The Orinda Christmas Tree Lot Returns

To raise today's dollars for today's kids

Submitted by Gabriella Mozee, Orinda Educational Foundation



oday's dollars for today's kids!" That's what EFO is all about. "I am happy that EFO is able to come through for each child who attends public schools in Orinda precisely because EFO maintains a \$1.3 million in reserve called the Funds Functioning as Endowment (FFE). That means that if for any reason EFO is not able to raise and collect the \$1.4 million that is already pledged for the 2007-08 year, EFO will still cover it! The schools' administrators, teachers, parents and students can rely on our commitment and know that they will have the "hard

dollars" and resources needed to excel," says Janet Riley, EFO President

It's this kind of earnest commitment and general benefit to the Orinda community that prompted Orinda residents Mike Kang and Barbara Cabellon to begin their seasonal Orinda Christmas Tree Lot business and proudly support EFO. Mike explains: "I realize that EFO is beneficial to everyone in Orinda, not just the school system. A good school system increases the value of our community's real estate. We're very fortunate here in Orinda ,

where our schools are at the top 10% in the state. It's for everyone's benefit if we can keep our schools well funded even if the state doesn't."

This will be the second annual partnership between EFO and the Orinda Christmas Tree Lot, located in the old J. F. K. University campus on Altarinda Road. The Christmas trees themselves are from a tree farm in Oregon, owned by the most enthusiastic tree lover named Greg Bartells. The Christmas trees come in a variety of sizes, from the smallest table tops to the more magnificent tall ones, depending on your space and taste.

The Grand Opening this year will be the Friday of Thanksgiving week, November 23 through December 24. Hours will be from 11 am to 9 pm daily. Besides Christmas trees, Mike will also sell holiday wreaths and garlands. The lot will have space and tables available for Miramonte stu-



Barbara Cabellon and Mike Kang

dents to bring, display and sell their Matador Marketplace products to help raise funds for their graduation events.

Now Orinda families can gather, mingle and shop for their Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands locally, knowing that a portion of the proceeds of the sales will support EFO directly. "For every tree that we sell, we will be donating a generous amount to EFO...Last year we donated over \$3,000; we hope this year we'll be able to raise that amount or higher



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