

WVDP makes donation to area food pantries

By Rich Place, Managing Editor | Posted: Friday, November 14, 2014 6:00 pm

In the spirit of the holiday season, employees from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) again volunteered their time and energy Friday to deliver food to nine area food pantries for the upcoming winter season.

The WVDP Food Drive fundraising effort, including food donations from employees themselves, was responsible for the donation of nearly 125,000 pounds of food to area pantries, according to volunteer coordinator Lettie Chilson.

More than a dozen volunteers from WVDP gathered at Parkview in Salamanca on Friday ready to hit the road and hand deliver the food to pantries in Cattaraugus and Southern Erie counties.

“This is their Friday off and they are volunteering their time to do the delivery,” Chilson said. “We do it because they are our neighbors around the site. What better way to do a community outreach than to know where your help is going.”

The drive partnered with Parkview for donations and the purchase of many of the food items. The group also partnered with Springville Wal-Mart to help in donating more than 380 turkeys.

The food on Friday was delivered to two food pantries in Springville and also pantries in Ellicottville, Franklinville, Delevan, West Valley, Little Valley, Cattaraugus and Dayton.

The drive has been conducted annually and Chilson said the goal each year is to provide pantries with the food prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The donation aids the pantries not only at Thanksgiving but also as it heads into the cold winter months.

“We try to get the inventory they need for winter,” she said. “We give them holiday items plus some staples that they need.”

Chilson said despite the economy improving each year, food pantries continue to see increases in need. This is due in part to last year’s frigid winter and the increased cost in electric and propane bills, she said.



WVDP Food Drive

Volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project gathered with Parkview officials in front of Parkview supermarket and two trucks with donations that went out to nine area food pantries.

The WVDP has been conducting the food drive annual since 1989 and has collected more than 1 million pounds of food, according to drive organizers.

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