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ways to get involved.

One way is to participate in the Adopt-A-Child gift program, Sheriff Clinton said.

"You can call the Sheriff's Office and receive information on a child's wish list. You will be able to purchase gifts for children knowing that they will be wanted and appreciated," Sheriff Clinton said. "During the last two years this program has served close to 200 children each year. This Christmas season please help us help Towns County's children by adopting one of our many less fortunate local children for Christmas."

Another way to help is coming by Green to Bean Coffee Roasters on Dec. 14th between 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"That's when \$5 includes assorted desserts, coffee, tea, and/or hot cocoa, crafts and activities for kids of all ages, and a take home picture with Ms. Claus," Sheriff Clinton said. "All proceeds go to the Empty Stocking Fund. This event is sponsored by Green to Bean Coffee Roasters, the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Family Connection, and the Bank of Hiawassee."

Another way to help: there is a drop box at Fred's Department Store in Hiawassee. Anyone may drop an unwrapped toy in the box and these will be forwarded to the Sheriff's

Empty Stocking Fund, the sheriff said.

The Empty Stocking Fund benefits children from newborn to 12 years old. The true benefits are putting a smile on a child's face at Christmas that might otherwise go without. Sheriff Clinton got \$600 in financial help from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary last week at the Towns County Courthouse.

It's one check of many that Sheriff Clinton will be more than proud to accept.

The Empty Stocking Fund and *Adopt-A-Child* campaigns will attempt to help at least the same number of children as in years past. The sheriff understands that times are hard and that economically, businesses and residents have struggled to stay above water, in terms of fiscal matters.

He also understands that rough economic waters also make for tough times for small children who don't quite understand what the word *recession* means.

"We hope the giving spirit of the people of Towns County will be able to help and assist us in this endeavor," Sheriff Clinton said.

The 2010 Parade begins Saturday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 p.m. The lineup for the parade begins in the top parking lots of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, and line up begins promptly at 4

p.m., the sheriff said.

The Parade will go through Hiawassee and end at the Bank of Hiawassee. There is no cost to enter the parade, however . . .

"We would like for each entry to bring a new unwrapped toy for the Empty Stocking Toy Drive," Sheriff Clinton said. "Also, any spectators who wish to donate can bring unwrapped toys and turn them over to any Sheriff's Office staff along the route.

"I wish to personally thank all of the businesses, agencies, and private citizens who are donating their offices, time or money to help make a difference in a child's life," Sheriff Clinton said.

"Also, thanks to our staff, particularly Vicki Ellis and Heather Whitaker, who donate many hours each year putting this all together," Sheriff Clinton said. "If you have any questions on any of the events feel free to give Vicki a call at (706) 896-8343 or Heather at (706) 896-4444. Thank you in advance for your generosity."

Also, remember that all parade entries must be well lit and children under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.

Here's hoping that the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund Parade truly rings in the Christmas season.

Brasstown Valley Resort Arts and Crafts Show

Brasstown Valley Resort is proud to announce its second annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. The show will be held indoors throughout the resort on November 26th and 27th from 10 AM to 5 PM each day. Admission and parking are FREE.

This is a juried event with 70 outstanding and talented vendors presenting their work. There is no doubt that you will find that very special item to complete your gift giving list. You can also pamper yourself with that special item that you have been looking for. All items at this show have been hand crafted original pieces for your shopping pleasure. There are items for all to enjoy.

This show will also include a Childrens Room where the children can complete a craft, enjoy games and visit with Santa!

The Resort will be beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Come and enjoy the arts and crafts and spend the day with us in this beautifully decorated winter wonderland. Lunch and dinner will also be available for your dining pleasure at the resort. NT(Nov24,A1)SH

Mountain Home Music Theater

Mountain Home Music Theater will have a big show coming for this Saturday night Nov. 27. Corn Bread Ted with band. Ted is a professor of Art at Young Harris College. Come on out to see them. We are located 2-1/2 miles west of Hiawassee on Hwy. 76 in the red building. We will have more about our big Christmas show in a couple of weeks. Watch for it! T(Nov24,J1)SH

Ride with the Mountain Miatas

Do you have a Mazda Miata? The Mountain Miatas have formed a group right here in the North Georgia Mountains. We ride on the first Saturday of every month and a few rides in between. Come join us. Call Jon or Pegg at 706-897-3784. N(Nov24,Z1)CA



VFW Ladies Auxillary President Judy King, second from left, presents checks to the Towns County Food Pantry's Teresa Stephens, Towns County Sheriff's Office's Vicki Ellis and Hiawassee Police Department's Lewis Baxter last week. Howard Smrz, far right, and Lori Pace, far left, accompany President King. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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in the school cafeteria today are somewhat similar to what your grandmother made in her heyday of cooking.

But, you're grandmother never had to serve almost 1,200 hungry people, including Dr. Behrens and Coach Hamilton. Thursday's meal included 500-plus pounds of turkey, 1,500 servings of chicken and dressing, 72 pounds of cream corn, 20 large cans of sweet potatoes, 36 big cans of green beans, eight big cans of cranberry sauce and 720 yeast rolls. For dessert, 1,000 juice bars and ice creams.

Squanto and the Pilgrims would have been in awe.

Dr. Behrens and Coach Hamilton definitely were in admiration of the cafeteria staffers.

Preparation for the Thanksgiving meal at Towns County Schools begins on the Monday before the meal is served. The

lunchroom staff begins the process with cooking 500-plus pounds of turkey, cooling it down, slicing it and refrigerating it afterward.

"That might be a little more than we need, but you have to over prepare because you don't have time to under prepare," said Cafeteria Manager Kathy Dill.

The staff then begins cooking pan-after-pan of cornbread, biscuits and toast in the prep phase of getting ready to prepare the Thanksgiving dressing.

"We put the bread in the freezer for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner dressing," Dill said. "We make it from scratch, just like your grandmother did. Some of the other ingredients are prepackaged and we try to be as much prepackaged as we can.

"It's just like making it at home, but only on a larger scale," she said. "We don't heat all that turkey at

one time. When we start getting low, we give the go ahead to start heating more turkey as it's needed.

"We've got this down pat; we know our recipes by heart," Dill said. "Once you can trust your recipes, you've got nothing to worry about."

At the end of the lunch day, Dill and her staff go over a list of requests for take home dinners from the day's bounty. Before 1 p.m. on Thursday, she had requests to buy almost 40 dinners.

We're not sure about Coach Hamilton, but we know Dr. Behrens was on that list.

"Every year I go back for seconds," Dr. Behrens said. "There is a world of difference between school lunches today and when we were in school.

Today, you have a constant focus on nutrition. The difference today is the focus on healthy meals instead of just feeding the masses."



Towns County Schools Cafeteria Manager Kathy Dill says school breakfasts and lunches are like your grandmother used to make, almost 100 percent made from scratch. Photo/James Reese