

## **'Kids Against Hunger'**

### **Kiwanis clubs, volunteers assemble more than 21,000 meals**

TRAVERSE CITY

The Kiwanis Clubs of the Traverse City area recently sponsored their "Kid's Against Hunger" food packaging event last Saturday at Traverse City Central High School's Cafeteria. More than 100 Kiwanis volunteers from nine clubs in the Traverse City area gathered to assemble 21,600 simple and nutritious meals that will be shipped to hungry, starving people around the world.

The project was done in cooperation with the Kids Against Hunger Coalition of Michigan, which supplies the mobile food packaging equipment and the expertise for the program. This is the third year for the project. Last year 20,000 meals were packaged, while 10,000 meals were packaged in 2006.

"It is an amazing sight to see so many meals packaged in just over a couple of hours," said coordinator Mike Maasberg.

Maasberg said the endeavor involved volunteers packaging the badly needed food packets - which each contain six meals of a nutritionally complete mix (Chicken Flavored Fortified Rice-Soy Casserole) that was originally developed in a cooperative effort by scientists at Cargill, Pillsbury, General Mills, and Archer Daniels Midland.

The three Kiwanis Clubs in Traverse City and their sponsored student clubs took part in the project. Those clubs included the Kiwanis Club of Traverse City, the Grand Traverse Bay Kiwanis Club, and the Traverse City Area Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Sponsored student clubs participating Saturday included the Traverse City Central High School Key Club, Traverse City West High School Key Club, St. Francis High School Key Club, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Builders Club, Cherry Knoll Elementary School K-Kids Club, and Immaculate Conception Elementary School K-Kids Club.

Each of the clubs participated by donating funds or volunteers to package the meals, or both. A total of \$5,600 was raised to support the packaging effort; \$200 more than last year due to increases in the price of food.

Maasberg said a portion of the assembled meal packets - about 30 percent - were



**Side by side - local Kiwanis club members, volunteers and students of Kiwanian-sponsored clubs worked together last Saturday to help assemble 21,600 meals in just under three hours. The "Kids Against Hunger" project will help feed those in need both locally and around the world.**

distributed to human service agencies in the Traverse City area to help feed needy individuals in the community.

"This is a project that has been embraced by our local Kiwanis clubs, as well as our sponsored clubs, which allows us to work together side by side toward a common goal of feeding the children of the world," he added.

For additional information about Kids Against Hunger and the nutritious meals, visit <http://www.feedingchildren.org>.

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