



PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Students use Food Drive to give back to the Community

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

11/16/2010 03:45 PM

Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University students giving back to the community through a holiday food drive that began on Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 9. Further information is available by contacting Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
Nov. 16, 2010

Sandy Gholston
Ferris State University
Interim Assistant Director of News Services
sandygholston@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2021

Ferris Students use Food Drive to give back to the Community

BIG RAPIDS – Seeing a need and taking action, Ferris State University students are joining the fight against hunger in Mecosta and Osceola counties through their annual Holiday Food Drive.

The drive began Nov. 1 and concludes Dec. 9. Ferris students use this effort as an opportunity to give back to local communities through donations and the collection of non-perishable food items.

“It’s one of my priorities as Student Government president to try and change the relationship between Ferris and the community,” said Morgan Toms, president of Ferris Student Government, an organization leading this effort. “We want it to be a positive one – they give so much to us and we want to make sure that we give something back.”

Items collected will be donated to Project Starburst and St. Andrew’s Manna Pantry – area pantries that serve more than 1,200 individuals a month in Mecosta and Osceola counties.

“We count on the Ferris food drive to refill our pantry for January,” said Mary Doran, executive director of Project Starburst. “We go through so much food between Christmas and Thanksgiving orders, on top of regular orders, that our shelves are bare when it’s all said and done.”

Food drive collection boxes are located in all Ferris residence halls, major campus academic buildings and in various businesses throughout Big Rapids. Toms said that this is the first year the drive has been extended to the community to enable greater local participation.

To encourage on-campus giving, Ferris student organizations can compete against each other as part of the food drive. With several competition categories, winners will be announced on Dec. 13 and will receive cash prizes and gift certificates from local businesses.

The goal of the drive is to collect 6,000 pounds of food on campus and 2,000 pounds off campus. In 2009, students donated 3,747 pounds of food gathered from on-campus donations.

“January is thought of as a month of new beginnings for a lot of people,” Doran said. “Project Starburst thinks of this food drive as a new beginning specifically for us. We’re able to start the new year with shelves that were empty, but were restocked for the hungry people we’ll assist that year.”

For more information or instructions on how to get involved, contact Ethan Pineda, food drive chair, at (517) 242-3160.