



DAILY REPUBLIC
Solano County's News Source

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA

Fairfield tea celebrates local authors, organization

By Susan Hiland

FAIRFIELD — Artra Green's vision of helping children across the world get clean water, food and an education has grown over the past six years.

The inspiration to take action started with a mission trip she took to Haiti in 1993, where she saw the struggles of children who lived in poverty. That eventually led to formation of an organization called Helping Children Around the World, now in its fourth year.

Her organization's mission is to provide clean water, food and an education through scholarships and tutoring programs, and individual solar lights to underprivileged children around the world.

"The vision is to partner with other religious, educational and charitable organizations and get children and young people involved in events that give them an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity in speech, song and dance, and an opportunity to volunteer for a nonprofit organization," Green said.

About 90 people came for the organization's annual tea event, which included a croissant sandwich, chips, dessert and tea Saturday at Jelly Belly.



Kaleya Ervin, 12, of Long Beach, returned for the 6th Annual Tea program for Helping Children Around the World, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020. She is legally blind and is a pianist and author. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

Cynthia Phillips, a secretary, began helping Green with some word-processing so she was asked to help out full time.

"I was already helping her as a friend," Phillips said. "We are always looking for a place to help."

Phillips noted that she hears from people who want to help but just don't know who to contact. The organization is also always looking for projects where they can be of service.

"I think we have helped thousands of children over the last few years," she said.

The tea party is a way for them to keep people updated about the direction of the organization and a chance to raise some money.

"It didn't start out that way," Phillips said.

Kaleya Ervin, 12, of Long Beach, was this year's entertainment. She was placed in foster care when she was 4, until her aunt and uncle heard about the situation and took her in, eventually adopting her.

She has a progressive disease that is taking her sight, but with the help of her aunt and uncle, Nikki and Anthony Ervin, she was able to get implants, which has stopped the progression. She is able to see with the help of glasses.

Kaleya has to take eye drops to stop her body from rejecting the implants, but that is a small price to pay to have her sight.



Amanda Harrinauth, 30, recently completed a book of poetry called "Legally Blind." The author is legally blind and diagnosed with autism. She read a poem to those attending the 6th Annual Tea Program for Helping Children Around the World, in Fairfield, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

Amanda Harrinauth is also legally blind and in 2016 was diagnosed with autism. She recently wrote and published a book of poems about her life, "Now I See."

"I wrote the poems as a way to deal with it," she said. "You know, autism is actually pretty awesome."

Harrinauth noted that many who are on the autism spectrum are talented and creative people with a special gift for creating.

"It can also be a way to unlock potential," she said.

Harrinauth is working on a new book, "Dancing on Fire," and is a Special Olympics athlete and ambassador.

Local author Shyla Garcia was another author who spoke at the event. She wrote "Brite Saves the Day" and came dressed as her character.

She was inspired to write more than 20 years ago after her son was diagnosed with autism.

For more information on the organization, visit www.helpingchildrenworld.org.

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