

briefs & announcements

dispatches

Students excel in holiday food drives

Who are some of the hardest working volunteers in Chatham County? The students in our schools, that's who.

Their planning, execution and energy during the last several months of 2009 resulted in more than 3,000 pounds of food for the Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) food pantry in Pittsboro.

"The most impressive thing is that these young people do this every year," said CORA's executive director Marci Whittaker. "It is just amazing what these students accomplish."

Highly successful food drives were held at Horton Middle School (770 pounds), Woods Charter School (728), North Chatham School (610), Northwood High School (411), Pittsboro Baptist Preschool (308), and Community Independent School (165). Preschoolers at Robyn's Nest and Toddler Tales in Pittsboro also made valuable contributions.

All food drives and food contributions to CORA amounted to 20,284 pounds in November and December. This is about two-thirds the amount of holiday food drive collections last

year and it represents quite a lot of food, according to Lyndie Bracey, pantry manager.

"We and our clients are so thankful for the continued support of so many Chatham County residents," Bracey said. "The response of businesses, churches, clubs, and communities has been gratifying."

The largest single food drive was the Friends Feeding Friends program at Lowes Foods in Cole Park Plaza.

Purchases of pre-packaged food items by store customers brought 4,511 pounds to CORA.

CORA provides emergency food for thousands of Chatham County residents every year. Since July of 2009, 2,091 families comprising nearly 7,700 individuals have received weekly food rations from CORA. This equates to sufficient food to provide more than 160,000 meals and required about 77 tons of food.

Whittaker noted that 40 percent of the people the food pantry serves are younger than 18. Of these, 37 percent are 5 or younger and another 37 percent are between 6 and 12 years old.

"This is a critical population in our society," Whittaker said. "If children, younger ones especially, don't receive adequate nutrition, they are in serious jeopardy of developing lifelong physical and/or mental disabilities or chronic illnesses. We want to do all we can to help address this problem on the local level."

CORA Food Pantry is located at

40 Camp Drive in Pittsboro. To receive food a family must have a referral from a social services agency. For more information or to make an appointment to receive food, call 542.5020. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 1326, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Beggars & Choosers fades into history

Beggars and Choosers, an emporium of vintage clothing and collectibles that stood across from the Chatham County Courthouse for more than 30 years, has closed its doors. Owner Pam Smith decided to close her landmark store after an October robbery. Thieves stole cash and jewelry during the Pittsboro Street Fair.

"It's not the stuff and not the money," Smith said. "It's what it did to my spirit."

She doesn't know what she will do next, but said she wanted to take some time off and "get her groove back."

briefs

Exercise class for senior citizens

The Chatham Council on Aging is hosting an exercise program based on that of the Arthritis Foundation. "Take Control with Exercise" begins Feb. 9 at the Western Chatham Senior Center at 112 Village Lake Drive, Siler City. It will hold workouts on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. For info or to register, call Lindsay Hicking at 542.4512.

Relay for Life seeks volunteers

The American Cancer Society is asking for your help for the 2010 Relay For Life of Pittsboro. Relay For Life is a community-organized event to celebrate Cancer Survivors and raise funds for Cancer Research, Education and Advocacy.

Since its inaugural year in 2001, the Relay For Life of Pittsboro has raised over \$1.1 million dollars. In order for this event to continue its amazing success, we need "more hands on deck." Volunteer opportunities vary from coordinating day-of volunteers to leading the planning committee in decision making and strategy.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer), remember loved ones lost, commit to fight back through healthy lifestyle changes, and raise money for the fight against cancer.

"Relay For Life is an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as much as it is a fundraiser," said Natalie Leary, Community Income Manager for the American Cancer Society. "Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event, as a volunteer or participant, have made a commitment to

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"where all voices are heard"

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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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Congratulations

to our 48 high school seniors on passing your requirements for the Graduation Project this fall! Thanks to all the Chatham County Together! mentors who made a difference!

— Marjorie Hudson and Gwen Overturf, Graduation Project Coordinators

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