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## Sup. Gioia celebrates 20 years of holiday drives at Verde Elementary

December 14, 2018



Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia and his staff expressed gratitude to the community this week for pulling off yet another successful holiday drive at Verde Elementary.

Sup. Gioia has been holding a holiday drive for the North Richmond school for two decades.

Today, with support from community donors, more than 330 Verde students received new books and hoodies emblazoned with inspirational quotes, as part of the Verde Elementary Books and Hoodie Drive, according to the supervisor's office.

The school's teachers and staff received the same hoodies.



"There's something special in us all sharing in the joy of giving," Supervisor Gioia said in a statement. "The way West County residents support the children of North Richmond each holiday season is a testament to their community commitment."

It was a truly local holiday drive. The hoodies were bought from a local Richmond business, Leftside Printing, and the books provided by West County READS, a local volunteer literacy advocacy organization.

Much of the more than \$10,000 raised came from individual donors, with larger pledges from Chevron Corp., Richmond Elks Lodge #1251, Rotary Club of Marin Evening Foundation, Republic Services, the Irene S. Scully Family Foundation, Verde School PTA, Contra Costa County Public Defenders Association, Sims Metal Management, and Richmond residents Mark Howe and Joe Pulido.

El Cerrito restaurants including Los Moles, Gangnam Tofu Korean Cuisine, and Uncle Wong's, along with Galaxy Desserts in Richmond, donated food to a holiday fundraiser for Verde.

*Photos courtesy of Supervisor John Gioia's Office*