



Olympian Polina Edmunds Helps Family Giving Tree Back-to-School Drive

Champion Skater to Lead Volunteer Backpack Distribution at San Jose's Dorsa Elementary

Milpitas, CA – On Monday August 29, two-time U.S. figure skating silver medalist, Olympic and World team member Polina Edmunds will make a personal appearance at San Jose's Dorsa Elementary School to help distribute the Family Giving Tree's free backpacks and school supplies to deserving students. The event marks the final week of record Family Giving Tree donations to 37,000 deserving Bay Area students, and is part of Ms. Edmunds commitment to raise awareness of the growing need for basic school supplies.

In California, one in four children lives in poverty and 'basic' back-to-school supplies, including a backpack, add yet another financial burden to low income families. Through the Family Giving Tree's annual Back-to-School drive, now in its twenty-first year, some 37,000 students get a head start on their education.

"Having grown up in the area, I am delighted to visit local schools and experience the same joy these kids feel when they get a brand new, fully-supplied backpack," Polina explained.

Family Giving Tree Co-Founder and Executive Director Jennifer Cullenbine said, "As you can see from today's event and Polina's prior contributions to the Family Giving Tree, including hands-on work in our volunteer warehouse, her commitment to Bay Area kids is very real. We credit her support, along with the thousands of individuals, companies and service groups who support the Tree, for helping us exceed our 2016 Back-to-School goal."

About Family Giving Tree: Headquartered in Milpitas, California, the Family Giving Tree brings hope and joy to those in need through its annual Back-to-School and Holiday Wish Drives. Thanks to the generous support of the community, Family Giving Tree has provided over 1.4 million backpacks filled with school supplies and individually requested holiday gifts.

About FGT's Back-to-School Drive: One out of every four children in the Silicon Valley lives in poverty. Family Giving Tree's Back-to-school Drive closes the educational gap for deserving Bay Area K-12 students by providing backpacks filled with essential, grade-appropriate school

supplies. In 2016 Family Giving Tree will provide school-supply filled backpacks to more than 37,000 students in nine Bay Area counties.

About Polina Edmunds: Polina Edmunds is a two-time U.S. silver medalist, world team member, 2014 Olympic Team Member and 2015 Four Continents Competition Gold Medalist. In 2014, Polina was named ‘San Jose Sports Hall of Fame Female High School Athlete of the Year’ by the San Jose Sports Authority. She is an Athlete Ambassador for Right to Play USA and is very active with Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation, which helps promote early childhood literacy in the Bay Area.

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Family Giving Tree Media Contact

Larry Loper

larry@familygivingtree.org

O: 408-946-3111 x208

M: 408-596-1500

Polina Edmunds Media Contact

Rina Amir

rinanew@gmail.com

650-793-0314