



Back-to-School Drive Fact Sheet

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Family Giving Tree's Back-to-School Drive is committed to building a path out of poverty and closing the education gap for the one in four Bay Area K-12 students currently living below the federal poverty line, by providing backpacks filled with essential, grade-appropriate school supplies. In 2015, we were able to supply backpacks to more than 36,500 students.

Why we do it-

Poverty is the single largest barrier to a child's educational performance and future prospects. Most researchers agree that education is the single more effective remedy for a life of poverty. Unfortunately, families struggling to come up with funds for the most basic necessities of food and shelter, books, backpacks and basic school supplies (even pencils and paper) are dreamed-of luxuries. So often, just being able to do homework is challenging. The Family Giving Tree is committed to making a difference and giving students the tools they need to succeed.

Impact-

Working with our vast network of schools and nonprofit agencies, we have been able to deliver real hope to students, who might otherwise go without the essential, grade-appropriate tools to succeed. Family Giving Tree has become the largest gift and backpack donation program in California, having served more than 1.3 million children and individuals.

"With backpacks, kids have a portable homework station. No matter where they are, if they are sleeping in their car that night, they can break stuff out and do their homework." Devorah Duncan, Principal, Dorsa Elementary School

"Pencils are like gold, you might not think much about it, but the children show up without pencils. They wouldn't be able to do homework without that donation. But because of Family Giving Tree's donation every year, our homework centers are stocked with pencils." Fred McCasland, Director of Program Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley



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Vision-

Family Giving Tree envisions a world in which every child is made to feel like a valuable part of their community through a shared belief in the power of giving.

Mission-

The Family Giving Tree fulfills the exact holiday wish and provides backpacks filled with school supplies to those children in the most need in our communities while inspiring the values of kindness, philanthropy and volunteerism.