



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why did Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) and Volunteer Center of Sonoma County (VCSC) decide to come together?

To better serve nonprofits and the community in ways we couldn't alone. Together, we'll be better positioned to foster relationship-building, increase information and resource-sharing, and coordinate and encourage collective effort. It will increase our impact and enhance our own sustainability.

The decision to join forces was not made lightly: it comes after a year of discussion, thoughtful planning, and negotiations. Together CVNL and VCSC will serve thousands of nonprofits and volunteers annually through an array of programs and services delivered by highly qualified staff and dedicated volunteers.

The goal is to become a combined, regional organization that leverages the resources of both entities to enhance and expand mission delivery and meet the needs of nonprofits and communities, while remaining committed serving locally. Both organizations have approximately 50 years of experience advancing nonprofits and volunteerism by strengthening leadership, encouraging innovation, and empowering individuals in their communities.

Because our programs and services are complementary but not overlapping, our partnership will result in a more holistic approach to services that meet a larger set of nonprofit and volunteer needs.

Will this affect any CVNL/VCSC programs or services?

CVNL and VCSC programs and services will not change. We remain committed to supporting nonprofits, leaders, and volunteers in the communities we serve. While existing programs and services will not be going away, we will be introducing some new and exciting programs to support nonprofits and volunteers.

Will any CVNL/VCSC programs or services be expanding?

Yes! Both organizations will expand successful programs, including volunteer matching, corporate employee volunteer engagement, and professional development for nonprofit staff and board members.

Joining forces creates an opportunity for a more coordinated effort to support disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. When a disaster happens, both VCSC and CVNL activate Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVCs) in Sonoma, Marin, and Napa Counties.



Will it be easier to get involved with VCSC/CVNL?

Yes! Improved technologies, including a new volunteer matching portal, will make connecting with our services and programs easier than ever. While we are creating a regional presence, we operate locally, engaging volunteers in community service and supporting nonprofits and their leaders.

How will the nonprofit sector benefit?

We believe we are stronger together. By coming together, we are modeling organizational effectiveness and efficiency — and, most importantly, our strong desire to create sustainable impact. Specifically, we will be able to serve nonprofits and volunteers better because:

- We will be operating as one entity offering a diverse mix of complementary nonprofit expertise, resources, and programs – including leadership and organizational development, advocacy, volunteer services, and consulting and executive search services;
- A unified nonprofit voice is more powerful in garnering public attention and engaging decision-makers to speak out on the issues most affecting nonprofits and to make change that supports a stronger North Bay community;
- In an environment of tight financial resources, a single organization effectively serving multiple purposes is more cost-effective, sustainable, and accessible to its users than two smaller organizations dedicated to similar but segmented purposes.

I'm a Member of either organization. Will my benefits be affected?

CVNL and VCSC programs and services have not changed. We remain committed to supporting nonprofits, leaders, and volunteers in the communities we serve. Good news: Member benefits will be expanding in Sonoma. We will be announcing these benefits soon.

Are either organization changing locations?

No. All locations will remain the same. [Click here](#) to view CVNL locations [and here](#) to view VCSC's location.

Will a name change be happening?

CVNL and VCSC have decided to use the next six months to get to know one another and thoughtfully integrate, without changing either name. A name change may or may not happen in the future.



Who do I call if I have a question or need?

Not to worry: all staff are still on board at both locations! You can view the [CVNL staff list and departments here](#). You can view the [VCSC staff list and departments here](#).

About VCSC: Since 1972, the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County (VCSC) has been the heart of our community service; matching prospective volunteers with local nonprofits to help them help others. We inspire thousands of people from all walks of life to share their skills and talents with worthwhile causes and organizations that help our community thrive. Over forty years of inspiring volunteerism and addressing critical community needs has made a significant impact in the culture of our region. VCSC has also supported nonprofit organizations throughout Sonoma County with tools and resources designed to expand their capacity, improve impact and ensure organizational sustainability. The Volunteer Center of Sonoma County takes pride in how we've helped our community become a more caring and compassionate place to live and work. VCSC organizes the Sonoma Human Race, Secret Santa, Teen Volunteers, a Court Referral Program, and Volunteer Wheels.

About CVNL: Since 1964, the national award-winning Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) has advanced nonprofits and volunteerism by strengthening leadership, encouraging innovation, and empowering individuals throughout the Bay Area. Passion alone isn't enough when it comes to creating strong nonprofits. That's why we work with aspiring and established leaders every day to help them build the skills and connections that can take their impact to the next level. CVNL offers comprehensive programs including training, executive search, customized consulting solutions, and volunteer opportunities and programs for nonprofits, individuals, families, groups, and businesses. Our Heart of Marin™ and Heart of Napa™ events support nonprofits of every size and mission through recognition and cash awards. CVNL provides disaster preparedness training and serves as an Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC), overseeing spontaneous volunteers and donations for Napa and Marin Counties in the aftermath of a disaster. We believe that with confident and prepared leaders, our nonprofits will be better equipped to create healthy, happy communities. Visit www.cvnl.org to discover more about how we help nonprofits.