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Giving Opportunities this Holiday Season

Provide Troops with Free Calls Home

J. Rockcliff Realtors and the non-profit Cell Phones for Soldiers Inc. are asking Contra Costa County residents to help troops call home by donating gently-used cellular phones. Residents can donate to this cause in four Lamorinda locations:

- Moraga Country Club Tennis Shop, Country Club Drive, Moraga, 94556
- Moraga Hardware and Lumber, 1409 Moraga Way, Moraga, 94556
- J. Rockcliff Realtors, 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 94549
- J. Rockcliff Realtors, 89 Davis Rd., Suite 100, Orinda, 94563

The holidays are a great time to think of service personnel far from home and their loved ones-our troops and their families all benefit from this program. Funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase pre-paid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones for Soldiers distributes 12,000 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals. For more information, contact Marian Krochka or Margaret Price at (925) 253-7000.

A LibraryALIVE...EVERY dollar, every donor, every volunteer matters!

Since opening November 2009, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center has been ALIVE, serving 765,000 patrons, open 58 weekly hours, 7 days a week and providing programs every day for every age and interest.

And here is a little known fact....the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation funds a stunning 53% of the costs to keep the doors open, programs abundant, and the physical building well maintained! This is no small challenge, and we cannot succeed without YOU!

\$50 funds 2 children's science books

\$200 funds 1 hour of library services

\$600 funds 3 Consortium programs

\$1,500 funds updated technology

\$5,000 funds a Distinguished Speaker

So, every gift, your charitable gift of any size, makes a difference! Become a member of the LibraryALIVE Annual Fund by check, online at LLLFCF.org or call 925-283-6513.

The Moraga Police Officers Association along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals For Emergencies) is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The stuffed animals are given to local police and fire departments, which distribute them to children they encounter who have been affected by traumatic events. S.A.F.E also facilitates the distribution of donated stuffed animals for a variety of charitable purposes to help children. This year's annual holiday collection drive begins on 11/23 and ends on 12/27. New or gently used stuffed animals can be dropped off in the collection area located in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. Thank you for your support!

Make a difference in the lives of women, families, and teens by making a tax-deductible donation to Be the Star You Are!(r) charity in Moraga. New books are being shipped to groups and families across the US who have suffered in recent natural disasters. Checks of any amount may be sent to Be the Star You Are!(r) 501c3, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556. Or make donations online via PAYPAL at <http://www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm>. \$25 provides 5 books, \$50 provides 12 books, and \$100 provides 28 books. Thanks for caring. Everyone counts!

Donations are needed to fund the final construction of the Lafayette Community Stage at the EBMUD Reservoir. The new permanent stage, initiated by the Lafayette Rotary, will be used for community events like the annual "Concert at the Res" (which funds music programs at our local schools) and many other outdoor performing events. Please send your tax-deductible donations via check to the Lafayette Community Foundation, c/o "Rotary Stage", PO Box 221, Lafayette, CA 94549-0221 or donate online with a major credit card at www.LafayetteCF.org.

Safeway: Help Us End Hunger Holiday Food Drive from November 16 - December 24. Purchase a \$10 prepacked bag of groceries which will be donated to the Food Bank. In store barrels will be available to drop off the donation, it's quick and easy.

Whole Foods: From Now until December 31, donate non-perishable items while shopping at the Lafayette Whole Foods store to support the Food Bank, or make a cash donation at the register while checking out. Look for pallets of healthy items on display. You can't miss the bins to collect donated non-perishable items.

Company C Contemporary Ballet is partnering with the non-profit Educational Foundation of Orinda to offer tickets to select performances of the 10th Anniversary Season Winter Program that benefit EFO and the Orinda schools. For every full priced benefit ticket sold to an EFO supporter, the Company will donate \$10 of the ticket price to EFO. Benefit tickets are priced \$45 orchestra seating, available for the following Winter Program performances: Leshner Center for the Arts, January 20-21 and the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, February 17 and 19. Most appropriate for children 7 and older. Benefit ticket buyers must use the code "ENRICH" when ordering

tickets. Details may be found at www.companycballet.org.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our donors, Trust in Education has grown in its capacity to help Afghan families rebuild their lives and country. We began with a few neighbors in 2003. Now our grassroots organization is supported by thousands who have donated time and money. A critical mass of supporters is essential to our challenge to educate. After all, today's third grader will be a fourth grader next year. Education is the greatest gift we can give a child. Join us by contributing what you can and volunteer your time.

To make a secure online donation go to www.trustineducation.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/

Send a check to: Trust In Education, PO Box 936, Lafayette, CA 94549

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Over 85% of All Funds Go to Meals Served! Loaves & Fishes Is the Most Efficient Hot Meal Provider to the Hungry in Contra Costa County. Help us help the community. Mail Donations to: Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa, 1985 Bonifacio St., STE 100, Concord, CA 94520 or go to our web site at www.loavesfishesc.org/donations.html

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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