

## Arroyo Students Collect for Kids

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

**Students in Arroyo High School's Academy of health and Medicine collected for the Alameda County Fire Department's Toys for Tots programs. They handed over \$4,000 in toys and gift cards last week at their school.**

Students in the Arroyo High School Academy of Health and Medicine recently turned over toys, games, and gift certificates to the Alameda County Fire Department's Toys for Tots drive.

Bonnie Xu, one of the students leaders of the project, said that this is the fifth year the students held the toy drive and they were able to raise over \$4,000 for needy kids all over Alameda County.

“All the students who participated in this fundraiser went above and beyond their duties,” Xu said. “We had collectors out at lunch and after school at our home basketball games.

Xu said the Arroyo students also reached out to other schools including Bohannon Middle School and Corvallis Elementary School to place toy donation boxes on their campus. Toys were collected at the Washington Manor branch of the library and at businesses around town, too.

The firefighters came to Arroyo and collected the presents last week just in time to get them under the tree for Christmas and they thanked the students for all their hard work.

“This is something you don’t have to do, but that really speaks to your character,” said Aisha Knowles, fire department spokeswoman.

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