

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



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Editors: If you are interested in pursuing any of these story angles, following a Meals On Wheels volunteer on Thanksgiving Day or visiting the Martha T. Berry facility, please contact the Macomb County Office of Public Affairs to coordinate.

MACOMB COUNTY MAKES THANKSGIVING BRIGHTER FOR THE NEEDY

MOUNT CLEMENS – Thanksgiving traditionally is a time to spend with loved ones, gathering around the dinner table, enjoying good company and remembering the important things in life.

For some, poor health, isolation or financial straits get in the way of that tradition.

Macomb County tries to make Thanksgiving a little more familiar for less fortunate residents who need a boost.

The residents at the Martha T. Berry Medical Facility will get a treat this Thanksgiving with a craft bazaar and feast. Activities actually begin Wednesday, Nov. 24, with a craft bazaar, which features donated and homemade gifts that residents can buy as holiday gifts for family members.

“The bazaar replaces the stressful holiday shopping season,” said Lori Richards, activities director at Martha T. Berry. “Many of the residents don’t want to travel to the malls, or are physically incapable of leaving the facility. This is much easier for them, and all the money goes towards the next craft sale.”

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Page 2

On Thanksgiving Day, residents will be treated to a Thanksgiving feast, which will include roasted turkey, homemade dressing, corn-on-the-cob, mixed greens, corn muffins, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Residents selected the entire meal at their Resident Food Committee meeting.

“For some of our residents, we are their only family,” said Josephine Savalle-Dunn, Martha T. Berry administrator. “We try to make the holidays as enjoyable for our residents as possible, no matter what it takes.”

Altogether, the Dietary Department will serve its 171 residents:

- Four 20-pound turkeys
- 178 ears of corn
- 35 pounds of mixed greens
- 30 pounds of homemade dressing
- 18 pumpkin pies

The Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit and the Detroit Lions football game will be shown, and residents will have an opportunity to participate in a service led by volunteers from Bethesda Christian Church in Sterling Heights.

The Macomb County Community Services Agency (MCCSA) also is helping the needy this Thanksgiving.

The Meals on Wheels program, which delivers meals to more than 1,400 home-bound seniors daily, will be delivering special Thanksgiving meals to participants of the program. So far, 89 volunteers have been recruited to deliver about 556 Thanksgiving meals to homebound seniors. And, many of the meals will be made in the Martha T. Berry kitchen.

Page 3

“It really means a lot to these residents who can’t leave their homes,” said Frank Taylor Director of MCCSA. “When the seniors see a volunteer going out of their way on a holiday, just to bring them a meal, it really makes their day.”

The meals will include traditional Thanksgiving food items and bag lunches will be given out for the next day. The Martha T. Berry Medical Facility helps put many of the meals together and also serves as a distribution center for food deliveries.

MCCSA will also be giving away food baskets to those in need. The food, which is collected with the help of various church coalitions and volunteers, will be distributed through the three Macomb County Community Action Centers.

About 675 baskets will be given to residents throughout Macomb County. Eligibility for receiving a holiday assistance basket, which includes traditional Thanksgiving food items, is determined by income level.

“Our goal is to help as many residents as possible,” said Taylor. “With the help of the community we will continue to increasing the number of people we can help.”

The L’Anse Creuse School District helped out by raising nearly \$4,000 from a “penny drive.” The money was donated to MCCSA for the purchase of food for the baskets. The Gleaners Food Bank also participated by providing turkeys at discount prices.

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