

# Genesis food bank helps people through the year

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set up around town and food starts pouring into the pantry at the United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

"On the first of November," Mason said, "things start getting exciting."

Saturday, volunteers from 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be out in force to gather food. Starting at 9 a.m., people can leave food in front of their homes for the kids to pick up and take to the pantry.

Food is collected for Christmas baskets through events like the Northwest Kansas Technical College's Halloween haunted house. The students asked for canned food or a \$1 donation for Genesis as admission.

The Sherman Theatre runs a special matinee every year, asking each person for a can of food for the program.

Jordan said they get some donations from groups that forgo gift exchanges in favor of food dona-

## She's walking again!

FARRIS, from Page 1

family. She was sending out 300-400 Christmas cards a year before she fell, he said. She would help someone who was stranded along the road and then they'd end up sending each other cards.

Florence, a widow for some time, has always stayed busy. She said her husband, Gene Farris, was a mechanic and custom cutter. He has been gone for years, but she hasn't spent her time being lonely. Traveling has been one of her passions. "I've been into every state," she said. "That was my goal."

She said she has gone to postmaster's conventions every year until this year, but she wouldn't say how long ago she retired, saying she didn't want anyone to be able to guess her age.

"I'm 39 and holding," she asserted.

Her determination may have a lot to do with her "miraculous" recovery. The therapists did a good job with her, Tubbs said, but her own motivation and dedication made a difference.

Residents have been inspired by that, Tubbs added; more of them are

## Christmas winner gets \$50

WINNER, from Page 1

given out over the four weeks of the contest, for a total of \$500. Twelve winning numbers will appear in ads on Tuesday, which means the first nine shoppers to bring their winning tickets to the newspaper office have a chance to win up to \$450. Numbers also will appear on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Ticket numbers that are drawn for the instant prizes are not included in the grand prize drawing.

All of the \$50 instant winners will be given out during the month.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.
- The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 17.
- Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket.

Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number, and agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication in the newspaper.

Participating businesses are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, S&T Communications, Elliott's, Miller's Electronics, American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Mobile Connections, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Goodland Greenline, McClung's Appliance, El Dorado, Kear's Quality Liquor, Eagle Cable TV and *The Star-News*.

tions. They also get cash donations to go out and buy whatever is missing for the baskets.

Along with food, Genesis includes Christmas toys in their baskets. Wal-Mart has set up an "angel" tree with the age of girls and boys who need gifts hanging on the tree. Someone comes along to collect the toys and, Jordan said, Fred Studer gathers and sometimes repairs them. She said volunteers go through the toys and makes sure the they work, have batteries and are ready for the baskets.

"Those baskets are wonderful," said Jordan. "People usually appreciate it."

Mason said the list for Christmas baskets is checked and rechecked each year to make sure everything is correct and the families are in need. Recipients get a card in the mail letting them know when and where to pick them up.

After the holiday food drives, Genesis continues to help people throughout the year. As of October, Mason said, roughly 110 individu-

walking with assisted devices now. Tubbs said she hopes that inspiration spreads.

Sometimes there's a stigma that people come to a nursing home to wait for death, she said, but the center is much more than that. People can use the help available here to recover and get out.

Besides the therapists, Tubbs said, nurses and aides also helped Florence to become more independent with her day-to-day tasks.

Rick said he is proud of his mother and is glad for the help she has received from the therapists and also from Dr. Travis Daise. He really helped her, her son said.

als or families had been helped this year.

"We collect money to help pay rent, utilities, etc.," said Jordan. "It's an emergency operation. It's for people that fall through the cracks."

Along with money, food, clothes and toys, they collect bedding, mattresses and other furniture.

To qualify for help through Genesis, applicants must have lived in town for six months. After receiving help, they must wait six months before they ask again.

"We're an emergency organization," said Clark Jordan, Pat's husband and Genesis co-director. "It's not for everyday use."

Mason said the program was started in 1984. The Rev. Harry Betts with the United Methodist Church organized a group, Jordan said, and raised the first \$500.

"Genesis was developed with the idea," said Mason, "of local people helping local people, and that's what I like about it."

Local people are the only ones who contribute to Genesis and they give out assistance only to needy families in the county.

"Genesis is a Sherman County organization," said Jordan. "We have only what the people give us."

She said at Genesis, they value the trust the community has given them and they try to keep everything as just as possible.

"We try to be fair and honest with everything," Jordan said.

The names of needy families are passed on to them through direct referrals and anonymous tips.

Although Genesis was founded by the churches, Mason said, everyone helps out. Organizations including Harvest America, the Elks Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, church youth groups, individuals and many more all pitch in.

## Woman devotes herself to others helping with Salvation Army

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

Childhood hardship fostered the spirit of giving in a Goodland woman who's been devoted to helping the less fortunate.

Pat Jordan says she and her husband Clark repay the help she received as a child from the Salvation Army as the directors of the Army's program in town.

Growing up in Alliance, Neb., she said, her family got food and assistance from the Salvation Army when she was 5.

"I've never forgotten the help they gave me," she says.

Jordan, now a diaconal minister in the United Methodist Church, said she even attended church with the Salvation Army. As she grew, she said, she started to volunteer for the organization, attending street meetings and helping out where she could.

"I grew up in the Salvation Army," she said. "I almost became an officer."

Jordan said roughly 30 years ago, she noticed that there was no similar help for people here, so she appealed to the organization to come to town.

"I said, 'We have nothing here,'" she recalled, and they signed her and Clark to head a program here.

Since then, the pair has served as the Sherman County directors for the Salvation Army. They do the paperwork, she said, and much of the fund raising. A representative from headquarters in Kansas City comes by to help once in a while and they use a toll-free number for questions, she said.

Jordan said the paperwork is not too bad, but she does send in an information packet with each receipt.

"They back us really well," she said. "I'm not really on my own."

The couple can devote more time to the organization now that they are both retired from Goodland Sheet Metal Co., a heating and air conditioning business they owned.

The Salvation Army's major fund raiser is still the traditional Christmas Red Kettle Campaign with volunteers ringing bells and collecting donations in buckets through the holidays. Jordan said there is normally no shortage of volunteers, but she and Clark do much of the bell ringing.

She said volunteers from the Northwest Kansas Technical College take a lot of the late shifts. Other community organizations help out.

The money goes to help people in town and those just passing through. She said they help travelers in trouble if they need gas, food or a place to stay. Help also can go to a family that needs help paying bills or making ends meet.

Ten years after starting work with the Salvation Army, Jordan helped found another program here, Genesis.

A lot of what Genesis does dovetails with the work of the Salvation Army, she said, but, she said, Genesis is only for permanent residents in Goodland. "Genesis is entirely local," she said.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the Salvation Army can wait to see the kettles on the street, Jordan said, or they can put a check in the envelope stuffed inside of today's paper. Bell-ringing volunteers can call 899-5073 to sign up.

Jordan says she really enjoys helping others. "I'm glad," she said, "that I've been able to pay back a lot of what I got as a child."

The group has enough volunteers for the food drive Saturday, but Mason said they are still looking for help packing the Christmas baskets. The group will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, in the fellowship hall at the Methodist Church.

He said Genesis owes its success to the community for the help and trust it's received throughout the years.

"This community," Jordan added, "is a very cooperative community. None of this could take

place anywhere else."

If you're interested in contributing food or volunteering, call Jordan at 899-5073. People in need of help or with information on others in need can call her as well.

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