

The Monmouth Journal

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Helping others



Elizabeth DeLeo (from left) 12, of Middletown; Christina Scarabino, 13, of Middletown and Megan Cronk 13, Colts Neck prepare baskets for the St. James School Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

RED BANK — St. James School showed its spirit of the season by raising more than ever before during its annual week-long (Nov. 14 through 18) Thanksgiving Food Drive sponsored and coordinated by student council members. The results were amazing and the outpouring of generosity allowed the students to create 45 holiday food baskets, and cash donations of more than \$460 for turkey certificates.

Organized by the student council and third-grade moderator Kate Burke, each class was asked to fill two laundry baskets with non-perishable food appropriate for a Thanksgiving celebration and paper products, as well as making a monetary donation for 'turkey certificates'. The baskets were filled to the brim with goodies and staples, and were distributed to needy families in the area.

On Nov. 21, student council members loaded up all the baskets and boxes of food into five volunteer vehicles from Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. This organization supports hungry families by purchasing, collecting and delivering food. The volunteer drivers were excited to deliver the food — and accompanying hope — to the less fortunate families in the community who are in special need this holiday season. The donations come at a time when area food pantry shelves are becoming bare. With high unemployment, budget cuts, and the poor economy, more people than ever are in need of food assistance.

Organizers said events such as this not only build school spirit, but more importantly, continue to reinforce the belief that individuals can make a difference.