



THANK YOU!

Your Donations Helped Bring Joy to
Thousands



Holiday Wish Drive Recipient Agencies Say "Thank you"

Hear directly from our partner agencies about what your support means during the holiday season and beyond. Just click the image.

Giving Tuesday - Gifts for Paradise Fire Victims

On December 23rd, joy arrived in Butte County for approximately 900 families who received unexpected holiday gifts.

5,000 were loaded by enthusiastic Boy Scout volunteers and then transported from the warehouse to Butte County by a generously donated semi truck. Thank you for helping us meet this need on Giving Tuesday! You helped bring a semblance of normalcy to an area where life is now anything but normal and gave this hurting community an afternoon of joy. Watch this brief [video clip](#) of news coverage and enjoy the moment.



Give A Gift to a Teen

We asked for your help to deliver gifts to 1,000 teens who might otherwise go without. You did it! Your donation allowed us to impact the life of a teenager while brightening their holiday season. Thank you for supporting this special request and showing them that their community cares. [Watch the video](#) and hear how one gift she



received as a teenager in high school impacted a young woman for life.

End of Year Giving

We understand that the end of any year is a busy time. We want to thank you for ensuring a successful finish to the Holiday Wish Drive and allowing us to begin 2019 on a positive note.

Your donation helped us fulfill our Drive commitment to our partner agencies and will allow Family Giving Tree to continue to support those who need it most in the many struggling communities around the Bay Area.



2018 Holiday Wish Drive Wrap-up



Granting Wishes Brings Joy

The 2018 Holiday Wish Drive went off without a hitch and gifts were distributed throughout the Bay Area and beyond. With the help of 1,018 Drive Leaders at corporations, schools, local businesses, and social groups, we had an overwhelming response and a very busy warehouse. This year the warehouse was located in a 'new' donated space - two buildings on Tasman Drive in Santa Clara, and with the help of nearly 7,152 volunteers, tens of thousands of gifts were processed for pick up by their designated agency in the span of 2 1/2 weeks. Thanks to community support, we were fortunate to distribute gifts out to our waitlist agencies prior to the Christmas holiday. You helped deliver JOY to so, so many.



Didn't make it to the Holiday Wish Drive Warehouse this year?

Then enjoy this short video tour!

Our Volunteers Rock!



Tireless. Dedicated. Fun.

Just a few of the words we can use to describe the 7,152 volunteers who came through our doors as families, friend groups, corporate teams, schools and individuals to lend a hand in bringing joy to thousands in the Bay Area this past holiday season.



You kicked off volunteer efforts in our office sorting, counting and packing wish cards for mailing; or preparing warehouse decorations. You helped in the warehouse loading and unloading, moving and carrying, sorting, shopping, rowing, checking and bagging the thousands upon thousands of gifts that arrived.



But, most of all you cared. By doing so, you embraced your community and helped us send a message of hope and warmth to

those who need it most. Everything you did was vital to the process and to the Drive's success. We can't thank you enough so we'll say it again - THANK YOU!

FGT Staff Spotlight

If The Energy Of The Sun Was Available In A Bottle...

Meet Drive Leader Coordinator Evelyn Huynh

Just as the energy of the sun will not soon be extinguished, the energy of Evelyn will not either. If

we could bottle the sun's glow, it would certainly be labeled "Evelyn Huynh."

Cheek-splitting smile or impish grin aside, all who know her agree that



Evelyn is an energetic bright spot where ever you find her. And it's not just her smile that gives her away, it's her ready laugh and her great sense of fun. Never one to pass up a good joke or good food (she's a confessed foodie) Evelyn has brought a new level of joy and dedication to the work of Family Giving Tree. What began as a steady volunteer commitment transformed itself into where she is now - managing the Drive Leader activities and relationships that are such an important part of both the Holiday Wish and Back-to-School Drives.

Evelyn is a San Jose native and a graduate of San Jose State University where she majored in Theatre and minored in Psychology. Not one to shy away from the unusual (or the stage) she has worked as the assistant director of a Halloween haunted house and managed costumes at Great America in her very early career. Professionally, she 'grew up' at Yahoo and from there moved into other positions as a Director of Advertising Operations where she learned to love data and its ability to tell a story. Yahoo also gave her her first exposure to Family Giving Tree, and she was hooked. She was soon bringing FGT along to subsequent companies as a Drive Leader and then began helping out in our offices in any way she could. Process focused, and always facing a challenge head-on, we were happy to have her help then... and even more so now.

One of Evelyn's favorite things (besides food!) is having a close-knit community - be it family, friends or her now new family of co-workers. And they enjoy her too, of course. Who wouldn't like Boba Fridays or donut holes for their birthday? Now an integral part of FGT, she is impressed by how willing everyone is to help with whatever they can. And she enjoys getting to know all the different personalities of the staff and Drive Leaders. "It's nice to learn what motivates others and how they work best," Evelyn shared. What motivates her? Helping others. Evelyn believes in philanthropy and wants to make a positive impact on as many people as she can. She wants to help make all of us better as a global community because, simply, we have the power to be better. We agree and are glad she's decided to use her bright and boundless energy to do so right here in the Bay Area; right here at Family Giving Tree.

Just because the Holiday Wish Drive is over doesn't mean we are at rest. We're already at work on the 2019 Back-to-School Drive and can use your financial help to assure that we can continuously improve and grow both programs. Consider making a [monthly donation](#). Or for other ways to donate visit our website: fgt.org/donate. **Thank you.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Periodic Table Day - February 7th - Something to study more than just periodically.

Boy Scouts Day - February 8th - We love how they help us with our Drives.

Random Acts of Kindness Day - February 17th - What it's all about - every day.

Read Across America (Dr. Seuss) Day - March 1st- "One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish."

Grammar Day - March 4th - School House Rock anyone? Conjunction junction what's...

Pi Day - March 14th - 3.1415926... You'd have to be irrational not to celebrate Pi day!

Mom and Pop Business Owners Day - March 29th - Be sure and shop local!

Back-to-School Drive Leader Registration Day - April 3rd - Don't forget to sign up!



Family Giving Tree™

Granting Children's Wishes for Joy and Learning

