

Perrydale FFA annual food drive grows

Project collects 350,000 pounds of food for those in need from Dallas to Coos Bay

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Food collections for the annual Food For All drive, spearheaded by Perrydale FFA, was nearing 350,000 pounds last week.

Students at the school and the drive's community partners are working through this week to distribute the food to where it is needed — from Dallas to Coos Bay.

For weeks, the school's shop is a bustling hub of food deliveries and students packing pallets of fresh fruit and vegetables into packages suitable for food boxes.

Once that is finished, trucks haul the packaged food to churches, service clubs, holiday food programs and food banks to give to the needy this Christmas.

"It's true hands-on, experiential learning happening, and through that, they are giving to their community and their state," said Christina Lorenz, the agricultural teacher and FFA advisor for Perrydale. "Most of the food stays local, going to community outreach groups that normally wouldn't have access to food."

She said the drive has three new partners this year: The Dallas, Central and

Stayton FFA chapters. They joined Perrydale, Yamhill-Carlton, Amity, Willamina, and Sheridan FFA chapters.

Lorenz said Les Schwab partnered with Oregon FFA to collect food this Christmas.

"Their involvement and partnership with FFA has really encouraged more participation in the project," she said. "Every chapter is matched up with a Les Schwab store, so it's a cool way to get kids connected with businesses in our area."

Food For All developed a model in which students don't just collect the food, but also solicit donations and assistance from farmers, food processing companies and trucking outlets.

"The students get to meet with those industry professionals, including CEOs of these companies, and make their presentation. It's a really neat opportunity for them to put into practice what they are learning in the classroom, when it comes to public speaking, when it comes to pitching their ideas, answering questions," Lorenz said. "They're really seeing the big picture of what they are doing and all the stuff that it takes to complete a large project."

Former Perrydale agricultural teacher and FFA advisor Kirk Hutchinson still leads the charge on Food For All as its volunteer director, Lorenz said.



Students with Perrydale FFA put together food pallets to distribute to Oregon's hungry this Christmas.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Without him, I want to say it wouldn't be possible," Lorenz said. "He puts a tremendous amount of time

and money into this program. The Lower Willamette FFA District is just very thankful for his contribution

and the time he's willing to put into developing students and giving back to his state."

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will start at 7:00 pm

The New Year's Eve Party will be at 7:00 pm. Bring your favorite games and snacks.

Dallas First Christian Church
1079 SE Jefferson St.,
Dallas • 503-623-2569

You are invited to
Xmas at MCC
11a :: 3p :: 5p
Learn more at mymcc.cc

DECEMBER 24

What Child is This?

Please join us for
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6pm

Special Presentation of
Christmas Across America
for Kids age 5+

Nursery and toddler care available for children under age 5.

First Baptist Church of Independence
Family Worship & Children's Sunday School 11 AM
1505 Monmouth St., Independence
503-838-1001
(Across from Central High School)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

200 Monmouth Indep Hwy
(on the s-curves between Monmouth & Independence)
503-838-3459

Christmas Eve
Divine Worship with Holy Communion - 10:30 am
Candle Light Service - 7 pm

Christmas Day
Festival Worship - 10:00 am

Rev. Dallas C.R. Dubke, Pastor
www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org

Dallas United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 pm • December 24

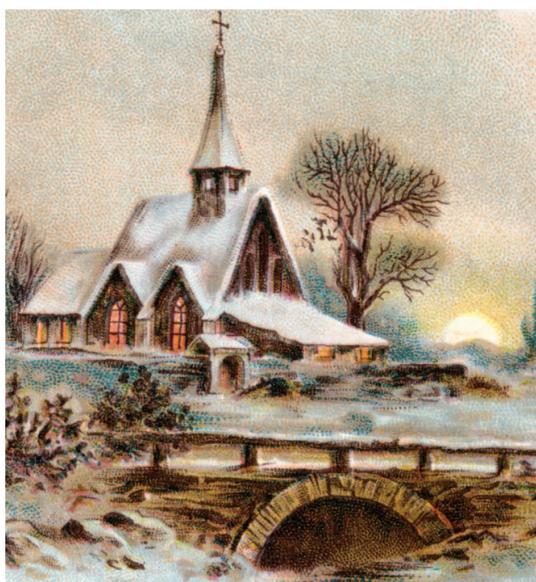
A traditional service of carols, special music and candle light for the whole family!

565 SE LaCreole Drive • 503-623-2481
dallasumc@questoffice.net • www.umcdallas.com

the Rivers Edge

Join us for Christmas Eve Day
Sunday Service
December 24th
10:30 am

119 E Main St, Suite 200, Monmouth
For more info call Tami 541-990-5551
www.facebook.com/experiencetheedge/



Christmas Eve Celebration

Family-Friendly Morning Service 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

everyone is welcome!
Childcare for ages 3 and under

faith free CHURCH

2290 E. Ellendale Ave. Dallas
faithfreechurch.org