Summer's just begun, but we're making sure students go back to school with the supplies they need!

**Lead a Backpack Drive**
It's not too late to [sign up as a BTS 2019 Drive Leader](#)! As part of our mission to be as green as possible, all materials to lead a drive can be found online. You can start your drive at any time, but remember that backpacks are due August 1st.

Want to help, but don’t want to lead a drive? [Donate online](#) or [buy a backpack on our Virtual Giving Tree](#), follow us on social, and share our mission with your friends and family!

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**We Have a Warehouse!**
For those of you who volunteered at our 2018 Holiday Wish Drive warehouse, this location will look familiar. We're happy to be returning to **110 West Tasman Dr. in San Jose** for our Back-To-School warehouse.

Volunteer Registration for BTS opens Monday, July 1st! Spots fill up quickly, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

*For more information about our warehouse and drop-offs, [visit this page](#).*

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**Thank you, Drive Leaders!**
In February, we hosted our Drive Leader Appreciation Luncheon, where we honored the efforts of all of our hard-working Holiday Wish Drive Leaders. Those who went above and beyond received special awards in appreciation of their creativity and enthusiasm. [Click here](#)
to read more about their accomplishments!

Additional Storage Space Needed
We are urgently seeking approximately 4,000 square feet of storage with a loading dock or roll-up door access. We need it to store materials and our equipment and shelving we use in our Drive warehouses. It can even be shared space but we need to secure a location by August 26, 2019.
If you know of any such space that might be available, or can refer us to someone who can help, please contact al@fgt.org.

Agency Interviews
FGT works to maintain year-round connections with the agencies we aid in our drives by conducting interviews with them throughout the year. The agencies and schools we work with are experts at supporting their communities, and we want to make sure we’re honoring and learning from that experience. Since FGT works with over 500 agencies and schools, the interview process is a very long one that requires the help of diligent, curious volunteers. If you’re interested in learning more about what it takes to become an agency volunteer, please email volunteers@fgt.org.

Getting Creative with Giving

Goombahs Car Club
During our 2018 Holiday Wish Drive, the Goombahs Car Club hosted a Toy Drive that brought over 500 gifts to FGT. But their giving spirit doesn’t stop there! In support of FGT, every first Saturday monthly, the Goombahs take over the parking lot of Krispy Kreme off
Rengstorff and 101, displaying classic, custom cars. They also provide free coffee and doughnuts, and for a donation of a backpack or cash, you’ll receive a one-of-a-kind T-shirt!

**Silicon Valley Shakespeare**

Be sure to to check out Silicon Valley Shakespeare's Summer shows! SVS is dedicated to making theater accessible, and FGT is excited to be partnering with them to support low-income Bay Area students. At every performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream, audience members were able to watch free, professional theater and donate school supplies and backpacks at the collection bins we had around the venue! In late July, Macbeth and The White Snake will open at Sanborn Park in Saratoga where patrons will be able to make cash donations to FGT. [Get your tickets here!](#)

**Maximize Your Giving**

**Virtual Giving Trees**

Looking for a way to engage with folks that like to avoid the shopping crowds or prefer to donate online instead? Family Giving Tree's Virtual Giving Trees (VGTs) are an online giving component within our Drive that allows your friends, family, and coworkers, near or abroad, to do just that. Donations made through a VGT help FGT to maximize the power of bulk purchasing allowing us to help your donation go even further. It’s a great addition to a physical drive or an alternative for those who prefer to not collect physical items. If you have a VGT already, make sure to share it out. If you’re unsure whether your company or group has one, contact your Drive Leader today.

Want to add one to your drive? Contact development@familygivingtree.org
Corporate Matching

Did you know? All of your time volunteering as an FGT Drive Leader - to coordinate a Back-to-School Drive at your workplace - in addition to your other colleagues' volunteering hours could qualify for your company’s volunteer matching program! Also, don’t forget that many monetary donations also qualify for company matching programs. Corporate matching dollars help your gift make DOUBLE or even TRIPLE the impact within our community! Check with your company’s HR department to see if your contributions qualify.

FGT Staff Spotlight

Celeste Delamore, The Agency Authority

While everyone at FGT has a deep appreciation for the 500+ agencies we support, Celeste Delamore has a special connection with each and every one of them. As Agency Coordinator, Celeste reaches out to, and receives referrals for, Bay Area agencies and schools who support the members of our community in the most need. But her work doesn’t end there; Celeste runs our Agency Interviews year-round. She’s been with FGT for 13 years, and her deep commitment to the organizations we support is apparent in her extensive interview process, which she uses to update our processes.
every drive. 
Outside of FGT, Celeste loves to spend time getting creative in the kitchen. A few years ago, Celeste began selling homemade jams and jellies she had been previously passing along to friends and family. In 2018 she decided to test her wares and entered a selection of preserves in the Santa Cruz County Fair - and won two blue ribbons! Her business -- Delamore Delights -- is just getting started. While she gets ready to launch her website, you can learn more about her incredible confections and preserves by sending her an email at delamoredelights@gmail.com

The 2019 Back-to-School Drive is in full-swing for Drive Leaders and the FGT team alike. Your financial help to ensures that we're able to organize and run the largest backpack distribution program in California. Consider making a monthly donation. For other ways to donate, visit our website: fgt.org/donate.  Thank you.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:
Goombah's Cars and Coffee - 7/6 - In town for the 4th of July weekend? Come see some classic cars, eat donuts, and drop off a backpack
Macbeth Opening Night - 7/26 - Come to Sanborn Park in Saratoga for a night of theater in the redwoods
Embarcadero Drop Off - 7/29-8/2 - Based out of SF? Drop off your backpacks at the Embarcadero Center during the week of July 29th
Castro Valley Drop Off - 7/30 - Donating from the East Bay? Stop by 3 Crosses Church in Castro Valley to drop off backpacks and supplies
Peninsula Drop Off - 7/31 - In the Menlo Park area? Our Peninsula Drop off is held at Garfield community School
Backpack Dropoff Day - 8/1 - Drop off your backpacks at our San Jose warehouse!
The White Snake Opening Night - 8/2 - Also showing amidst the trees in Sanborn Park

Granting Children's Wishes for Joy and Learning