

WFWP N. California's Schools of Africa Benefit: Nurturing the Spirit of Giving

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Nurturing the spirit of giving: Northern California chapter annual Schools of Africa benefit

Just like Shel Silverstein's famous giving tree, the Northern California chapter of WFWP understands the true joy of giving, year after year. On December 2nd, the chapter held its 16th Annual Benefit for the Schools of Africa Project at the Marina Community Center. Around 90 people gathered at this Holiday Family Festival to celebrate the season and also the wonderful work of the Schools of Africa.

The diverse program featured some content from the organizers, including a video about the international work of WFWP and a reading of inspirational words from WFWP founder Mother Moon. Local chairwoman Patricia Fleischman then spoke about what sets WFWP apart from other women's organizations: its understanding of the true value of women and their role, with Mother Moon as an exemplary figure. She also introduced the individual schools WFWP is supporting in Africa and emphasized their successful graduates.

Upbeat entertainment brought a great spirit to the event. We enjoyed the music of Pope Flyne, a Ghanaian musician. He got us all up out of our seats and dancing to the sound of his drum. It was really invigorating and fun! We also greatly enjoyed the Christmas music of Father's House Band led by Joshua Cotter.

To raise funds, we held a raffle of a large TV, and new Apple Watch, a grill, a Thomas Kinkaid Christmas box, and numerous gift cards. We also sold some art items from Africa and Japan that were donated to us.

Having a wonderful young emcee, Gerlyn Quilates, was one important element of our success. Even though it was the first time we have worked together, she fit right in and did an excellent job bringing lots of enthusiasm to the event. Five students from the youth organization Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) also volunteered to help us and offered significant contributions. We also prepared some holiday craft projects for children. How wonderful it is to work with people of different ages all together.



Here are some comments we received from participants:

"I felt a lot of energy, a lot of spirit surrounded with love, an experience with a lot of people. The music was beautiful, the food was good, and the items for sale were exquisite."

"Something I particularly liked was the experience with the drummer playing and allowing us all to dance and participate."

"There was a lot of interaction within the event, especially between the performers and audience."

"I really like the work you are doing for the people, what they really need in Africa. I'm sure it's a blessing for everyone."