



School has started, and over 41,000 students have the tools they need thanks to our generous donors and volunteers!

**Over 40,000 students with supplies and counting**

While the 2019 Back-To-School Drive has unofficially ended, we're still distributing our remaining backpacks. We anticipate ending the season with over 41,000 backpacks delivered! Thank you so much to all the Drive Leaders, donors, volunteers, and other supporters who made this goal a reality!



Classroom Sponsors



GILEAD

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Teacher Sponsors



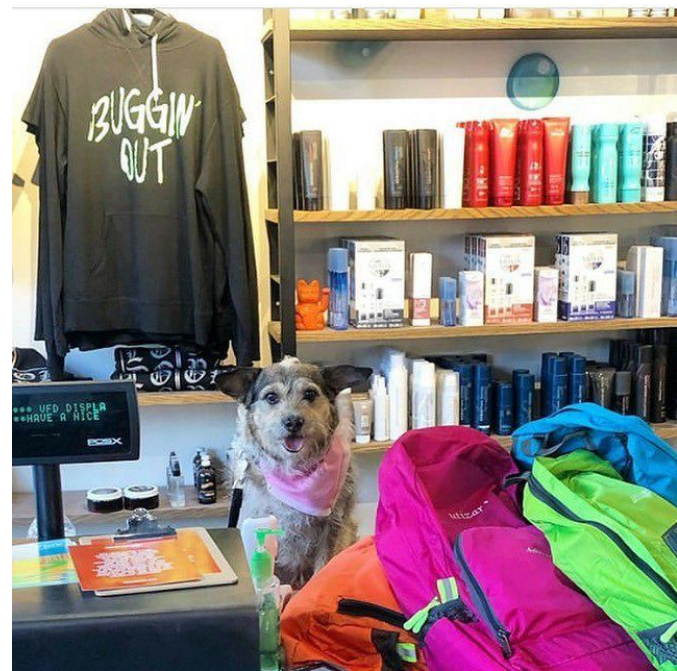


## Student Sponsors



### Hair Dye and Coloring Supplies

FGT had quite a few Drive Leaders who went above and beyond in their contributions to 2019's Back-to-School Drive. We'd like to give a special shout-out to Bishops Cuts / Color in San Jose. This salon offered discounted and free haircuts to clients who brought in backpacks and school supplies! You can find this special donor on Instagram @RamboTheRambunctiousPup Creatively mobilizing your community is a great way to increase your drive's donations and spread awareness!



## Help Us Make a Difference

### As Poverty Levels Rise, How Do We Make Change?

Unfortunately, California has retained its ranking as [the state with the highest functional poverty rate](#). The U.S. Census reported an average rate of 18.2% over three years which equates to approximately 7 million individuals. Living in the shadow of success are hundreds of thousands of families struggling to survive in an area where wealth is overwhelmingly abundant.

#### Poverty Means Hard Choices

One week of utilities  or a backpack for your middle school student 	One week of gas  or a gift for your child 	One week of food  or a backpack for your high school student 
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Along with higher poverty rates, come higher stress levels. Family Giving Tree can't change the former, but we do address the latter for low-income families. By providing a wished-for gift, or a backpack filled with school supplies to a child we allow a family to focus on putting food

on the table and keeping a roof over their heads. We help reduce unhealthy stress and send the message "you matter" at the same

time.

Help us reach even more individuals who are caught in this unhealthy situation. [Support us in Aetna's Voice of Health Competition by voting today and every day.](#) Share this message with your networks, friends, and family. We need your votes because Bay Area residents need your help.

**VOTE NOW**

### **Volunteer With FGT**

Outside of our warehouse, we have tons of opportunities for volunteering year-round! FGT needs support in our Milpitas office and at events around the Bay Area. Looking for children's volunteer activities? [We have those!](#) [Visit our website](#) for more information on these opportunities for involvement.



*We need your help at builds and drop-offs.*

Get Ready to...



### **Lead a Holiday Wish Drive**

It's time to [sign up as a HWD 2019 Drive Leader](#)! As part of our mission to be as green as possible, all materials to lead a drive will soon be available online. Gifts are due back Wednesday, December 11th. FGT will be hosting pick-ups all around the Bay Area, so don't worry about making it to San Jose for our warehouse drop off.

*Want to help, but don't want to lead a drive?*

[Donate online](#), [vote for us in the Voices of Health competition](#), follow us on social, and share our mission with your friends and family!





### **Company Volunteer Matching**

You might've heard about employers matching your donated dollars. But did you know that many employers also match your volunteer hours? If you run a drive, volunteer at our warehouse, help out in our office or at events, check to see if your employer will donate according to the time you spent! Double, or even triple your impact by asking your company's HR department if your contributions qualify.



### **Corporate Options**

Want to involve your workplace in giving back? We have some fun, collaborative opportunities for you! Wrapping parties take place in the convenience of your own company, allowing employees to have the warehouse experience without the commute. FGT brings you the gifts to wrap, then uses them to stock the Holiday Wish Drive warehouse store. Shopping sprees are an exciting way to get your team moving and showing off their shopping skills. Employees take over a Target for a short period of time

and try to buy as many gifts as possible within their budget! Contact [amelia@fgt.org](mailto:amelia@fgt.org) for more information on either of these team building volunteer options.

Interested in going above and beyond? We currently have Sponsorship options for the 2019 Holiday Wish Drive. [Click here to learn more about the benefits of partnering with Family Giving Tree](#), including warehouse spots and promotional opportunities.

## **FGT Staff Spotlight**

**Amelia Johnson: Opera Singer, Martial Artist, and Fundraiser**

Though she hasn't taken on learning circus arts (yet), Amelia Johnson is basically a professional juggler. Amidst working full time for FGT's development team, earning her MBA at Santa Clara University, and weekly training in Krav Maga and Salsa dancing, Amelia is busy--to put it



lightly. She's used to the grind, however, having received her BA from San Jose State in Vocal Performance. You'll find voice majors in the studio warming up at 6:30 AM, in preparation for their first class at 7 AM, and with 11 classes per semester, the day doesn't slow down from there. Constantly memorizing music of different styles, stepping into different performative roles, and creatively collaborating with other musicians taught Amelia skills that she's taken with her into her graduate program and work at FGT. There's a level of self-awareness that comes from not only stepping into a new perspective as a performer, but from genuinely understanding a song and the performer's relation to that perspective. That awareness of context is key, according to Amelia. It's about clarity of message; both what one is saying/singing, and how it's being received. In development, just like on the stage, it's important to think critically about the needs and contexts of both agencies and donors, so that both can be met in symbiotic ways.

We're gearing up for an amazing 2019 Holiday Wish Drive. Your financial help to ensures that we're able to grow every year to help more and more Bay Area residents in need. Consider making a [monthly donation](#).

For other ways to donate, visit our website: [fgt.org/donate](http://fgt.org/donate). **Thank you.**

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

**Sunday Streets SF 10/20** - The Excelsior's main corridor will be blocked off for pedestrians from Silver to Geneva Avenue, and we'll be spreading the word about the Holiday Wish Drive at this family-friendly street fest!

**Public Volunteer Registration Opens 11/1** - Make sure to save your spot in our warehouse when registration opens!

**Barracuda's Game 11/22** - Want to support FGT and [watch some hockey](#)? Come cheer on the Barracudas and chuck a puck on the ice for a chance to win fun prizes!

**The Wickham's: Christmas at Pemberley 11/22** - City Lights is putting on this [fanciful Christmas play](#) based in the Regency world of Pride and Prejudice. Every 11/22 ticket purchased with the code FGT donates \$5 to Family Giving Tree!

**Thanksgiving 11/28** - Don't forget to take time to appreciate all the amazing things in life this Thanksgiving!

**KRTY Holiday Party at Westgate Shopping Center 11/30** - Drop

off your toys and listen to Country Music!



Family Giving Tree™

Granting Children's Wishes for Joy and Learning

