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"The People Papers"



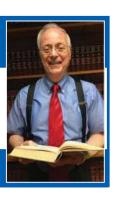
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Pennfield Lions feed, gift 43 families for Christmas

Executive Editor
Pennfield Middle School's gym became a lion's den Saturday filled with food, gifts and big hearted "cats' who busily organized and whisked away the spoils.

In simpler terms, the Pennfield Lions Club members volunteered their day to assemble and deliver Christmas gift baskets to 43 Pennfield area families in need.

"I'm just excited," said Laura Thurman, mother of a Purdy second grader, who received a delivery from Lion John Chmiel. "It's nice that you guys do this stuff for people. Very appreciative of it."

Gift boxes included toys purchased specifically for each child by the Lion's Club members, along with canned goods collected by Pennfield school district students and community members, and perishable foods such as ham, eggs and milk.

Families also received paper products, snacks, dinner rolls, potatoes, stuffing, apple sauce and more.

According to Lion's Club Terry Ensign, Pennfield classrooms also raise money for the annual



Pennfield Lion Allan Shepard of Battle Creek loads his vehicle with surprises for one area family before delivering them Saturday.

functions like dances, you have to bring a canned good Ensign. to get in," said Ensign. "And, that's how they collect them during the year.

The entire combined Visit Marshall's

effort between the club and "When they have social the schools begins as soon as school starts each year, said

> "Everyone (Lion) assigned a family and you've got to buy a gift for the kids in the family," said Ensign.

> Club President Larry Boyer said former superintendent Tim Everett is the project chairman, serving as liaison between the schools and the club for the past 15 years.

> "I work with the schools and we ask them to I.D. families that might be in need and they contact them to see if they're interested in a bas-ket," said Everett, "and if they are, they give the names to us. My role is go-between,



Members of the Pennfield Lions Club along with their families and friends combined efforts Saturday morning to deliver the Christmas baskets of food and gifts they have been collecting since the start of the school year with the help of Pennfield Public Schools. (Shopper News photos by Shelly Kehrle-Sulser)



The Lions Club used the gym at Pennfield Middle School to sort the supplies, from non-perishable to perishable foods plus gifts by family before making deliveries on Saturday to residents in need in the Pennfield school district.

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> getting Lions to sponsor a family.

Besides delivering a basket, Everett also kept busy on Saturday checking in all of the members who volunteered to help.

"I've been in the Lions Club going on 20 years," said Boyer. "We just have always done it. A lot of us used to be teachers, administrators at the school. This is a collaboration with the schools and this all here is raised by the

The Dunlap and Pennfield people." Middle School classroom "penny wars", he said, genergift purchases, he said.

The club also operates a variety of other fund raisers that help pay for not only the toys but the nearly \$4,000 in perishable food items.

"It's just one of our projects for Pennfield Lions," said Boyer. "There's families of eight down to families of three. With 43 families, you're talking almost 150

Bover, a retired athletic director and teacher, said ated around \$1,100 toward families express a range of responses upon receiving the much needed holiday help.

"Most of them are so shocked and surprised and so happy," said Boyer, noting that the families are recommended to them by the schools. "Most of them do know we're coming because we call them ahead of time

Continued next page





B.C. restaurants raise \$32,000 for American Cancer Society program



One Nation Tap & Table and Lucky Rooster Kitchen & Cocktails raised \$32,060.73 to support the American Cancer Society's fight against breast cancer.

Local restaurants One Nation Tap & Table and Lucky Rooster Kitchen & Cocktails raised \$32,060.73 this past October to support the American Cancer Society's fight against breast cancer.

They were joined by community members and organizations in an effort to surpass last year's total of \$25,000 and "end breast cancer as we know it," said Katie Jones, the spokesperson for

American Cancer Society.
Funds were raised through sales of specially designed pink drinks and desserts, themed give-back nights, merchandise sales, car shows and more.

The restaurants' owner, Stephen Titus, and his family

began fundraising for the grams and services American Cancer Society in

friends who partner with us need it most. in the fight," said Jones. More information Society to provide more ser- 2345. vices, such as our local Road to Recovery program, more research and more hope to those who need it the most.

Jones added, "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer celebrates survivors and thrivers, funds lifesaving breast cancer research, and is committed to advancing health equity through pro-

Dollars raised help the 2011 after his mother was Society fund innovative diagnosed with breast cancer, breast cancer research; pro-She is now an 11-year survi- vide education and guidance to help people reduce their "We are so grateful to the risk; and offer comprehensive employees, families and patient support to those who

More information is avail-'You are helping raise funds able at cancer.org/breastcanfor the American Cancer cer or by calling (800) 227-

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PENNFIELD LIONS Continued from previous page



John Chmiel of the Pennfield Lions Club, owner of John Chmiel State Farm Agency in Battle Creek, hands over one of many bags and boxes of food and gifts for the family of Laura Thurman in Pennfield Township.

but the amount we give them connect the club with people they're just very happy.'

Boyer said it's "pretty special" when he gets to see the happiness expressed by the children receiving their gifts from the club.

"This is the fun part of back from people thanking us. The big thing is, when we stand out at Family Fare or fund raisers out there, so people." many people walk up and say, 'vou did this for me' and donate some money. Pay it forward."

The club not only receives referrals from the schools, like they did for the Thurmans, but the Salvation Army helps

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and what we give them, who could benefit from the gifts.

The club has more than 40 active members and according to Ensign, every one of them turns out to help with the deliveries.

"We think there's a need being in the Lions," said and we like to support the Boyer. "We get a lot of cards community," said Ensign. "We raise money all year long and this is one way we give back to the community. This Shell Station, some of our is one of the major ways we biggest supporters, and do our can impact and help a lot of



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