



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

June 20, 2015

Angwin, CA – Once again the Howell Mountain Vintners & Growers Association (HMOVGA) was happy 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 music instruction as part of their academic program, grades K – 8, and instruments available to their students, grades 5 - 8. They have a wonderful local musician whom is interested in helping them build a music program at the school, which will allow their students to develop a love of music and give their upper grade students the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument. This opportunity will help expand the students' education into the beautiful world of music.

Thanks to previous donations from the HMOVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donors, they do have some instruments currently available and some that they could repair. The school wanted to expand their band instrument selection to include additional woodwinds and brass instruments so students would have a choice and opportunity to find an instrument that would assist them in expressing their musical talents. Research tells us that learning music, singing and playing an instrument supports learning in other academic core areas. What could be more fun...having a music program at all grade levels to engage students and maximize their learning experience!

Nevertheless, this amazing opportunity carries a cost. In order to see this goal met, the school needed funds to cover music instruction, instrument repair and the purchase of additional instruments for their school, which they estimated would cost \$15,000! Their hope was that they could open the school doors on August 19th and have music instruction for every child, K – 8, and instruments available to their students, grades 5 – 8. Thanks to the HMOVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donors their funding needs were met during the special Fund A Need portion of the Live Auction...congratulations!

Furthermore, the HMOVGA and Taste of Howell Mountain donated over \$52,000 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 2016 at the 21st Annual Taste of Howell Mountain.