



THE LEAFLET

News from Family Giving Tree

Help A Child Succeed in School



Want to profoundly impact a student's learning experience? Lead a Back-to-School Backpack Drive!

Students eagerly anticipate the first day of school as a fresh start, however thousands of Bay Area children will begin this school year at a disadvantage. Without proper resources and school supplies, students from low-income families struggle to succeed in what has become a very competitive educational environment.

At Family Giving Tree, we want the new school year to begin with fresh pencils and paper. Because each

child deserves to start school on a level playing field, we give them the chance to thrive by providing them with age-appropriate school supplies.

Want to help make a direct impact in a child's education? It's simple - lead a Back-to-School Drive through your company, social group or with friends and family. Family Giving Tree sends you everything you need to get started. All you have to do is show others how they too can help these disadvantaged children by selecting a backpack tag and buying the listed items to fill it.

Registration began April 3rd, promotional materials are available for pick-up (or mailed) in June, and all backpacks are due in August. Join with over 400 other Drive Leaders in the Bay Area to make an impact in our communities. This year our goal is to distribute 38,000 backpacks to Bay Area students in need.

The simple act of providing backpacks with school supplies can make school a better place for both students and teachers.

Will you be one of those who say "Yes" to help?

For more information about the Back-to-School Drive visit www.familygivingtree.org or contact Vicki Stairs at (408) 946-3111 x214.

The 2017 Back-to-School Drive Is Underway!

Quick Glance - Key Drive Dates

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| April 3rd | Drive Leader Registration Open - Register Here Now! |
| June 14th | Drive Leader Priority Registration for Warehouse Volunteering opens |
| July 3rd | Public Member Registration for Warehouse Volunteering opens |
| August 1st | Drop-off Day at the Warehouse |

Check the [Family Giving Tree](http://www.familygivingtree.org) website for updated information, resources and other Drive-related news.

Meet the Board



Joyce Allegro Family Giving Tree Board Chairman

Interviewed by Heather Monty

Tell us a little about your past experience.

I was a prosecutor for 20 years and a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge for 14 years. In the past, I have served on the Board of Directors for Ming Quong Children's Center, now Uplift Family Services. I founded the domestic violence unit in the District Attorney's office and was Chair of the Board of Directors for the Support Network for Battered Women, which has now become part of the YWCA. Although my time as a judge limited my ability to be involved directly in non-profit work (active judges are restricted from fundraising and advocating for specific causes), I have always been personally involved in the Family Giving Tree (FGT). After retiring from the bench, I officially joined the FGT Board in September of 2015.

Why do you support FGT?

I think FGT is a wonderful organization. When I started my support, the organization only had a Holiday Wish Drive. Giving a special, requested gift to children who otherwise might not receive anything during the holiday season is what drew me to FGT. The addition of the Back-to-School Drive has been a great thing. When I went to school, you only needed to bring a pencil box and notebook. Now, schools are unable to supply extra materials and individual families are responsible for all school supplies. That can be incredibly difficult for low-income families. I truly believe education is the way to keep people out of the criminal justice system and put kids on the right track. The Back-to-School drive allows us to be part of that effort.

What do you hope to bring to the organization as the new chairwoman?

As an organized and forward thinking person, I hope to help solidify FGT's vision for the future. I have loved seeing the organization grow from giving a few hundred children a holiday gift to giving 37,000 filled backpacks and 75,000 holiday gifts as we did in 2016. I believe we need to be open to change in order to support and continue that growth. There are still a lot of people who don't know about FGT, so I hope to help the organization become more visible and therefore increase our impact. When someone thinks of holiday gifts or school backpacks, I want them to think of FGT.

What was the best gift you received as a child and why?

I started playing the piano when I was three years old. My mother and grandmother were pianists, so it was something that came naturally to me. I remember getting sheet music for "Some Enchanted Evening" from South Pacific as a birthday gift when I was 8 years old. It was the adult version and it thrilled me. I must have received other gifts that year but I have always remembered this one because it was just right for me.

What was your favorite subject in elementary school?

Reading was always my favorite. In the summer, we visited my mother's parents at their farm in Kansas. There were books everywhere and I would love to sit and read. By the time I was eight, I had read *Gone with the Wind* and *Little Women* a couple of times. Books were always an important part of my schooling and continue to be. I read constantly.

Anything else you might like to share in the newsletter?

I am honored to be on the Board and serve as the Board Chair. I will do my best to help FGT grow and stay strong in the future.

What's New at HQ

Greening the Tree

by Larry Loper

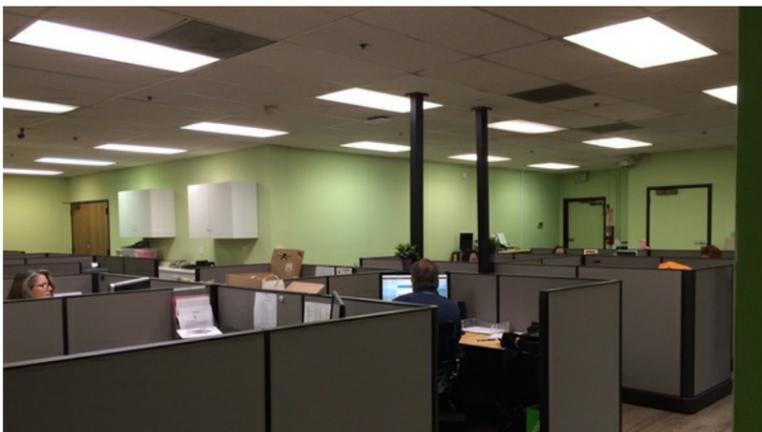
Family Giving Tree has occupied our current Milpitas offices in the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits for over ten years. Those years have been terrific, with growth in all programs;

well over a million children served; and a milestone 25th anniversary celebration.



But like a Christmas tree in January, the FGT office was shedding quite a few of its needles. The old carpet was removed last fall (mold issues!), exposing the chipped linoleum and concrete below; bulky desks (already second-hand some ten years ago) took up too much precious space; employees had no FGT-only space to meet, or even grab a quick sandwich; and 26 years of Elvin

memories overflowed the back warehouse. You get the picture.



Fast forward to March 2017. With careful planning by Operations Director Al Galan and support from the entire team and Board, a (new) Tree grows in Milpitas!

Flooring is a classy yet pet friendly (important to the staff) updated vinyl in a gray wood pattern. Walls shine in bright green – long a Tree favorite.

Efficient, low-walled black and gray cubicles (culled from the best reruns in Silicon Valley) organize our space yet

maintain much-valued collaboration. And the warehouse was ‘taken to the woodshed,’ cleared to store and distribute much more future drive material, from pencils to backpacks to Barbies.

Even Information Technology got a facelift, with streamlined power drops, an updated network and much more. All for less money than a prestigious bank might spend on a new executive conference table...

Are we finished with the remodel? Not quite – like any new home, there are boxes to unpack and pictures to hang. We’ve even asked our long-time design partner, Alex Atkins, for creative ideas on the new space. But don’t wait for us to call it ‘done’! Drop by, take a look, and say hi. We’re delighted with the improvements and think you will be, too.

We’ll warm up the (donated) Keurig!



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