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Food, toy drive donations surpass 2007 totals

By *CARL BURNETT JR.*
The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER - More than 100 people from Lancaster and the surrounding area dropped off food and toys Tuesday during the second annual *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette* Food Drive.

At the end of the day, Emergency Services and Lancaster Food Pantry Coordinator Carol Wagner was grateful for the donations this year. Residents were asked to match the truckload of nonperishable food items they donated in 2007 - 2,000 pounds - and bring new a toy for a child ages 3 to 12.

"We estimate more than 2,800 pounds of food was delivered," Wagner said. "This is really going to help us fulfill the needs of the people needing help this Christmas."

Residents donated everything from laundry detergent and towels to frozen turkeys and canned vegetables. They also gave cash and gift cards.

"The generosity of the people in this community is incredible," said *Eagle-Gazette* Managing Editor Antionette Taylor-Thomas. "This is a tough year economically for everyone, but many people supported the drive this year. We appreciate every donor who helped make this drive a success."

The drive started at 6 a.m. A few minutes later, the first donor dropped off food and toys for the drive. Dozens came through by noon filling one crate box with toys and another with food items. Donors steadily dropped off toys, food and money throughout the day.

"We had a steady stream of people, from the elderly to the young, come in and drop of food items and toys," Wagner said.

The *Eagle-Gazette* challenged local businesses to at least match the community's food donations from 2007.

One of the first businesses to come through was Main Street Terrace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. They donated 10 boxes of items, including 10 turkeys, canned goods, detergent and toys.

"It was a great donation," said *Eagle-Gazette* Multimedia Editor Carl Burnett Jr. "It shows not only the people, but also the businesses, in the community care."

The food and toy drive helps to support the Lancaster-Fairfield County Food Pantry at Community Action and Fairfield County Job & Family Services.

"Next year will be even better," said Taylor-Thomas.

Additional Facts

[Slide Show: Eagle-Gazette's 2nd Annual Food and Toy Drive](#) 
