

Around Danville: Food drive nets bounty, \$27,260

By Georgia Lambert Columnist

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courtesy of Amanda Kuiper

Brothers Duane and Glen Kuiper pitch in at the Blackhawk food drive.

About 150 volunteers braved heavy rain and winds Dec. 2 to serve as "elves" during the Blackhawk Country Club community's 27th annual Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano. Cash contributions totaled \$27,260, and nearly 9,600 pounds of food were collected to help feed the hungry.

"The rain was really something else," said Amanda Kuiper, chair for the last five food drives. "The Blackhawk Homeowners Association and country club got together and bought pop-up tents (for all the food collection points) so we can put those up every year. Everyone that went out was really enthusiastic. It's a great community thing that everyone looks forward to. Poundage was down this year, but cash was up."

Every dollar collected equates to two meals, while 1.25 pounds of food collected equates to one meal, said Food Bank coordinator Joan Tomasini.

Volunteering in the same time slot for four years in a row were brothers Glen and Duane Kuiper, of Blackhawk. Glen is an Oakland A's broadcaster and is married to Amanda, while Duane broadcasts for the San Francisco Giants.

"They grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, 150 acres," Amanda said. "Their dad was an auctioneer and they both inherited his big voice." She said they've lived in Blackhawk since 1991.

"We all have a responsibility to help others within our community," said Glen. "Being able to do that through the Blackhawk food drive, the place where we live, makes it more rewarding."

Added Duane, "Weather didn't ruin another great food drive experience. Hats off to our great community of Blackhawk for stepping up again this year."

Food Drive coordinators include Alida Beilke, Brooke Corradini, Les Kranhold, Sia McDonald, Pam Mullin, Jayne Tizzano and Connie Wolfson. Juan Del Rio, a Food Bank truck driver, has collected at the Blackhawk Food Drive all 27 years.

"He was here from the beginning and remembers Linda Appleton (founder of Blackhawk's food drive). The Food Bank staff members are out there, rain or shine, from 6 a.m. till it ends at 7," said Amanda.

Amanda's father, Frank "Whitey" Negherbon, is also a stalwart volunteer. At 94, he is probably the oldest one, too. She said he's volunteered for the last five years, doing a 90-minute shift at the front gate where he wants to do all the heavy lifting. Her mother, Trudy, is also a volunteer in the Blackhawk community, where she serves on the Police Advisory Board and Architectural Committee.

Other Danville communities also sponsor food drives, Tomasini said, including Crow Canyon and Diablo country clubs, Magee Ranch and Whitegate. Numerous area businesses also support the Food Bank with barrels for donations. Country Club Cleaners, at 3412 Camino Tassajara, goes the extra mile as they deliver clothes to their customers, distributing bags with a letter from their business explaining that they will pick up donations and checks or charges to customers' accounts for Food Bank donations.

"We've had a really good response," said Claudia Castro. "I've been in charge of handling the donations for the last three or four years. Right now the bin is overflowing. Last year we got 128 bags of food and collected \$1,215."

She said they'll continue to pick up food through Christmas Eve. For further information, call 925-964-9965.

Contact Georgia Lambert at arounddanville@yahoo.com.