

Nov 2006 Gatesville

BAM!

The sound of another record falling

Schools contribute 44% of record 202,427 pounds for Food for Families

BAM!...

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a lot of things that are right with our youth," McWhorter observed.

Other top givers included H-E-B, one of the Food for Families sponsors, and Wal-Mart—

both giving checks for \$3,500 plus many pounds of groceries. Cash is converted into pounds using a formula of \$1 equals 2.5 pounds.

First Baptist Church of Gatesville had a total of 8,905 pounds, First United Methodist Church gave 5,544 pounds and Pidcoke United Methodist Church gave 5,000 pounds. Gatesville Masonic Lodge totaled 3,750 pounds.

The Lane Murray Unit topped the local prisons in giving with 2,996 pounds. Both Woodman State Jail and the Hilltop Unit gave close to 1,000 pounds each.

The PeeWee Cheerleaders donated cash and food worth 1,082 pounds.

"I can't say enough about all the churches, prisons, businesses and organizations that opened up their hearts to help those in need," McWhorter commented.

Many individual contributions, whether large or small, also helped push that total over 200,000 pounds. Last year on Food for Families day, local and area residents contributed 157,596 pounds. When everything was counted, it was over 161,000 pounds. McWhorter is expecting this year's final tally to also go up.

The total includes \$67,830 in cash—equal to 169,575 pounds—and 32,852 pounds of food.

With a new record, it is likely that the Gatesville Food for Families Drive will retain its position as the top city in per capita giving in the state.

All food and money raised locally will be used to help feed approximately 315 families each month that use the Care Center.

Food for Families is a region-wide effort sponsored by KWTX-Channel 10, H-E-B, the Boy Scouts of America and the Texas Army National Guard.

The signs were all there for Friday's Food for Families Drive to be the biggest ever—and was it ever.

With more still coming in, Care Center director Deral McWhorter reported a record total of 202,427 pounds in food and cash donations. The total was well above last year's 161,637 pounds and broke the old record of 168,505 pounds set in 2004.

McWhorter expects the final tally to go even higher before he reports to the region Food for Families director in December.

About mid-morning Friday, McWhorter said he would be surprised if the amount did not surpass 200,000 pounds and he was not disappointed.

"Oh my," McWhorter exclaimed when asked for a reaction. "I'm intoxicated with joy over the generosity of this community, and simply overwhelmed with the total given by the schools that participated."

Students from Gatesville, Evant, Jonesboro and Oglesby raised 89,351 pounds for the food drive, bettering last year's effort of just over 35,000 pounds.

Gatesville Intermediate School was the top giver with 36,336 pounds, while Gatesville High School raised 25,089 pounds. Gatesville Junior High was next with just over 11,000 pounds, followed by Gatesville Elementary with almost 7,500 pounds, Evant School with 4,437 and Gatesville Primary with 3,473. Jonesboro and Oglesby came in with almost 1,000 pounds each.

"Eighty-nine thousand pounds from our schools shows there is still