



## **Naperville Jaycees Give Back**

**NAPERVILLE, ILL. — January 13, 2010 —** The Naperville Jaycees helped donate 200 holiday gifts, 375 coats and more than 1,800 food baskets throughout the holiday season and continue to give back into 2010 with the tenth annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball.

“This holiday season it has truly been a pleasure giving back to people in need,” said Courtney Brown, Jaycees President. “These simple resources that many of us take for granted have had an impact on so many people in the community.”

### **Holiday Food Baskets**

The Jaycees partnered with Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry for the second year to provide holiday food baskets to Pantry clients. Each holiday dinner included a turkey or ham and all the trimmings, enough to feed a family of eight.

“Teaming up with Loaves & Fishes has allowed us to provide holiday food to more families than we could do on our own, which is especially important due to the economy,” said Lauren Chirico, co-chair with Bryan McDonald, who coordinated the logistics with Loaves & Fishes representatives.

Up from 1,600 in 2008, 1,840 holiday food baskets were distributed in 2009. Of these, 969 were given out for Thanksgiving and 871 for Christmas. Between the two holidays, Jaycees delivered about 25 percent to senior and disabled residents. The remaining food baskets were made available through the Loaves & Fishes onsite Client Choice distribution system.

“We’re grateful for the Jaycees’ assistance in enabling families served by the Pantry to share a festive meal during the 2009 holiday season,” said Charles McLimans, Loaves & Fishes Executive Director.

In November, Loaves & Fishes served 1,330 households comprised of 4,741 people, which included 2,034 children, 2,276 adults and 431 seniors. Services provided by the Pantry benefited 1,435 households in December, totaling 4,987 people, including 2,054 children, 2,416 adults and 517 seniors.



*Jaycees' Lance Bigelow and Kathy Sander volunteer at the Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry.*

### **Holiday Gift Project**

As a result of this year's gift-giving campaign, the Jaycees supported six different schools within District 204. Under direction of building administrators, lists were maintained within elementary schools but older siblings were able to participate as well.

"The Jaycees were the catalyst for holiday giving," said Jason Altenbern, Community Relations Coordinator for Indian Prairie School District 204. "When first organizing this project, we wanted to help at least 20 students. We far exceeded any expectations for our inaugural year and are so grateful to help so many."

Fifty-two names were collected for the project and ultimately more than 200 students received a wrapped gift, valued around \$40, thanks to increased support by civic groups, such as the Rotary Clubs of Naperville and Naperville-South.

### **Winter Coat Drive**

In the fall of 2009, the Jaycees collected new and gently-used coats via a small number of coat drives. Spearheading the efforts, the New Members Committee, along with support from various community groups, collected more than 375 coats. In addition, organizations donated mittens, hats, gloves and scarves, all of which were distributed to students in need to approximately six different schools within District 204.

"This was a great opportunity to help the schools, as well as get our new members involved and introduced to Jaycees," said Stacy Mayo, New Member Co-Chair with Lindsay Tracy, who arranged the drives to include pumpkin carving and socializing while awaiting coats.



*Jaycees' Lindsay Tracy, Brad Tracy, Stacy Mayo and Mary Beth Kraft carve pumpkins while waiting for coat donations at the Naperville VFW.*

### **Mardi Gras Charity Ball: Party For a Cause**

Partnering with Almost Home Kids™, the Jaycees will host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball, Saturday, Feb. 6. The evening includes silent and live auctions, entertainment by The Lady Upstairs band, Cajun food and signature cocktails.

“We’ve planned a very entertaining and exciting evening, and we’ve received a wide variety of auction items, donated by our always-supportive community,” said Meghan Trojanowski, 2010 Mardi Gras Co-Chair. “This event always proves to be a great evening while raising money for a worthy cause.”

Some of the Mardi Gras Charity Ball auction packages will include:

- Train autographed guitar.
- Jason Aldean autographed guitar.
- Private wine consultation from PRP Wine International for up to 12 people.
- Gift certificates to Naperville Running Co., Harry W. Yassen Jewelers and more.
- Four rooftop tickets in Wrigleyville.

All proceeds from the silent auction are donation to the partner charity, Almost Home Kids, whose mission is to enhance the lives of children with serious and ongoing medical challenges.

For more information on the event or to learn how to become a Jaycee, visit [NaperJaycees.org](http://NaperJaycees.org).

“Being a Jaycee brings a smile to my face when I think about all the lives we touch within the community. I can’t think of a better way to volunteer.” said Tracy.

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**About Naperville Jaycees**

The Naperville Jaycees is a nonprofit service organization with over 200 young persons dedicated to personal development through community service. The group organizes and staffs the Last Fling in close cooperation with the City of Naperville, the Naperville Park District, numerous Naperville community organizations and tons of volunteers. Proceeds from the Last Fling are given to nonprofit organizations in the community and throughout the Naperville area. The Jaycees have contributed more than \$1 million to various local service organizations over the last two decades.

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