

## Press Release

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LINK's Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Food Basket programs took place on Saturday, November 23 and December 21 respectively.

- Event took place at three churches:
  - Christ the Redeemer in Sterling
  - Herndon United Methodist in Herndon
  - Trinity Presbyterian in Herndon
- 629 total families participated (over 700 families registered) in the food basket event days (2665 men, women and children).
- 72 families received direct delivery to their homes due to illness, handicapped, no transportation, etc.
- 35 walk-in families were supported.
- Families received 5-day allotment of food based on family size.
- \$12,990.00 was distributed in grocery gift certificates.
- 3000 toys were distributed to over 800 children (Christmas event only).
  - \$2,500 was distributed in merchandise gift certificates for purchase of toys.
- 140 winter coats were distributed (Thanksgiving event only).
- 38,000 pounds of non perishable food was collected and distributed
- 600 total volunteers supported the weeklong pre-staging and the actual event for both days.
- 12 foreign language interpreters supported the registration booth for both event days.
- LINK volunteers included Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi (Persian), Malawi, Bangla (Bengali), Hindi and Pashtu (Afghan) interpreters in support of those in need of these services.
- Special thanks to Loudoun and Fairfax area Scouting for Food organizations and Herndon, Oakton, Great Falls, Sterling, Cascades and Ashburn schools for their efforts in soliciting and collecting the donated food and gift certificates to support this effort.

**Note:** LINK is one of the "all volunteer" emergency support organizations (since 1972) in Northern Virginia. This organization is comprised of 15 member churches in the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn communities that provide food and financial assistance to qualified people (Herndon, Sterling, Sugarland, Cascades, and Ashburn) in need 52 weeks a year. Volunteers do all the work, and all goods are received from local donations. This past year LINK spent less than 3% of its budget on operating expenses. By combining the community resources from two great counties (Fairfax and Loudoun), LINK's vision is to increase the quantity and quality of services to the needy. The volunteers at LINK believe in the power of selfless service. That is providing needy people with unconditional love. This love includes commitment, compassion and the courage to service the sick, abused, unloved and powerless.

### **More on LINK:**

The LINK Board is composed of one volunteer representative from each member Church; five elected volunteer Officers and appointed Mission Coordinators. The five Officers directly oversee the activity of the various Mission Coordinators and special volunteers. The Officers are elected in November and serve for a one-year period. LINK holds monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. The meetings are hosted by a member church and are rotated to each applicable church accordingly.

**Missions:** The missions rotate among the member churches on a monthly basis. In any given month, one church collects the food for the LINK pantry; another church delivers that very food. A third church hosts the monthly LINK meeting. In the next month, another set of churches will take up the three rotating missions. A standing committee who task out this responsibility on a weekly basis supports Food Pantry Management. LINK is a 2000 Congressional Victory Against Hunger Award winner. The award comes from the Congressional Hunger Center

*"And he sat down and called the twelve, and saith unto them, if any man desire to be first the same shall be last of all and servant to all" Mark 9:35 KIV*

LINK Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket Programs A Resounding Success (Final Statistics)

Co-chaired by 10th District Congressman Frank Wolf. The selection committee specifically chose LINK for its innovative method of transporting food from the storage pantry directly to those residences in need in less than forty-eight hours, 52 weeks a year. The organization's intensive networking with local churches, public and private schools and civic groups to serve the Eastern Loudoun & Herndon area was also cited. A standing committee of furniture movers and furniture coordinators also supports the furniture mission. **LINK's United Way campaign participant number is 8442.**

Calendar Year	Total Families Served Food	Total People Served Food	Holiday Basket Families Served	Families Receiving Furniture	Families Receiving F/A
2002	703	2712	629	N/A	TBD
2001	680	2627	519	45	223
2000	497	2177	431	70	151
1999	574	2482	429	45	149
1998	592	2577	---	---	---

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