

Article 28

Heroes for Hunger: The generosity of many in Auburn puts turkey on the Thanksgiving table

Nancy Sheffield | Special to The Citizen Nov 15, 2015

I have much to be grateful for. I have found the time preparing the Thanksgiving Day celebrations each year to be a blessed period for my pantry. The community support is overwhelming. First, I hand out 200 turkey baskets to my families. These baskets are the culmination of the fall months' vast planning by many volunteers. I can only, at this time of the year, thank everyone for their participation. So many business and individuals have taken part in my efforts. Here is a list of some who help me with my baskets.

First, my thanks go to all of those individuals who contributed to the Turkey Trot at First Presbyterian Church on South Street and the Auburn Rotary. Westminster Presbyterian Church gave money for any items needed for the baskets. Stuffing, corn and potatoes from the Potato Drop were supported by members of the Auburn United Methodist Church. Fresh produce and money came from St. Luke's United Church of Christ. Rolls and bread were from New Hope Mills. Vegetables, cranberry, fruits and desserts were from numerous individuals. M&T Bank and Community Computers added miscellaneous items to fill the baskets. Thank you all. You all are to be commended for your time and efforts on behalf of my pantry and my families.

Eileen Winters's commitment from her church must, again, be mentioned. First Presbyterian gives me turkeys through the Turkey Trot. It's spearheaded by Sue Ann Cunliffe, whose steadfast and resolute determination going to the public and talking about the church's pledges is to be congratulated. This has been going on for several years. Because of these two indomitable women, they make sure 200 families will have a complete turkey dinner with all the extras. My families pick up their baskets with delight and happiness, showing their appreciation with gentle words of thanksgiving.

I plan this give-out all fall. Filling the baskets is done by my 50 RSVP volunteers, who show up to fill the baskets, no matter what, and approach the Christmas season with heartfelt resolutions. They know, through experience, the needs in this community. My pantry is their last defense against hunger.

News from the pantry: There will be a fundraising night at Panera Bread, from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. Stop in at the pantry for a flyer that, when presented with your meal, a percentage of the profit goes to the pantry.

Dec. 2, we have a fundraising gala at Cosentino's Florist, from 6 to 8 p.m. Jessica Cosentino created this opportunity for us. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Flower design presentations, along with food and beverage, is part of the program.

Have something to contribute? If you would like to help me with your own special donation, call me at (315) 252-7772. I include, as usual, a list of Auburn food pantries. Give anyone of them a call.

I give out my baskets on the 23rd of this month. If you have anything you want put in them, call me.

Volunteer, donate or reciprocate in kind by giving back at this time of year.