

The Country Cottage

Let the holiday shopping begin

We have two floors of the most unique gift ideas for that *perfect* Holiday gift!

710 Derby Avenue
 Seymour



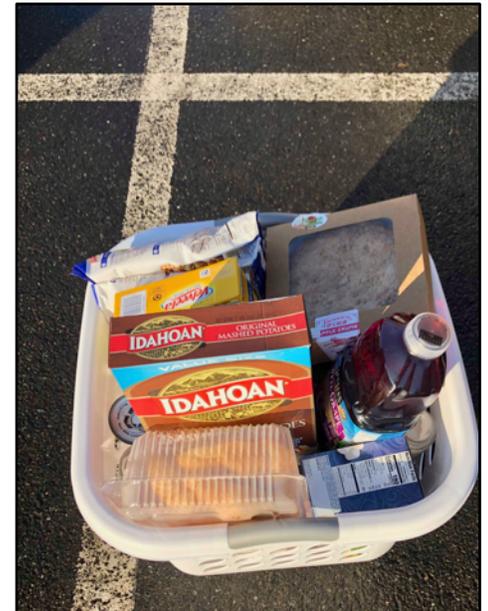
Valley residents donate Thanksgiving food baskets to needy neighbors

By Ralph Villers

ANSONIA - The generosity demonstrated Saturday by local residents gave many in need a reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving.



For the ninth year resident Noreen DeCiucis along with Jill Cimino, Tracy Mugford, and Laura Cosgrove coordinated, collected, and filled Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need. They distributed them Saturday morning at Nolan Field.



A full basket contains approximately \$60 worth of food including a turkey, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, a frozen pie, and more.

DeCiucis said, “The community doesn’t realize there are children in Ansonia who go to bed hungry.”

Many are unaware that food insecurity is an issue in the Lower Naugatuck Valley.

According to the **2016 Valley Community Index**, a number of Valley residents said they could not afford food for themselves or their families within the past year.

In that report, surveys indicated that 12 percent of adults reported experiencing food insecurity. The need for these donated food baskets is great year-round.



(L-R) Jill Cimino, Tracy Mugford, Noreen DeCiucis and Laura Cosgrove



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Valley residents donate Thanksgiving food baskets to needy neighbors



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Donations from this food drive resulted in the following:

- 35 families received complete baskets;
- \$500 was given to a food bank;
- 4 Target gift cards donated to persons and families in need;
- Various items donated to a cancer patient receiving chemotherapy.
- Extra turkeys and other items given to the Rev. James M. Sullivan of Assumption Church.

"We could never do this without all of the incredible people who donate," DeCiucis said. "Everyone is so full of love."

She offered a special thank you to the Ansonia Police Department, the City of Ansonia and other residents.

"No matter what, they are always right there to help support in any way possible," she said. "All are truly amazing and all incredible human beings."

They include Officer Michael Barry, Lt. Wayne Williams, Lt. Andy Cota, and Sgt. Vincent Orlando; Mayor David S. Cassetti; and John and Nancy Marini.

What caught my eye is the photo at top right on page 1 of a full basket of food sitting on the parking lot - with a cross formed by the painted lines. Perhaps this is a divinely inspired message that confirms our giving so often feels better than our receiving.

"There is no better feeling than sitting down at your Thanksgiving table, knowing you fed another family their dinner too," DeCiucis said.



THE VALLEY ANGELS

Invite you and your family and friends to a
Holiday Event you won't want to miss!!

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE & HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday December 7, 2018 at 6:30pm
at La Sala Banquet Hall
73 High Street, Derby

Adults \$20 * Children under 12 are Free

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy!
All toys will be distributed to children in
local hospitals who are unable to celebrate
Christmas at Home.

Ticket price includes delicious food, hot
chocolate, horse drawn sleigh rides, bonfires
caroling, cash bar and a visit from Santa!

Students take part in service-based learning at Ansonia Nature Center

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Taking time to care about others was a life lesson learned last week by members of the Ansonia Middle School After-School Charger Club.

More than 30 seventh and eighth graders participated in a service-based learning project at the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center.

"Everything in this program ties together for the community," said Ranger Dawn Sotir.

The students made a Thanksgiving craft and colored pieces of bubble wrap that had been cut in Indian corn shapes. They wrote Happy Thanksgiving on tags they attached; some signed their names, others signed from The Charger Club.

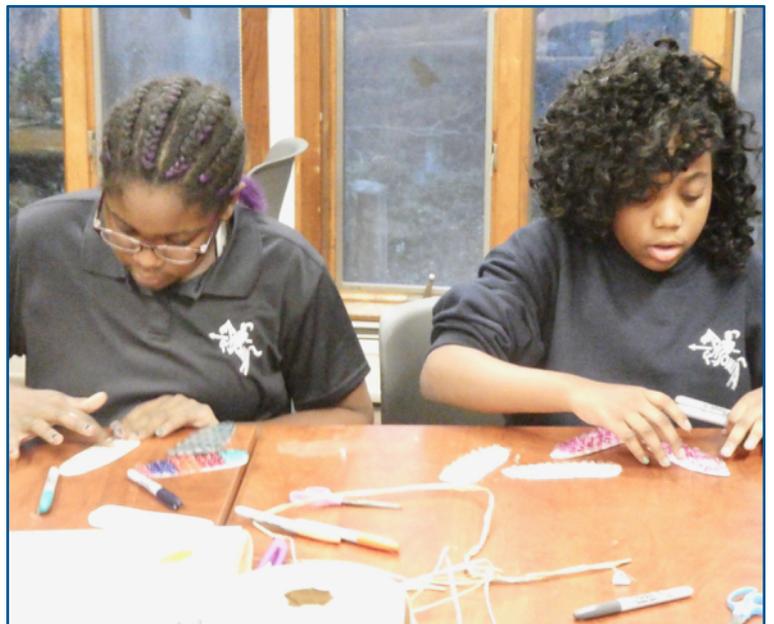
The crafts will be included with a Meals on Wheels dinner to let recipients of the TEAM food delivery program know that others in the community are thinking of them on the holiday.

Sotir has help from University of New Haven students Wyatt Oliviera and Olivia Lane who are working as paid interns throughout the school year with the Charger Club.

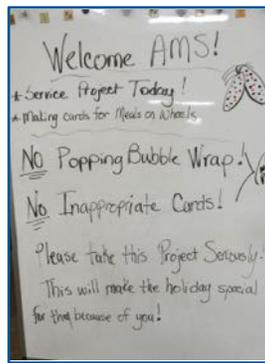
Also assisting as a volunteer was Micaiah Clinton of Ansonia, a sophomore at Emmett O'Brien Technical High School. Clinton said he was a Charger Club member when he was in middle school.

The after-school program is funded through the state Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant for Grades 5, 6, 7, 8.

See more photos on Page 4



Students take part in service-based learning at Ansonia Nature Center



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We have two floors of the most unique gift ideas!
Saturdays and Sundays starting November 17 we will have vendors join us throughout the store to bring you even more ideas for that perfect holiday gift.

Store hours:
Tuesday - Sunday 10-5
Open till 8 on Thursday.

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