



**Howell Mountain Vintners & Growers Association
Supports Howell Mountain Elementary School with Event and Donations**

June 18, 2016

Angwin, CA – The Howell Mountain Vintners & Growers Association (HMVGA) was thrilled again to support the Howell Mountain Elementary School with proceeds from their annual wine tasting and charity auction, Taste of Howell Mountain.

The Howell Mountain Elementary School was hoping to have instrumental music instruction two times a week as part of their academic program, grades 5 – 8. They purchased woodwind and brass instruments with donations from last year's Taste of Howell Mountain auction and were also able to offer one day of band instruction. The Howell Mountain Elementary School wants to expand their program and they have two wonderful local musicians who are interested in helping them build a dynamic music program at their school.

Having an instrumental music program, grades 5 – 8, would give their school an additional opportunity to engage students and maximize their learning experience! Research shows that music facilitates learning other subjects and enhances skills that children inevitably use in other areas and is found to have a positive effect on language development, an increased IQ, spatial temporal skills, and overall the brain works harder when learning the skills required for music. (Cutietta, Hamann, Walker, 1995 & Rauscher, 1996).

However, this amazing opportunity carries a cost. Thanks to previous donations from the HMVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donors, the school now has woodwind and brass instruments, so they are ready to expand instrumental music instructional minutes and hopefully add keyboard sections.

In order to see this goal met, the school needed funds to cover music instruction, instrument repair and the purchase of keyboards for the school, which they estimated would cost \$15,000! It was the school's hope they could open their doors on August 17th and have choral music instruction for every child, K – 4, and instrumental music available to their students, grades 5 - 8! Thanks to the HMVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donors their funding needs were more than met with \$19,800 donated during the special Fund A Need portion of the Live Auction...outstanding!

Furthermore, the H MVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donated over \$70,000 to the Howell Mountain Education Foundation which channels the money where needed most into the Howell Mountain Elementary School. This is a long-standing tradition of support of the school by the wine industry on the mountain and will continue in 2017 at the 22nd Annual Taste of Howell Mountain.