



HALEIGH RUCKER puts items into a container for Operation Shoe Box. *Times staff photos by Norma Martinez.*



HELPING OTHERS — Teens for Christ members, Heath Churchwell, Dalton Magnani, Loretta Rucker and Jaquelyn Ketzner assemble basket for those needing extra help this holiday season. *Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.*

Teens gather items for needy

The St John Lutheran Church was the meeting point for approximately 25 Teens for Christ. Dan Carson the regular leader was out of town, Joan Banister, Ed and Phyllis Carson, and Ranae Suter kept them focused on the two service projects they needed to accomplish. After eating a hearty meal the teens all piled into cars, vans and pickups and drove around Bird City stopping at houses with porch lights on looking for sacks of food. The next stop was at the United Methodist Church where they separated all the canned goods. On Monday they returned to

assemble them into 21 Thanksgiving food baskets and deliver them to needy families in the local area of Bird City and McDonald. Back to St John's which was the drop of site for Operation Christmas Child, there they assembled 30 shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, personal items and other small items for a boy or girl. **Operation Shoe Box** At least 25 local Teens for Christ kids participated in the National Week for Operation Shoe Box program on Thursday evening. Hundreds of thousands of kids, families, businesses and churches who where volunteers across

America will make a difference in the lives of eight million hurting children this Christmas. Kids and families are wrapping and packing empty shoe boxes with simple items most people take for granted including toothpaste, toys and school supplies. The boxes were dropped off at one of the 11 northwest Kansas drop-off sites. Operation Christmas Child will then use whatever means necessary... seas containers, trucks, trains, airplanes, helicopters, boats, elephants... to hand deliver the first to hurting children in more than 100 countries. "This project allows me, from

right here in Bird City and St Francis, to impact the lives of children in countries I may never have the opportunity to visit," said JaNelle Glidewell, Relay Center coordinator. "I hope my gifts help a child to know that they matter... that their life has value." It's the power of a simple gift that allows Operation Christmas Child to transcend all barriers... language, cultural, religious, geographical and political...with a message of hope and love. For many children, the simple shoe box will be the first gift they have ever received.



SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS — Tristan Archer, John Serrano and Hulda Dorsch gather items from the storage room.

Groups get together to support the soldiers

Hulda Dorsch, John and Hollis DuPron from the American Legion Auxiliary, met with Nina and Celine Isley, Echoe Lennox, Jacob and John Serrano from the Bird City Go-Getters and Christy and Valerie Wurm and Tristan Archer with the St Francis Lawn Ridge 4-H group Saturday afternoon to assemble the items collected to bring joy in the war zones. The items had been collected for the Support Our Soldiers campaign. One whole box was filled with

nothing but sox. Several other boxes contained various other items requested for over seas shipping. The boxes were then loaded into DuPron's van. John and Hollis were to transport them to Newton where they were to meet another van to take them on to Oklahoma City, Okla. Volunteers there were to repack them for there destinations overseas for veterans who are not able to be with family for Christmas.



MONSANTO DONATES TO EMS — Kurt Wilson, left, talks with Jannelle Bowers, Clayton Janicke and Lori Janicke at the emergency building. *Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

Money given to help emergency service

Lori Janicke of Bird City, has been selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities program, which gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The awards are available through Monsanto Fund. Mrs. Janicke designated the Cheyenne County Emergency

Medical Service, located in St. Francis, to receive the award. The award was presented to director, Jannelle Bowers, on Wednesday, Nov. 17, with Monsanto representative, Kurt Wilson, Colby. Others present were emergency medical technicians, Wade Krien, Erika Zimbelman, Reid Raile, Ed Marin and Johnny Miller. In its initial year, the America's

Farmers Grow Communities program has provided nearly 500 farmers in 10 states with \$2,500 awards to direct to their favorite nonprofit organization. On Aug. 31, the program expanded nationwide to more than 1,200 counties in 38 states. The program is part of a broad commitment by Monsanto Fund to highlight the important

contributions farmers make every day to our society by helping them grow their local communities. More than 20,000 farmers participated in the program, which is designed to benefit nonprofit groups such as ag youth, schools and other civic organizations. For more information and to see a full list of winners, visit www.growcommunities.com.



Farmer makes recovery

Cory Busse, Cheyenne County farmer, was overcome by a cloud of anhydrous fumes on Tuesday, Nov. 16. There was no wind that day which generally breaks up the cloud and when he stopped his tractor he didn't realize the danger he was in. Brian Miller was also in the field and saw what was happening. He took Mr. Busse to the Cheyenne County Hospital where he was treated until he was able to be transported. He was flown to Northern Colorado Burn

Center in Greeley where he has been in the intensive care unit. At this time, the family reports that doctors are not seeing any long-term damage but he will need plenty of rest to recover. Mr. Busse returned home on Monday but friends and well wishers are asked not to stop by for at least two weeks until his condition has had a chance to improve. He said he did appreciate all the concern shown by everyone.