

# Service clubs get head start on holiday projects



Madison, Barb and Taylor Capozzo will help out with the Richmond Lions and Goodfellows holiday effort this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Linda May , For The Macomb Daily

It's not even Halloween yet but some folks with big projects have to get the jump on Thanksgiving and Christmas now.

The Clinton Township Kiwanis Club is collecting nonperishable food for its Kiwanis Community Food Drive. Canned and boxed food collected at schools go to a warehouse to be sorted. Boxed-up goods, and about \$10,000 worth of fresh food purchased by the Kiwanis Club are provided to families in need of assistance throughout Macomb County. School social workers and counselors, Macomb County Head Start, churches and other social service organizations help connect the needy with the club.

Chippewa Valley and L'Anse Creuse Public Schools are the biggest source of nonperishable goods for Kiwanis, with food drives organized by student councils and other school groups. Students collect food over a two-week period in late October and early November.

"All the schools in those districts participate — the elementary, the middle and the high schools," Bill Lakin, who coordinates the community effort, said. "There are 36 collection sites. The whole school is involved but sometimes it's one group, like Chippewa's sophomore class, that takes the lead. Sometimes it's the National Honor Society or the National Junior Honor Society, or a home room."

There are Kiwanis-sponsored Key Clubs at Chippewa Valley High School, Dakota High School, the International Academy of Macomb, and L'Anse Creuse North High School.

"Some classes have competitions," Lakin said. "Students take fliers home with them so that their families get involved. We are very grateful for them all. Boy Scout Troop 238 not only collects food but helps us pack and distribute it.

"Last year, we had 391 families to deliver to. There were another 113 families that received food primarily through St. Vincent dePaul at St. Louis Church near Mount Clemens, and other families that got fed through St. Luke's food pantry. Twenty boxes went through Family Youth Intervention and 405 pounds went to the Hope Center on Groesbeck. This really is a community food drive because it goes throughout Macomb County. We rely on the school social workers and churches to let us know who needs assistance."

Food pantries and agencies received 2,800 pounds of food last year from this drive.

Lakin said they moved up the packing and delivery day by one week this year, to Nov. 21, so the club could concentrate on the December Christmas party it puts on for about 250 children who are in the county's foster care system and those who attend Head Start programs.

Santa recruits student elves from Dakota High School, International Academy of Macomb and Chippewa Valley Key Club for photos, lunch, presents, games, face-painting, dancing and crafts.

Lakin invites anyone who wishes to learn more about the club to join them at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays for breakfast at J. Baldwin's restaurant, 16981 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township. Tax-deductible monetary donations for the food program or the foster children's party can be made to the Clinton Township Kiwanis Foundation and mailed to Post Office Box 380924, Clinton Township MI 48038. Contact Lakin at [kiwanisfoodrive@yahoo.com](mailto:kiwanisfoodrive@yahoo.com) or leave him a message at 586-292-4882 or go to [clinton-twp-kiwanis.squarespace.com](http://clinton-twp-kiwanis.squarespace.com) for information about the club.

In November and December, the club sells Holiday Nut Mix and Delicious Delights candy as a fundraiser. Buy them at Embroidery & Much More in St. Clair Shores, Raymond James & Associates in Macomb Township and Family Eye Care Associates in Eastpointe and Washington Township.

Products are also available in Clinton Township at Phil's Hair Stylists, Watchbands N More, Amaro's Hair Care, Payne Financial Services, and Family Eye Care Associates.

The Dakota High School Key Club, sponsored and assisted by the Clinton Township Kiwanis Club, participates in a Kids Against Hunger food packaging event 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 18201 23 Mile Road, Macomb. The effort is expected to assemble 70,000 meals that are used locally and throughout the world.

For additional information on that, contact Lori Stillwell at 586-295-7957 or [lori2547@yahoo.com](mailto:lori2547@yahoo.com).

The 25th annual Clinton Township Kiwanis wild game dinner — celebrating 25 years of charitable community service — is at 6 p.m. Jan. 29 at Fern Hill Country Club, 17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township. For ticket information, contact Ken Howe at 586-322-4594 or [kenage96@aol.com](mailto:kenage96@aol.com).

Richmond Goodfellows-Lions sell ads and newspapers

The Richmond Goodfellows and the Richmond Lions Club blend into one at this time of year to make the holidays better for local families. They have it down to a science because they've been doing it for 74 years.

The first step is selling ads that appear in Goodfellows newspapers. Organization members take orders for ads that cost from \$15 to \$125 depending on the size and so far, about 180 ads have come in. Businesses can advertise their establishments, and individuals can send their neighbors holiday greetings if they wish.

Paul Ostby coordinates ad sales, and he takes requests for assistance for Christmas toys and food for people in need in the greater Richmond area. Contact Ostby at 586-243-1486.

The program's longevity and success is due to the support of local businesses and the community.

"I can't emphasize enough that the money raised in the Richmond area, stays in the Richmond area," Ostby said.

In 1941, the Richmond Lions Club recognized the need to assist struggling families and seniors year 'round. Between food baskets and new toys at this time of year, Goodfellows-Lions aim for every child to have a better Christmas.

The Lions club assists qualifying individuals with eye exams and eyeglasses and hearing aids at all times. Others have been helped following a home fire or storm damage or with barrier-free modifications and hospital equipment, or aid in paying for a medical emergency or an overdue utility bill.

Over 2,000 newspapers are sold and distributed annually – this year on Dec. 4-5. Some go to local nursing home residents and some are inserted into the Richmond Chamber of Commerce welcome baskets.

Money from ads helps cover setup and printing costs of the newspaper. Revenue from both the ad sales and the street sales then become a major source of income for Goodfellows-Lions charitable work.

Send service club and veterans news to: Linda May at [lindamay@ameritech.net](mailto:lindamay@ameritech.net). Or mail c/o The Macomb Daily, 19176 Hall Road, Clinton Township MI 48038. Phone 586-791-8116.