hanging out with her cat, Boots.