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Keith and Connie Cyrus accepted donations for their annual food drive. Pictured from left: Cliff Edgington of Prineville, Keith Cyrus, Kathy Cooper, Judy Goodrich of Redmond, Sue and Floyd Leithauser of Camp Sherman, and Connie Cyrus.

Holiday food drive helps Sisters Community

— By Sue Stafford, Correspondent —

For the past decade, the Cyrus family and their employees at Aspen Lakes Golf Course and Brand 33 Restaurant have collected food to be donated in the Sisters community.

For golfers who bring three non-perishable food items, there are reduced greens fees of \$25 from November to spring. Anyone else is also welcome to drop items off at the pro shop.

Most years Aspen Lakes has donated the food to the Kiwanis Food Bank in conjunction with the Sisters High School food drive, since the Cyrus grandchildren are Sisters students. The students come out and pick up the food and deliver it with theirs to the food bank.

Pam Cyrus Mitchell said they usually collect somewhere between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of food. She said the idea grew out of one of their weekly management meetings as they discussed ways to offer a golf special tied to doing something good for the community.

“It has always been the family’s philosophy to find ways to give back to the community. It’s such a part of us. If we can do something to give back, we see it as a responsibility, especially in a small community, to be a part of it. And the whole Aspen Lakes team is behind us,” she said.

Members of the extended Cyrus family have been farming in the Sisters community

since the early 1900s. Keith and Connie and their adult children began the concept for Aspen Lakes Golf Course in 1988 when they acquired a 1,084-acre parcel adjacent to their family farm.

The first nine golf holes were constructed in 1996 with world-class golf course architect William Overdorf in charge. The second nine holes were opened in 1999. The signature red sand for the bunkers originated on the Cyrus property when naturally occurring red cinders were crushed to make sand, eliminating the need to truck in sand from outside the region.

The development of the property also included luxury housing and the two-story lodge containing the pro shop and the restaurant and bar.

Aspen Lakes hosts both the local Rotary and Kiwanis meetings in their upstairs meeting room with a stunning view of the mountains. The Outlaw Open has been an annual golf fundraiser for athletic programs at Sisters High School since 1997. The Cyrus family has repeatedly supported local fundraisers, both large and small.

They offer catering and hosting special events like weddings and private parties. The dining room is currently closed for the winter.

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