

In this neighborhood, neighborliness knows no bounds

Subdivision holds its fourth annual "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" food drive

By **LINDA McALPINE**
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA - The idea of who is one's neighbor shouldn't be defined by an address, according to some of the residents of Rolling Ridge subdivision.

They spread their neighborliness far beyond the blocks of their subdivision with their annual "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" food drive.

"We're so thankful for what we have that we wanted to help others," said Terri Culp, one of the event organizers.

For the last several years, a group of about five or six families in the subdivision have gotten together to attend the Waukesha Christmas parade and gather afterwards for a dish-to-pass Thanksgiving dinner, neighbor Laurie Wulf said.

Four years ago, as part of their holiday celebration, they decided to collect monetary donations within the subdivision for the Waukesha Food Pantry, Wulf said.

When the group drove to the food pantry with the money they had collected, they were surprised to see a line of people flowing out of the door.

"We didn't realize that those were people who needed food," she said. "That made us all the more determined to do more."

Thus, the food drive idea was born. Neighborhood kids and their parents distribute flyers through the subdivision and beyond - Culp said about 400 were circulated this year - in advance of the drive held Saturday.

Last year, about four or five carloads of nonperishable food donations were collected, said Christine Janssen, a Rolling Ridge resident.

"We take wagons around to pick up the food donations," Janssen said.

"I helped collect food and money and we raised \$1,000 last year," said Matthew Wulf, who despite being only 9 years old, is a veteran of all four food drives. "It's amazing to be able to help other people that much."

Eleven-year-old Jack Culp said he and his father collected all kinds of canned goods, and "even toilet paper."

"We got a lot of food and you would think with all that food, it would feed all the homeless, but there are more of them than you would think," Jack Culp said.

While it takes the effort of a few families to get the drive going, it wouldn't be the success it has been the last few years if it weren't for one thing, said Laurie Wulf.

"We want to thank all the neighbors who help out with the drive and donate food," she said.

(Linda McAlpine can be reached at lmcalpine@conleynet.com)



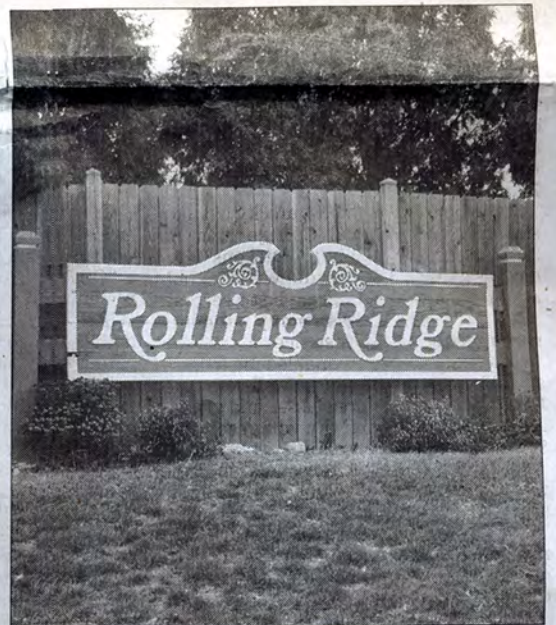
Linda McAlpine/Freeman Staff

Six-year-old Maddie Culp, left, Rebekah Janssen, 6, and Ermily Wulf, 7, work on bagging up some early deliveries as part of the Rolling Ridge subdivision's fourth annual "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" food drive. Last year, residents collected \$1,000 and several carloads of groceries for the Waukesha Food Pantry.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

If something interesting is going on in your neighborhood, call Linda McAlpine at 513-2656 or e-mail lmcalpine@conleynet.com.



A lighted sign marks the entrance to Rolling Ridge subdivision off of Meadowbrook Road in Waukesha.