
Reprinted from the Southtown Star

Agency hopes to distribute 500 holiday food baskets

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By: Donna Vickroy

Food tops the wish for a lot of people this holiday.

At CEDA Center for Community Action in Harvey, there has been a 30 percent increase in the number of people asking for food, executive director Carolyn Taylor said.

The center, which serves Harvey, Riverdale, Dolton, Burnham, Phoenix and South Holland, plans to distribute at least 500 food baskets this Christmas. The baskets are made possible by Project Share, the SouthtownStar's annual holiday food drive.

Donations to Project Share are used to buy food at greatly reduced prices, courtesy of Walt's Food Stores. The baskets will contain canned hams, peanut butter, jelly, rice, fruit, vegetables and pasta.

To date, Project Share has collected \$31,517. The goal for this holiday is \$75,000.

Aside from the holiday drive, CEDA, which does not maintain a food pantry, is able to provide food vouchers to hungry clients, Taylor said.

"We are seeing a lot of new people who've lost their jobs, people who never had to utilize resources like this before," Taylor said.

CEDA also provides job skills training, mortgage assistance and help with school uniform expenses. A weatherization program shows homeowners how to become more energy efficient, which can reduce heating costs, Taylor said.

To donate to Project Share, send checks to Project Share, The SouthtownStar, 6901 W. 159th St., Tinley Park, IL 60477.

For more information, call Project Share coordinator Jeannie Kadner at (708) 633-6750.

The CEDA Center for Community Action is located at 53 E. 154th St., Harvey. Information: (708) 339-3610.

CALENDAR OF GIVING SITES

People wishing to donate nonperishable food or personal care items to Project Share can drop such contributions at the following locations:

- St. James Hospital and Health Centers until Dec. 18 at two locations: the main lobby at 1423 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights; the old lobby or volunteer office at 20201 S. Crawford, Olympia Fields. Information: Karen Yates, (708) 756-1000, Ext. 1234 and (708) 747-4000.
- City of Country Club Hills, 4200 W. 183rd St. Until Dec. 18. Information: Wanda Comein at (708) 798-2616, ext. 2260.
- Goldberg Administration Center, 3301 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor. Until Dec. 21. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Information: Pam Melnyk at (708) 857-0300.
- Homewood-Flossmoor Racquet and Fitness Club, 2920 183rd St., Homewood. Until Dec. 21. Hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays to Fridays; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Information: Pam Melnyk at (708) 957-0300.
- Homewood-Flossmoor Ice Arena, 777 Kedzie Ave., Homewood. Until Dec. 21. Hours are 3 to 9 p.m. Mondays to Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Information: Pam Melnyk at (708) 957-0300.
- Irwin Community Center, 18120 Highland Ave., Homewood. Until Dec. 21. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays; 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Information: Pam Melnyk at (708) 957-0300.
- Office of Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, 5405 W. 127th St., Crestwood. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Information: Patrice Capuzzi at (708) 389-2125.
- First Suburban National Bank Lobby, 5601 W. 127th St., Crestwood. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Information: (708) 385-6900.



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In the News

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- Milex Car Care, 6240 W. 159th St., Oak Forest. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Wednesdays and Fridays; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays. Information: (708) 687-6121.
- Advocate South Suburban main lobby and at drop-off boxes inside all entrances, 17800 S. Kedzie Ave., Hazel Crest. Through Dec. 21. Information: Lenora Bridges at (708) 213-3006.
- Salon Artists Gallery, 294 Main St., Park Forest. Through Dec. 22. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Homewood Disposal, 1501 W. 175th St., Homewood. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Dec. 18. Information: Megan McElligott-Laxton, (708) 798-1004.
- NuWay/Tinley Park Disposal, 17726 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through Dec. 18. Information: Megan McElligott-Laxton, (708) 532-8787.
- Star Disposal, 20 South St., Park Forest. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Dec. 18. Information: Megan McElligott-Laxton, (708) 748-8381.
- Harris Bank, 1380 Main St., Crete. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday through Dec. 21. Information: Cheria Clemons, (708) 672-7272, ext. 22.
- Harris, 44 W. 162nd St., South Holland. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Information: (708) 331-7400.
- Play It Again Sports, 16103 S. Farrell Road, Lockport. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays to Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 21. Information: Rich Nielsen, (815) 838-9575.
- The SouthtownStar newspaper, 6901 W. 159th St., Tinley Park. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Information: (708) 633-6750.

Businesses, organizations and houses of worship willing to host a collection site can contact Project Share organizer Jeannie Kadner at (708) 633-6750.