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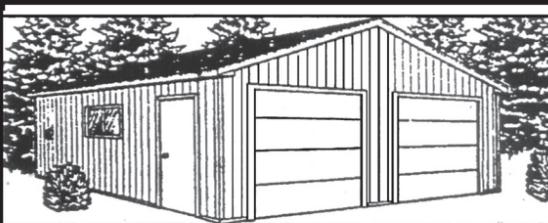
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Happy Thanksgiving

By Heidi Tice

Fruitport Lions' motto is "We Serve"; and 120 Fruitport families in need were able to have a Happy Thanksgiving through that service.

Fruitport Lions have been giving out Thanksgiving dinners for 6 years now. In 2009 Fruitport Lions gave out to 62 families and the need has grown through the years. Up until this year they helped FACE (Family And Community Engage) collect and distribute the food to needy families. FACE disbanded this year, yet the Fruitport Lions didn't want the project to stop; the need was still there. Thanks to many wonderful volunteers the Thanksgiving dinner project was an enormous success again this year.

The project starts in the schools with all the Fruitport schools participating in a food drive. Mary Beth Clark, from Fruitport Schools, gives the Fruitport Lions the names of needy families as do the local churches.

The project continues, each weekend in November, with volunteers from the Fruitport High School Student Council, the Fruitport Lions and the newly formed Fruitport Leos, soliciting food items at Orchard Market in Fruitport. All the collected food is allowed to be stored in a climate controlled storage unit thanks to The Storage Group in Fruitport. Turkeys are purchased by the com-



munity, throughout the month, and stored in a freezer thanks to Orchard Market. Hazekamp's Premier Foods also donated numerous turkeys for the event. Another wonderful donation was from Coles Foods who donated rolls to go out with the boxes.

The final step, in this huge undertaking, is to get all the food to Edgewood Elementary School and pack the 120 boxes for the families to pick up. This takes a lot of dedicated volunteers. First they need to bring in the many bags and boxes of food being held at the storage unit and freezers. Next they sort the food into categories, while another group is assembling boxes and putting address labels on them. Then they fill the boxes so each has all the items for a Thanksgiving Dinner; potatoes, yams, rice, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, cranberries, rolls, pie filling, soups and, of course, every box gets a turkey.

This year we would like to thank all the Fruitport Honor Society kids, Fruitport Student Council kids, Fruitport Leo Club, Fruitport Lioness club and the many Fruitport Lions that helped out on packing day.

What a great effort from the schools, the community and the Lions clubs. The picture below was taken on packing day of the whole group and the Leos that help sort food and pack boxes. Why, you ask, would all these people and clubs united to help families in need? "We Serve". •



Taylor Richards with her mother and father, Joy and Brad. Taylor has been one of the toughest players to stop in the state for five years. The Fruitport Calvary Christian senior seemed to elevate her game even more in her final season with the Eagles. Richards was recognized for her stellar season by being named the Class D Player of the Year by the Associated Press. This season, she racked up better than 30 points, 16 rebounds and 4 assists per game in leading Calvary Christian to the regional finals for the third time in four seasons.



For the 3rd time in 4 years, Fruitport Calvary Christian's girls basketball team won the Class D district championship by beating Muskegon Catholic and advancing to the Regional Finals (Sweet 16) in the state tournament. The Eagles also won their 3rd straight Alliance League Conference Championship.