

Good Morning Fellow Rotarians. . . Please read below a message I received:

"The Army Community Service Office, Presidio of Monterey presented multiple amazing gifts 🎁 to the military family of U.S. Army PVT2 Brianna Murphy (this date 12/20). Sponsored by Operation Care and Comfort "Adopt a Military Family" program and the Almaden Valley-Willow Glen Rotary Club of San Jose. The soldier (single mother) was overwhelmed by our Bay Area community's show of support for those in need - who also serve. Soldier's immediate supervisor (Nate Pleasantbey), from Unit 229th MIBN was also in attendance. "Hoorah OCC!"

The 2 children chose a gift to open because they will leave in the morning to spend the holiday with their father (the soldier did not have a choice; it is a court order for the newly divorced parents). . . Today, 12/20 is Lily's birthday."

Our notes: This family consisting of mother Brianna, son Liam, and daughter Lilianne (Grades K and PK) is the family that Joan Perry shopped for - Joan spent \$320 and purchased basically everything that this family of 3 asked for! GREAT JOB JOAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have a few pictures that I will share at our next meeting.

It's notes like this that warm our hearts and to know that our Community Project: Operation Secret Elves, brings happiness to families in need. Additionally, I took the gifts purchased for the 2 families that we adopted through The Family Giving Tree to their facility in Milpitas. Such an 'eye opening experience' to see all the gifts purchased for hundreds of Bay Area families that may otherwise not have any presents to open on Christmas. Evelyn Hernandez, Director asked me to pass on to all of you their appreciation for the 2 families that we adopted and shopped for.

Let's make Operation Secret Elves an annual tradition for Almaden Valley-Willow Glen Rotary!

Again, thank you one and all.

Emilie and Wendy