

Local charities give support

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Bells ring for change, barrels and bins fill with food and toys and donations are a card swipe away as the Kirksville community finds ways to help out during the holidays.

Pickler Memorial Library is collecting food donations through its Food for Fines program, the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri is working with local Kirksville agencies to help with hunger relief, and a student organization is raising funds and collecting toys for families in Milan, Mo.

Pickler has been turning library fines into food for three years. Gayla McHenry, head of access services, said the Food for Fines program began Nov. 29 and runs until Dec. 10. Students donate food items in lieu of paying fines they have accumulated during the semester. One dollar of fines is waived from the student's balance for each food item he or she brings in, McHenry said.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for our students to have a chance to have their fines erased while at the same time providing a service to the local folks," McHenry said.

McHenry said the program had to be approved by the University because it would take away revenue the University would receive from fines. She said the administration approved Food for Fines because the program provides a community service and encourages students to become more aware of their social surroundings and environment.

During the drive last fall, McHenry said 2,956 items were collected and that \$2,635 in fines were waived, meaning more than 300 extra food items were donated. McHenry said she suggests students take advantage of this opportunity rather than pay the fine because multiple food items can be bought with just \$1.

McHenry said she wants to emphasize that anyone can donate to the food drive and local food

pantries because it gets distributed among the Kirksville community. She said items such as macaroni, peanut butter and canned goods always are acceptable, but that donors should avoid frozen food, perishable food and glass containers.

McHenry said donated items have helped with a new program named the Buddy Pack. This program in local elementary schools provides food for children who receive free or reduced meals or to an impoverished family that a school administrator has been made aware of. Backpacks filled with food are sent home with these children on the weekends. The backpack acts as a disguise so the students who receive the buddy packs aren't embarrassed.

"It's kind of hard to imagine that there are kids that don't have food on the weekends, that rely on the school lunches for their meals," McHenry said.

This program is a regional program supported by the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Mike DeSantis, regional coordinator for Northeast Missouri, said Adair County has three Buddy Pack schools and that the program collected more than 10,000 pounds of food in 2009.

DeSantis said the Food Bank and its 130 agencies help more than 95,000 people in 32 counties each month. The three agencies in Kirksville are the Salvation Army, Christian Community Food Depot and Love Inc., working out of the First Nazarene church. DeSantis said the idea is that you need both to work together to feed as many people as possible.

People can donate food directly to local pantries, but DeSantis said donating money to the Food Bank can help provide larger amounts. He said that for every dollar donated, the Food Bank can purchase 20 pounds of food to give to pantries.

DeSantis said a common issue the Food Bank faces is skepticism of the program. He said people often don't know why they should donate to the Food Bank when they can just give to their local pantries



Joyce Wong/Index

Patrick Willey stands outside HyVee last Thursday ringing a bell to solicit donations for the Salvation Army.

instead and know their money goes directly to their community. DeSantis said 90 percent of the food Kirksville receives comes from the Food Bank and that donations are distributed in massive amounts throughout the region. He said the Food Bank's new clean-room collection center has the ability to handle these massive quantities.

"Donating money here comes right back to you and your community," DeSantis said.

DeSantis said another way the Food Bank has been working with the Kirksville community is through a program at Wal-Mart called "Check out Hunger." He said that every November and December since 2005, customers can add any amount to their purchase at the register to donate to the Food Bank.

Even with these efforts, DeSantis said more needs to be done to feed more people. He said there are more than 112,000 people in need in the region and that only 95,000 are being served.

Truman campus organizations like the Hispanic American Leadership Organization are helping serve the community. HALO, which is dedicated to spreading awareness of various Hispanic cultures, started a charitable event last year for

people in Milan.

HALO president senior Danielle Zimmel said the Milan Christmas Party, which took place Saturday, provides toys to children from low-income families and a dinner for families that sign up (see story, page 13). Zimmel said that this year, they had an educational presentation about the DREAM Act — legislation to provide scholarships for Hispanic high school students to continue on to higher education — and a volunteer Santa Claus for the children to tell their Christmas wishes to.

Zimmel said the group hosted a toy drive and fundraiser for money to purchase the food for the meal. She said individuals and various local and campus organizations donated everything from money to stuffed animals to books.

Only 50 people from Milan signed up last year, but Zimmel said HALO had a lot of work to do this year because 400 people signed up for the event.

"Despite some frustrations we've had with the time pressures and getting donations, seeing the kids tear off the wrapping paper and putting on a big smile makes it all worth it in the end," Zimmel said.

Sober drivers receive free soda

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

Truman students involved in Creatively Helping to Establish an Educated and Responsible Society are attempting to prevent drunk driving here in Kirksville.

CHEERS is a program that works with restaurants to provide free, non-alcoholic drinks to designated drivers in groups of three or more.

Funded through a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation, CHEERS provides participating businesses with necessities such as pens, pads of paper, coasters or napkins.

"The amount of money from the grant that goes into CHEERS is approximately, I would guess, anywhere from \$60,000 to \$70,000," said Jessica Schlosser, state coordinator of the CHEERS program.

Schlosser said this program has been active for 25 years and now includes nearly 300 businesses across the state.

Recently, students from CHEERS visited Lifetime Health and Fitness classes to locally promote the program.

Roberta Donahue, Truman faculty CHEERS coordinator, said CHEERS tries to visit the

well-being classes once per semester.

"I have three students who are working on the CHEERS program as independent studies," Donahue said. "They contacted instructors and asked if they could come in and talk for five minutes about CHEERS and hand out some freebies."

More Truman-specific giveaways — such as purple highlighters reading "CHEERS" on the side and purple T-shirts that read, "Cheers to the designated driver" — have been provided by CHEERS funds, Donahue said.

The central office at the University of Missouri-Columbia handles all orders for promotional materials and ships to participating universities and businesses.

Senior Sean Geary said he is aware of CHEERS on campus because he sees tables where free cups and water bottles are passed out at least once per semester.

While much is being done to promote the program there still are many students who are not aware of it, Donahue said.

Senior Patricia Roberts said she was not aware of the program, but that she thinks it provides even more incentive to be a sober driver and keep friends safe.

Donahue said the Truman student code says CHEERS cannot list the name of partici-

pating businesses in Kirksville in print because it "promotes drinking," and this has been a hindrance to student awareness.

"All we can do is talk to students and put up posters with the website where you can view the list," Donahue said.

For a town the size of Kirksville, the program has been relatively successful with seven businesses participating and seven more that are considering participating, Donahue said.

CHEERS participants include local businesses, such as the Dukum Inn, TP's Office, La Pachanga, La Fuente, Wooden Nickel & Woody's, Bonsai Steak, Teriyaki, Sushi House and Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders, according to the CHEERS website.

Donahue said she is pleased that CHEERS in Kirksville includes the majority of places Truman students actually go to drink.

Junior Matthew Self said that he thinks CHEERS could be promoted more by participating businesses.

According to Truman statistics, students said they use designated drivers, but they do not use them consistently, Donahue said.

"CHEERS is trying to encourage students to plan ahead," Donahue said. "It is not about who drank least, it is about not drinking at all if you are driving."

NEWS IN BRIEF

BFA/B.A. art students exhibit work

An artwork sale sponsored by the Printmaking Club will be hosted from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today in the Ophelia Parrish Lobby. Items for sale include art from such campus organizations as the Bad Acids Print Club, the Clay People, AIGA and the Fibers Club. For more information on the art sale, contact the Printmaking Club at printmaking@truman.edu.

Russell named graduation speaker

The commencement speaker for the Dec. 18 graduation ceremonies will be David Russell, the commissioner of higher education for the state of Missouri. Russell was named interim commissioner by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education in July, and was made permanent commissioner earlier this month. Russell previously has worked for the University of Missouri and served in the United States Army.

Students perform one-acts

The one-act plays produced by the Fall 2010 Directing Class will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday night in the James G. Severns Theatre in Ophelia Parrish. Three student-produced one-act plays will be performed each night.

Comedians to perform

Comedians Michael Ian Black and Mike Birbiglia will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Baldwin Auditorium. Tickets are free to Truman students and are \$10 for the public. They are available at the Student Activities Board ticket office in the lower level of the Student Union Building.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN BRIEF

- The Board of Governors approved an average increase of 3.7 percent for housing costs next year.
- The Board of Governors approved a proposal from International Architects Atelier to provide architectural services for the Centennial Hall renovations project.
- Board of Governors passed appointed John Sisco as chair of the Board for 2011.
- The Board of Governors passed a resolution to implement a 25 foot smoking restriction around all buildings (see page 1).

STUDENT SENATE IN BRIEF

- Student Senate passed a resolution in support of a change to the diplomas of graduates of the independent studies program to specify their area of study.
- Student Senate passed a resolution to support changing class registration time from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. starting with fall 2011 registration.

CRIME REPORTS DPS & KPD

12/3 Kirksville resident Derek T. McCarty, 25, has been charged with a class D felony of failing to register as a sex offender.

12/5 Freshman Joseph Stuhman was issued a Missouri Complain and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.

12/6 Kirksville resident Donald K. McClelland, 29, has been charged with burglary in the second degree and a class A misdemeanor of stealing.

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RE: PUBLIC NOTICE

The Adair County WIC Program has signed a contract to continue to provide WIC services for federal fiscal year 2011 with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Under the terms of the contract, the Adair County WIC program will be able to serve 730 persons eligible for WIC every month.

WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) provides, at no cost, specific nutritious supplemental foods and nutrition education to pregnant and breastfeeding women as well as postpartum women and teens, infants, and children up to the age of 5. WIC participants are persons who meet WIC income guidelines and are determined by health professionals to be a nutritional and/or health risk. The annual income limit for a family of four is \$40,793. Each additional family member increases the annual limit by \$6,919.

WIC supplemental food packages are specifically chosen to provide foods high in protein, iron, calcium and vitamins A and C. Eligible women and children receive fortified milk and cheese, eggs, hot and cold cereals high in iron, fruit juices high in vitamin C, dried beans or peas, or peanut butter, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, tortillas, and rice. WIC recommends breastfeeding. Infant cereal and jars of baby food fruits and vegetables are given when appropriate. Breast pumps are available for loan to WIC participants.

Participants are issued vouchers to buy these foods at authorized local retail stores.

By improving the diets of women, infants and children, the WIC program improves the health status of a vulnerable population during a critical growth period.

WIC is administered in Kirksville and Adair County by the Adair County Health Department. We are located at 1001 South Jamison. Persons interested in applying or in need of more information should contact the WIC Office at the Adair County Health Department at 660-665-8491.

Standards for participation in the WIC program are the same for everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Jim LeBaron, Administrator
Debra Cullum, WIC Coordinator
Adair County Health Department/Adair County WIC