

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

GOOD NEIGHBOR: JACQUIE OLIVERIUS Supervisor's appeal prompts donation to food bank by corporation

By Jacquie Oliverius
Contra Costa Times

Posted: 02/01/2011 02:09:23 PM PST

Updated: 02/01/2011 02:09:23 PM PST

It's finally time to tuck away the tinsel and store the silver bells -- the last of the 2010 holiday items are being published this week. Fortunately for me, I'm allowed an extra month or so to share all of the photos and items that arrive, filling my inbox like Santa's pack.

One item I received was like a snowball, rolling downhill and getting larger and larger. It began when the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano announced its annual "County Cares Food Fight," a challenge between the Contra Costa County employees and the Solano County employees during the last month of the year.

Lisa Sherrill, community relations manager for the food bank, explained that "each county's workers try to outdo each other's county by raising money for the food bank. The supervisors' offices and other departments also compete among themselves to see which office can raise the most funds."

District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover, in his column in the East County Times, wrote about the

competition between the counties' employees to raise money for the food bank.

He wrote in the column, "Over 89,000 Contra Costa residents a month must now use the food bank -- an increase of 63 percent in three years, and 28 percent of those being helped are children."

Inspired by Glover's appeal, Calpine Corp., an energy producer with a plant in East County, decided to donate \$10,000 to the food bank. Calpine business manager Karri

Campbell, as well as Glover, traveled to the organization's warehouse in Concord to present a check to Larry Sly, executive director of the food bank.

"Calpine, as a member of the East County community, is always generous when it comes to helping our residents," said Glover. "Calpine is a prime example of a responsible business giving back to the community it serves."

Calpine also supports the supervisor's annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. Through the company's generosity, Glover was able to give away 600 turkeys last year.

The results of the "County Cares Food Fight" have not been announced, but near the end of December, Solano County employees were in the lead. Solano County was ahead with donations totaling \$7.10 per employee or \$17,440.11, while Contra Costa County donations totaled \$6.82 per employee or \$44,523.64.

Of course in the end, the big winners are the food bank and the thousands of hungry residents who are helped.

Hats off to Calpine Corp. and to everyone who

Advertisement



Kodak

Bring in any old printer to Best Buy and save an additional \$50 off any new Kodak Printer.

VISIT WWW.BESTBUY.COM/KODAKSWAPFORSAVINGS FOR MORE INFORMATION
OFFER EXPIRES 2/19/2011



BEST BUY

LOCATIONS NEAR YOU:

3260 Buskirk Avenue
Pleasant Hill, 925-988-0256

1490 Fitzgerald Drive
Pinole, 510-758-0112

1182 Admiral Callaghan Lane
Vallejo, 707-648-3788

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

contributed to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

New officers

Congratulations to the new officers of the Clayton Valley Woman's Club, who were installed at the annual holiday luncheon Dec. 14.

Patricia Munson, president of the Tracy Women's Club, presided over the installation. Leading the club during the upcoming year will be president Connie Weimar. The other newly installed members of the board are Priscilla Manlove, first vice president/dean; Shirley Boyd, second vice president/membership; Becky Hanson, third vice president/programs; Arlene Lewandowski, recording secretary; Kathy Olson, corresponding secretary; Chris Light, treasurer; Joyce Atkinson, budget director; Merle Whitburn, auditor; Kathy Hester, parliamentarian; and Jeanne Groschwitz, newsletter editor.

Carol Smith, a solo handbell ringer, and her accompanist, Jane Patty, provided unique entertainment for the guests.

The club's holiday charity project was the Layette Project at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill, and members brought all kinds of baby wear and blankets to the luncheon. The layette items filled a large table, and they were presented to Sandra Grube of the Layette Project.

"She thanked the group for their support of young women in need of items for new babies," said Barbara Glass, publicity coordinator.

For more information about the Clayton Valley Woman's Club, which meets the second Tuesday of the month, call 925-672-1163.

Heartfelt

If you are shopping around for a Valentine's Day gift for someone special, one place you can try is downtown Martinez.

For the third year, the Martinez Downtown Retailers Focus Group is hosting "Downtown Martinez Has a Heart" with local merchants donating 10 percent of their sales Saturday, Feb. 12, and Sunday, Feb. 13, to the Martinez Early Childhood Center (MECC).

The MECC offers child care and developmentally appropriate curriculum to low-income families in preparing children for kindergarten.

As of this date, participating businesses include the White Rabbit Boutique, 529 Main St.; Main Street Quilts, 533 Main St.; Char's Flower Shoppe, 516 Main St.; Le Shoppe, 516 Main St.; Leah's Closet, 831 Main St.; Ambiance Boutique, 816 Main St.; Lemongrass Bistro, 501 Main St.; Antiques on the Main, 814 Main St.; Tthe Station, 600 Ferry St.; Pandora's Box, 613 Main St.; Citrus Salon, 817 Main St.; Good Stuff Guitar Shop, 511 Main St.; Haute Stuff Bistro, 521 Main St.; Alley Cats, 720 Main St.; and Pacifica Pizza, 500 Main St.

"(Visitors') patronage at the above businesses during this event on Feb. 12 and 13 can help make up some of the moneys that the Martinez Early Childhood Center lost from the state of California by virtue of funding cuts for this very vital program," said Anne Mobley of White Rabbit Boutique.

For more information, call Mobley at 925-229-1900.

Ellen's Guild

The Family Stress Center (FSC) merged with STAND

Advertisement



SAVE up to 64%
Plus, get
3 FREE Gifts



Special Code: 45069ZWN

To Order: www.OmahaSteaks.com/print71 or call 1-877-605-0496

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

Against Domestic Violence to create one agency -- STAND for Families Free of Violence.

Ellen's Guild was the fundraising "arm" of FSC, and in the new STAND, the guild's member volunteers, who reside in cities all over Central County, continue to do what they do best -- work on fundraising events and other activities.

At the end of the year, the guild hosted a Dec. 17 Christmas party for the children and families of STAND's Kinship Program at the Antioch office.

"The children delighted in Santa Claus, toys donated by Toys for Tots, Kathy's Health Club and Timeless Toys, cookie decorating, and treats and food provided by the Ellen's Guild members," said Marcia Carlberg, publicity chairwoman.

"The guild was pleased with the attendance of Kinship families and to see how much the children enjoyed this event."

Members helping with the holiday party included Carlberg and guild president Scharlene Murray, along with Karen Dolder, Vi Edwards, Mae Lee Kelley, Lola Rohrs, Carole Temps, Betsey Tryon and Carolyn Vierra.

Next up is STAND's seventh annual Academy Awards Benefit Party, set for Sunday, Feb. 27, at Brenden Theatres, 1985 Willow Pass Road in Concord.

"The Oscars night, a new fundraiser to Ellen's Guild, appealed to its members who are supporters of this nonprofit," said Carlberg. "The guild is excited about this event and has joined forces in helping plan the party by assisting in obtaining raffle and auction items, and food donations for the gourmet buffet."

The party is a live simulcast of the 83rd annual

Academy of Motion Pictures Award ceremonies, with food, fun, prizes and more. Tickets are \$45 for reserved tickets, and \$55 at the door; group discounts are available. Call 925-603-0110 for ticket and sponsorship information.

Contact Murray at 925-735-9647 for information on becoming a member of Ellen's Guild. For more on STAND, call 925-676-2845 or visit [www.standagainstdv.org](http://standagainstdv.org); the crisis line number is 888-215-5555.

Items for the column can be e-mailed to goodneighbor@bayareanewsgroup.com or mailed to Jacquie Oliverius/Good Neighbor, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Submissions to the "Good Neighbor" column about upcoming events must be received by noon Wednesday, at least one week prior to the event date. Due to space restrictions, non-timely items may not be immediately published.

Advertisement

Send flowers for any occasion
Bouquets \$19.99 from
ProFlowers +s/h

Order ONLY at proflowers.com/happy
 or call 1-877-888-0688

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™