



Wrapping up the Season and looking forward to 2020

With the 2019 holiday Wish Drive now behind, we're looking forward to the coming spring, the new decade and the advent of Family Giving Tree's 30th Anniversary. Yes – thirty years! We can't thank you enough for being right there with us granting wishes for joy and learning to those who need it most in all the years past and for years to come.

2019 Holiday Wish Drive

Your Giving Breaks All Past Drive Records!

With a goal to distribute 80,000 gifts, we are pleased to share that YOUR generosity brought the Joy of the Season to over 82,000 individuals around the Bay Area. From large corporate physical and monetary donations to single gifts given by kids for kids, the generosity - your generosity - was abundant and lives were impacted for the better.



Smiles abounded at the hundreds of gift distributions around the Bay as young and old received something special, thanks to you. With a theme of "CELEBRATE The Season" all of our supporters joined forces to bring JOY in the midst of struggle and make it the Best Holiday Wish Drive yet. Thank you for taking part in our mission and changing lives one child, senior or homeless adult at a time.



THANK YOU !

A huge "Thank You" to our Corporate Partners, Community Partners, Drive Allies, Drive Leaders, Volunteers and everyone else who had a hand in this year's success. Your efforts make all the difference and bring the glowing smiles to all the recipients



And The Winner Is...

Each year, thousands of Drive Leaders give it all they've got to collect gifts and each year we like to recognize the participation of those who did excel. At the Holiday Wish Drive Leader Luncheon yesterday, we highlighted a dozen such outstanding organizations with an award.

This years winners are:

Illumina Hayward

Visa, Inc.

Pixar Animation Studios

Genentech, Inc.

Google - Mountain View

Town and Country Village, Palo Alto

Girl Scouts of Mountain View

Equity Residential

Automation Anywhere

Yelp

Stanford Research Park

Joshua, Chelsea and Friends

Thank you to everyone who helped us grant wishes this year. We can't meet - or beat - our goals without all your help. You delivered joy around the



Artistic Partnerships

Recognizing the value of art to the heart, mind and soul.

Whether it's dancing to your favorite song, relaxing to classical music or taking the time to express yourself creatively through drawing, painting, crafting or whatever engages the left side of your brain, we've all experienced the healing power that exists when we're exposed to, or immersed in, something artistic. We know it makes a difference in education; that it's good for us even if we can't express how or why; that we'd be far worse off without it.

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."
-Thomas Merton

For those who have been to our warehouse over the past 3 years, you may have noticed that our décor has included a wall of wonderful paintings for sale. To acknowledge the "Inspire Your Heart With Art Day" this year we would like to share the story of the artwork that has graced our warehouse walls and brightened up both the Holiday Wish and Back-to-School Drives.

These art pieces are brought in by a group called [Grit Art and Tech Association \(GATA\)](#) to sell to visitors and volunteers at the warehouse. A portion of all painting sales is donated to our program each season. When you purchase one of the paintings, you are helping multiple organizations and your community.

We spent some time finding out more about this wonderful group to share with you. Dive in to learn more about this creative organization and get inspired!



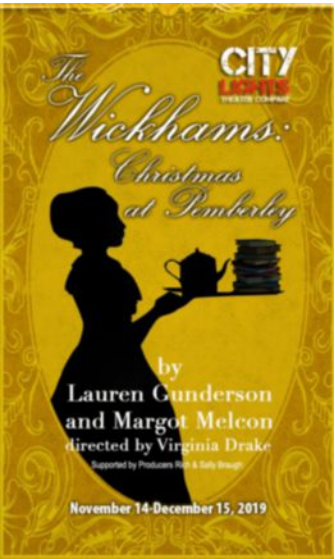
Palo Alto Players

A heartwarming and hilarious holiday classic set to music. What could be better? Fans had the chance to get \$10 off tickets with an FGT promo code and theatre-goers generously gave gifts and monetary donations at each performance. Ralphie's teacher, Miss Shields would certainly have given the partnership an A +++...

City Lights Theater Company

This continuation of the beloved Pride and Prejudice story focuses on 'downstairs' at the Pemberley estate as staff prepare for Christmas. Fans could purchase tickets using a code which triggered a \$5 donation to FGT and wish cards

were prominently displayed in the lobby. Generous theatre-goers donated dozens of gifts and the FGT non-profit night at one of the performances helped effectively educate the audience about the need.



We feel these relationships are vital to raising the visibility of the "A" in STEAM education. Do you know of other arts organizations that we should partner with? Please let us know at info@fgt.org.

Spring is blooming right on time.

Join the fun as partner Bloomingdales opens their new store in San Jose. Help them celebrate kids and our community. Don't miss it.

Games, Fashion & Fun



Bloomingdale's & Family Giving Tree invite you to an afternoon of carnival-themed festivities to celebrate Bloomingdale's grand opening at Westfield Valley Fair!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8
1 - 4 PM**

**BLOOMINGDALE'S @ WESTFIELD VALLEY FAIR
2847 STEVENS CREEK BLVD,
SAN JOSE, CA 95128**

Please RSVP by Monday, March 2 to RSVPValleyFair@bloomingdales.com

The first 250 RSVPs received will get a \$25 Bloomingdale's gift card upon check-in at the event.



bloomingdale's
VALLEY FAIR

[RSVP here](#)

FGT Staff Spotlight

What the world needs now is love, sweet love.



These lyrics by Hal David, written 50 years ago, are still applicable today and reflect the passion that our newest staff member, Lauren Korbass, has for her fellow humans. Lauren is an East Bay native and a graduate of UC Santa Barbara. She has a degree in Global Studies, and she hopes to someday be able to look back and know she made a

difference for the planet one person at a time.

As an addition to our Development team in the role of Associate, Lauren brings a fearless pursuit of social justice fostered by her lawyer parents. Unafraid of debate, yet hoping she is seen as a loving advocate, Lauren seeks to make a difference through nonprofit work with the ultimate goal of being fortunate to interact face to face with recipients through her service.

Friends would describe her as loyal and faithful, qualities we've already seen evident in Lauren's commitment to FGT's mission and learning all she can about being an effective development team member. She has settled in quickly and already loves the office environment and people.

Lauren is a staunch Disney fan, board game player, bowler, karaoke crooner and budding plate spinner trainee. While sounding a bit old fashioned, she's far from it! She loves working with young people and hopes someday to aid women caught in the sex traffic trade or assist the homeless to make the return to a secure life.

We're happy to welcome Lauren to the FGT family and can't wait to see what she'll accomplish here.

Backpack Builds Are Now In Season

Need a fun team building event for your spring quarter?

Want to make a difference in your community without leaving the office?

Consider hosting a Backpack Build. Family Giving Tree makes it easy!

For a donation, all backpacks and school supplies will be delivered to your location for employees to build. Helpful FGT staff will provide instructions, help set-up, and take away all finished bags at the end of the event. It's easy and fun!

We are now able to accommodate events beginning in March.



Contact development@fgt.org for more information or call 408-946-3111.

Check out "Seedlings"



A newer feature of our website is the FGT Blog "Seedlings". Covering a wide range of topics and celebrating partnerships, generosity and other aspects of philanthropy in the Bay Area, we think you'll find it a good read. [Click here](#). Have something to contribute? Email: info@fgt.org

With the 2019 Drives complete, Family Giving Tree is looking forward to 2020 and continuing work to have a larger and more positive impact on residents in our community. We can do that with your help. Consider [making a gift](#) now for the future, or if you already give, consider converting to [monthly giving](#) to assure that joy and learning are delivered for years to come.

Donate



Granting Children's Wishes For Joy and Learning