

**The Gift of Love**

The Gift of Love program is the overarching name given to projects that support social causes and help people. The projects that reach out to help neighborhoods, families, children, and more – right here in our own San Ramon.

**Gift of Love Projects**

**SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS…**

Many children from low income families in our neighborhoods wake up Christmas morning to find nothing under their Charlie Brown Christmas tree. We invited CAA members to share their good fortunes by participating in a **CAA Toy Drive, a Gift of Love Project** and helping a child who is wishing that Santa will visit to have his or her wish come true!

Over C500,000 and $250 were collected at the CAA GA meeting December 9th, and distributed by the Cultural & Social Committee to children associated with FuncaVida, a local foundation helping children and adults recovering from cancer. The gifts were handed out by Cultural & Social Committee members at the FuncaVida children’s Christmas party.

**TAMALE CHRISTMAS**

CAA Members were asked to help the village women of Baja Tajares to do something special. The Tamale is a traditional Christmas food for the women of the community, but most do not have the resources to make them. Funds raised from Oktoberfest were used to purchase the ingredients for the Tamales, and the women of the village made these special treats to give to their families and neighbors.

The barrio is located in the heart of San Ramon called and is a community of 350 where most live in homes considered slums. The population is 98% women, their children, and often their elderly relatives. Most of these women have no jobs and are unable to provide for their loved ones – the nutrition, education, and lifestyle that would enable them to thrive with dignity, health, and vigor.

Over 600 tamales were made by 12 CAA members with the women of Baja Tajares and distributed that same day.