

Feline fundraiser helps homeless kitties

Submitted by Billie Cummings



This little kitten was discovered to have curled up feet by its foster parent. She took it to Community Concern for Cats' clinic where its back feet were splinted. Now, after time has passed, it is back to normal and able to walk.

Photo provided

Lamorinda residents concerned about homeless cats and cat overpopulation have a chance this month to support the rescue of their neighbors.

For 31 years in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Community Concern for Cats, an all-volunteer cat rescue organization, has been caring for abandoned, injured and sick felines that people find on their property or on their street. CC4C also helps to find homes through its adoption site at Pet Food Express in Lafayette.

The Giving Tree is CC4C's end-of-the-year fundraiser, which runs through Dec. 24. Donations support CC4C's new veterinary clinic where they do neuter/spay and other

surgical procedures, including emergency ones, vaccinations, microchipping, leukemia/FIV tests, and well-kitty checks.

"Our new clinic is allowing us to help many more cats and realize some cost savings," says Candace Olsen, area supervisor.

CC4C president Gemma Osendorf hopes people will come in to Rescued Treasures, the organization's thrift shop in the San Miguel Shopping Center, and select a special kitty ornament, which will hang on their window tree. The shop is located at 1270 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. 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.

Cycle Recycle Success

Submitted by Bobbie and Tom Preston



The 2018 Cycle Recycle had a banner year, collecting almost 300 bikes, many in ride-ready condition. Over 40 ride-ready bikes went straight to Napa and Sonoma fire survivors, and another 70 to Trips for Kids in time for their Christmas Party Give Away in the Canal District of San Rafael, home to many refugees and immigrants. The Oakland School District got 45 bikes for their after-school Earn-A-Bike program. The remaining almost 150 went to the sheriff's department job training program at Marsh Creek Detention Center, which repairs the bikes while teaching inmates a marketable skill, to be given away to local charities during the 2018 pre-holiday period.

Photo provided

Moraga Girl Scouts repair park benches for Silver Award

Submitted by Bobbie Hartman



From left: Haley Hartman, Kimberly Nelson, Moraga Parks and Recreation, and Emma Bennett.

Photo provided

Girl Scout Troop 30228 members Haley

Hartman and Emma Bennett earned their Silver Award this fall for repairing several picnic benches at Rancho Laguna Park.

The girls, both freshmen at Campolindo High School, worked for more than 50 hours sanding, repairing, and refinishing the wooden structures. They organized bake sales to raise the money for the supplies needed to complete the work. The Silver Award is the

second-highest award that can be earned in Girl Scouting. Haley and Emma have been involved in scouting for 10 years and will continue as scouts in high school.

"This is a great contribution to the community because the benches at Rancho Laguna are used almost every weekend," said Kimberly Nelson, Recreation and Facilities Coordinator, Moraga Parks and Recreation.

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.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Sizeable donation from local business supports LPIE

Submitted by Angie Zener

The Lafayette Partners in Education, a not-for-profit education based foundation supporting the six Lafayette public schools, last week received \$25,000 by Leila Douglah of Luxe Home by Douglah Designs – the largest donation ever from a single business entity since LPIE's establishment in 1980.

"Our philosophy at Douglah Designs has always been that while we establish a world-class interior design and remodeling company to one of the most beautiful communities in the Bay Area, we must also do our part to ensure the quality of the schools and our environment," said Douglah, who was also named the East Bay Leadership Council's Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist in 2013.

The donation could not have come at a more ideal time. LPIE has a big task ahead. This year alone, LPIE must raise \$3.2 million dollars to maintain current educational instruction. With a \$1.8 million fiscal shortfall going into this academic year for K-8 schools, the Lafayette School District was forced to eliminate critical programs. Unfortunately, the funding for schools remains inconsistent and inadequate, and further reductions could be necessary in both the

Lafayette School District and for Acalanes High School. To this end LPIE continues its efforts to gather business and community support through donations.

The past four years LPIE has hosted an annual "power party" gala auction event – the biggest and highest grossing fundraiser in its calendar year. This year, LPIE will be hosting the "LPIE Derby" auction in May at Wilder Fields in Orinda. Attendees will stroll through silent and live auctions tents, sip mint juleps, and enjoy southern fare. Over 450 attendees are expected to come enjoy the live bluegrass band, derby games and the special acoustic performance of Nashville recording artist Jake Ousley.

"Given sorely inadequate and inconsistent funding from both the state and federal government, community support for our schools is absolutely critical and deeply appreciated," said LAFSD Superintendent Rachel Zinn. "We sincerely thank Luxe Home by Douglah Designs for their generous contribution to the Lafayette Partners in Education. It shows that our community and businesses together truly care about building a strong foundation for today's generation and those to come."

Children's Health Guild Holiday Boutique raises much-needed funds

Submitted by Libby Dafferner



Boutique shoppers Danielle Lederman and Molly Castaldi.

Photo provided

The Children's Health Guild hosted its annual holiday boutique and luncheon Dec. 1 at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in San Francisco. Over 380 guests attended the event, themed "The Spirit of Sharing," which raised \$200,000, with all proceeds dedicated to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House. Together these organizations provide the full spectrum of medical care for children, including: emergency care, on-going treatment, transitional and respite care, and

palliative care that help children and their families live life to the fullest during a child's final days, regardless of the family's ability to pay.

The Children's Health Guild, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to improving the quality of and access to pediatric medical care in the East Bay. Comprised of approximately 50 talented and passionate Lamorinda women, CHG's members focus on raising funds for these two organizations each year.

Angel Tree program helps foster kids celebrate the holidays

Submitted by Cynthia Coito



Photo provided

Over 20 years ago, local realtor Dick Holt challenged his Orinda office to participate in an ongoing program that supports Contra Costa County foster children. Specifically, to provide gifts and new clothes to those county foster children that otherwise would receive little or nothing at this time of gift-giving and good cheer.

Coldwell Banker Orinda has continued to participate in this program each year. This year, Coldwell Banker's support of the Angel Tree program will help over 70 local foster children have a brighter holiday.

Pictured is the annual collection of gifts about to be loaded onto Santa's sleigh in front of the Coldwell Banker Orinda office and then delivered to the County Children and Family Welfare staff for ultimate delivery to the children. These gifts were provided by "Angels" (Coldwell Banker Orinda

agents, office staff, and numerous clients that have chosen to get involved).

The foster children who receive these gifts are personally chosen by the county staff based upon their need and situation. Their "wish lists" are then forwarded to "Angel" organizations such as Coldwell Banker Orinda, as well as local churches and other generous organizations, that have volunteered to take on the commitment to fill them.

When asked about the Angel Tree program and how it relates to his office, Manager, Jeff Gillett responded, "I am proud and impressed that our busy agents and staff still choose to take time and effort to think about those less fortunate, and to help a very needy cause at this time of year." Anyone interested in participating or learning more about the Angel Tree program should contact Dick Holt at (925) 297-9150.