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Solano County's News Source

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA



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

Gold Mine: Helping Children Around the World helps those near, far away

By **Susan Hiland**

FAIRFIELD — Artra Green's vision of helping children across the globe get clean water, food and an education is growing each year.

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. She formed the organization called Helping Children Around the World in 2013, at the age of 76.

The 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.

The Covid-19 pandemic has sidelined the annual fundraising tea and garage sale, but her nonprofit organization continues to help those who are in need by relying more on donations than ever before.

"This year has been a challenge," Green said. "But people are still mailing in contributions."

She recently got a glimpse of the future of fundraising when she used the Zoom teleconference platform to watch her

son's birthday party.

"I guess next year they plan to do the tea over Zoom," Green said.

The 7th Annual Tea fundraiser will take place Feb. 13, 2021, via Zoom or teleconference.

The organization held its annual meeting over the phone, which was very different for Green.

"But it worked out," she said. "It was very . . . wow!"

A school in Oakland, which her grandchildren attended years ago, reached out last year asking for school supplies, and she plans to reach out to them this year and see if they need anything.

The group plans to assist the True Love Church in Fairfield with its annual turkey dinner.

"I'm not sure what we will be doing," Green said.

So the mission continues to help others, whether near or far away. The novel coronavirus has proven a formidable challenge for many families who have lost jobs, homes and businesses because of the pandemic. Helping Children Around the World is here to help, Green said.

If there are families in the area in need of food, educational supplies or clean water, don't hesitate to reach out.

For more information, go to www.helpingchildrenworld.org or call 421-0605.

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