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Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Lamorinda Youth Collect and Donate Basketball Shoes

Submitted by Mindy Plotkin



From left: Jake Myers and Chase Bennett at the East Oakland Youth Development Center
Photo provided

Jake Myers, an eighth-grade student at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette, recently completed a successful service project collecting and donating more than 150 pairs of new and gently-used basketball shoes to the East Oakland Youth Development Center. Jake, with the assistance of Chase Bennett of Moraga, collected shoes from local AAU, CYO and LMYA basketball teams. Jake received particular help from the Flight Elite AAU program and the St.

Perpetua and St. Monica CYO programs. EOYDC provides programs and opportunities so that underserved youth and young adults (ages 6-24) in East Oakland are prepared for employment, higher education and leadership opportunities. Jake and Chase brought the shoes to the youth development center and described their project to an assembly of EOYDC youth. More information about the center can be found at EOYDC.org.

Moraga Country Club Raises More than \$35K for Contra Costa Food Bank

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Dick Callahan, Oakland A's stadium announcer, is flanked by MCC Turkey Shoot co-chairmen Doug Brown and Rich Larsen
Photo provided

The Third Annual Turkey Shoot charity golf tournament held recently at the Moraga Country Club raised more than \$35,000 to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and the total will probably be higher once the accounting is complete. This amount is about a 60 percent increase over the \$22,000 raised in 2014. It was hosted by the Senior Men's Golf Association, led by originators and co-chairmen Doug Brown and Rich Larsen, and assisted by many SMGA members, spouses and friends.

The 90 participating golfers enjoyed a nice breakfast and lunch, and many participated in the live and silent auctions, entered the raffle, sponsored a hole, generally underwrote the event, or just donated to the cause. Local resident and Oakland A's stadium announcer Dick Callahan volunteered his skill as auctioneer, and donated two premium A's ticket packages which brought a very good price at auction.

Food Bank Executive Director Larry Sly thanked the donors, participants, and organizers

for their excellent work in raising so much money for the community. Sly, after he graduated from UC Berkeley, became the second employee of the Food Bank, and as executive director, he has directed its growth from 36,000 pounds of food distributed in its first year to 20 million pounds of food distributed in 2014. Sly also serves as director of several state and national organizations with similar interests, and is a past president of the Rotary Club of Concord.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Food Bank. It serves one out of every eight county residents, and 95 percent of its revenue goes to food distribution. It has paid staff of about 70 people, and averages about 1,000 volunteers each month, contributing more than 86,000 hours of time each year. The Food Bank works very hard to meet the increasing hunger problem in the two counties it serves, and partners with almost 300 different organizations and agencies to distribute food to needy families.

'Operation Gratitude' a Sweet Success at Happy Valley

Submitted by Jane Smith



Photo provided

The students of Happy Valley Elementary School collected and donated 118 pounds of candy to "Operation Gratitude." Candy will be shared with U.S. troops around the world.

From left: Happy Valley Student Council Connor Faust, Miller Smith, Shane O'Reilly and Toby Schwing.

Donation Requests from the Community

'Tis the Season of Giving

Lafayette Rotary Club Coat Drive

Every year the Lafayette Rotary Club collects gently used coats to donate to Shelter Inc. of Contra Costa. At a recent Rotary meeting, Executive Director Timothy O'Keefe noted how important the Rotary coat drive is for many homeless community members at this time of year when the weather turns colder. This year the club is inviting the community to bring gently used coats (adult or kids sizes) to the following locations in Lafayette: Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring, 3291 Mt Diablo Ct., Lafayette, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Ste. 103, Lafayette.

Toys for Tots Donation Locations in Lamorinda

There are several Toys for Tots donation locations in Lamorinda: The Moraga-Orinda Fire District will be collecting toys 24 hours a day through Dec. 21 at 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga; Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate will accept toys from 8:30 to 5 p.m. at 89 Davis Road, Suite 160, in Orinda through Dec. 11; and Cub Scout Pack 225 will be gathering toys beginning Dec. 1 through Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 15 Martha Road in Orinda. For information, visit toysfortots.org.

Community Concern for Cats Giving Tree

Community Concern for Cats, which serves Lamorinda residents, is hosting a Giving Tree through Dec. 24 at its upscale thrift store, Rescued Treasures, 1270 Newell Ave., in Walnut Creek. All the proceeds will go toward life-saving procedures for homeless cats and kittens in local neighborhoods.



"This is the first time in 29 years that we have had a Giving Tree and we hope that the public will come in to our thrift store to select one of our special 'Kitty' ornaments and donate the amount on the ornament," says president Gemma Osendorf. "All donations are welcomed, but we thought this would be a fun way to involve everyone and share the message that your neighborhood homeless cats and kittens still need your help." The boutique is filled with all kinds of collectibles like Steinbach Nutcrackers, Mood Dragons and The Lenox Legendary Princess Collection of figurines, designer clothes, jewelry, furniture, and all kinds of one-of-a-kind vintage items.

The donations will go toward vaccinations, micro chipping, healing antibiotics, flea protections, leukemia/FIV tests, veterinarian office visits, neutering of male cats, spaying of female cats, surgery and emergency medical procedures and special holiday treats. So far this year, CC4C has neutered 1,800 and found homes for 600 cats and kittens.

"Make your shopping budget do double duty this year: Get wonderful gifts from our thrift shop and give the gift of life to our kittens – all at the same time," says Candace Olsen, past president.

Thrift store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. For information, call (925) 937-3201. Community Concern for Cats is the oldest cat rescue organization in Contra Costa County. CC4C has three Saturday and Sunday afternoon adoptions sites: Pet Food Express, Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco Walnut Creek. Lafayette hours are noon to 3 p.m., while the others are 1 to 4 p.m.

Need Donations?

During the holiday season, Lamorinda Weekly will accept and publish opportunities for local giving. Send up to approximately 250 words describing the cause, type of donation needed, and where to bring or to send it. The organization collecting the donations, or receiving the donations, should be within our extended community. Submissions must be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com by Dec. 10 for inclusion in our Dec. 16 issue. Include "Season of Giving" in the subject line.