

Thrift store gets ready to help kids pick presents

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

With Christmas just around the corner, Santa's helpers at the Goodland Churches' Thrift Store are getting ready for the annual Kids Christmas Shoppe.

The shopping day for kids will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, the same weekend at the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament.

The store provides a place for any child up to age 14 to buy gifts for brothers, sister, parents and grandparents. There will be free Christmas wrapping for gifts under \$5.

"The store will be open to anyone after 1 p.m.," said manager Jo Simmons. "Kids that do not get to shop in the morning can still do it in the afternoon."

Simmons started the Kids Christmas Shoppe four years ago when she got the idea from her daughter in Lawrence.

Volunteer elves help kids pick out the gifts. Siblings are taken around individually so the rest of the family doesn't know what they are getting for Christmas.

Volunteers also help wrap gifts, she said, run the jewelry counter and check the Christmas list with each child so they know how to label gifts.

They have a pot luck to feed the volunteers during that day, Simmons said.

The thrift store could still use bubble wrap, zip lock bags in snack, quart and gallon size and sealing bags, the manager said. The week before the kids shop opens, the store will be closed to clean, set out gifts and decorate.



Ruth Ontiveroz, a part-time employee and volunteer, hung ornaments for sale on a display for the Goodland Churches' Thrift Store on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The store will have its annual Kids Christmas Shoppe from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. Volunteers will help children shop for gifts for their families. There are no income limits.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

The store was organized to provide good used and new merchandise for everyone in the area, she

said. Profits are donated to the Goodland Area Ministerial Alliance to help people who run out of gas on the road and have no money and transients. The people who get

the help are checked out by the Goodland Police Department. The store donates to other causes,

Simmons said, including missions in Vietnam, Mexican American ministries, Toys for Tots, stuffed bears for the Sherman County ambulance service, Genesis food bank, the Red Cross and Salvation Army, Prevention Center referrals, sweat suits for accident victims at Goodland Regional Medical Center and more.

They sent 20 boxes of household goods to victims of Hurricane Katrina along with five boxes of school supplies.

Simmons said the store is getting ready to send a load of backpacks to a Denver mission.

Besides the full-time manager, she said, the store has four part-time employees

Groups that have helped the store include the United Methodist Church men's breakfast group, the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, Walmart, B & B Electric, Calvary Gospel Church, 4-H club, Catholic Church groups, the Prints and the Paper and High Plains Office Supply.

Others that have donated include Uniques by Bonnie, Aten's Department Store, the Sherman Theatre, KLOE Radio and *The Goodland Star-News*.

The store has 40 to 60 volunteers who work when needed, Simmons said, and 13 board members, the Rev. Bob Snyder, vice president, Deb Boyle, president, the Rev. Bob Willis, treasurer, Linda Chaffin and Denise Floyd, co-secretaries, and the Rev. Ted Amos, Mary Lou Isernhagen, Pat Schiefen, LaVaughn Becker, Roger Collins, Richard Akers, Anita Coleman and Mary Lycett.

Discounted food rewards people for volunteer efforts

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

It's a new organization, but it's being run by the same people who brought discounted food to Sherman County volunteers for 15 years under the old one.

Five employees from Heartland Share in Topeka left to form Prairie Land Food, and they continue to provide discounted food packages to western Kansas volunteers.

"I feel comfortable with these five people," said Sherryl Ketter, Sherman County coordinator for the program. "I've dealt with them. They are concerned about taking care of the customers."

Anyone interested in Prairie Land Food can talk to Ketter at the Sherman County Health Department. Each month. There is a deadline to sign up and pay for the food package and then a day set to pick it up and turn in volunteer hours for the month.

Ketter said the December food package will include one pound each of chicken breast tenders, popcorn shrimp, tilapia, ground beef and cooked Italian sausage with cheese, 12 ounces of Canadian bacon plus six to eight fruits and vegetables and a grocery item.

The package costs \$21.50 plus two hours of volunteer service. A volunteer can also get a "meat only" package of the same meat items for \$12 and another hour of volunteer service and/or the specials, a smoked holiday boneless pork loin, two 2 1/2-pound packages, for \$15



Sherryl Ketter and Bernadine Johnson distributed food for the Prairie Land Food packages Saturday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

plus another hour, or a "surf and turf" package with two pounds of cooked shrimp and four 10-ounce top sirloin steaks for \$20 plus an hour.

The deadline to sign up is Monday, Dec. 4, and pickup will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Goodland Elks Lodge. The packages are a good deal,

said Lee Gotchall, former Sherman County coordinator for the Share program. He said his aunt listed everything in her Share box several years ago and went to the grocery

to compare prices. It was \$18.50 for a box then, he said, and she figured she got about \$40 worth of groceries.

Prairie Land distributed 71 food packages Saturday for the November distribution, Ketter said.

"I couldn't do it without all my volunteers," she said. "That's the most important part; people helping each other."

Heartland Share still provides discounted food to volunteers in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, but most of the Kansas distribution sites went with Prairie Land.

"As far as I know," Ketter said, "everyone from Topeka west went with Prairie Land."

Linda Hagen, the former western Kansas Share supervisor who helped form Prairie Land, sent a letter to all the Share coordinators she had been working with, letting them know she was leaving Share and starting Prairie Land Food.

"After many tears and prayers, I feel the best way to approach a problem is head-on," she began. "I have given my two weeks notice to Heartland Share effective Monday, Aug. 7."

Hagen listed four others who gave their two weeks notice at the same time, one who had quit in January and another who was "taken out of Heartland Share" by the administration.

"We are leaving the best program that I have ever been involved in," Hagen said. "This has been really

hard on me because not only did I need to think about what I was doing, but I had to think of what was best for you...."

"I feel that under the new administration, the mission of Heartland Share is going in a direction that is not beneficial to each of you, and the quality and value of the packages are not what they used to be."

Hagen asked the coordinators if they would like to see more food in their packages, a scholarship set up for a volunteer and if they would continue to work with them if they were under a different name.

The Share program started serving volunteers in Kanorado 15 years ago and Goodland shortly after, Gotchall said.

"I used to go to Denver to bring that stuff to Kanorado when they had it," he said, "then when they started it in Goodland, I didn't do that anymore."

Lilly Hively started the program in Goodland, he said, adding that when she quit, he took over for seven years and then about three years ago, Ketter took over from him.

"I told Sherryl I'd help her," Gotchall said. "It got too much for me at my age."

Prairie Land began providing food packages here in September. Registration and distribution dates through the end of 2007 are available at the health department.

**Classifieds work!
8992338**

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news

should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

OPEN OPEN OPEN
GOODLAND'S NEW SPORTS & APPAREL STORE
Smitty's Sports
1105 Main St
FRIDAY, Nov. 24
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
GRAND OPENING
Nov. 25 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
Come & See
all the GREAT Things!

Christmas ON US

Kathy Jackson, Tammy Leiker and Darrick Leiker

HIGH PLAINS Office Supply

1118 Main
Goodland, Kan.
785-890-6900

GIVE SOMEONE A JINGLE THIS HOLIDAY!

CHECK OUT THE NEW KRZR

FOR ONLY \$49.99
1000 PK MIN
UNLIMITED N&W
UNLIMITED M2M
NEED 2 LINES OR MORE HOW ABOUT:
1000PK MIN.
UNLIMITED M2M
CALL HOME FOR FREE
UNLIMITED N&W
THAT STARTS AT 7PM
AND 2ND LINE FREE

LOTS OF PLANS TO CHOOSE FROM!!
DON'T FORGET TO ADD A LINE FOR JUST \$9.99!!
* SOME CONDITIONS MAY APPLY

American Communications
Elltel
726 W. HWY 24
GOODLAND, KS
785-899-2426

219 MAIN
SHARON SPRINGS, KS
785-852-5291