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YAC Holds Holiday Food Drive for Senior Citizens

The Perris Youth Advisory Committee is conducting a holiday food-drive to brighten the upcoming holidays for the City's underprivileged senior citizens.

Collections already are pouring in to support the food drive and people interested in supporting the drive have until Dec. 14 to drop off a wide-range of fresh, canned and boxed items at the Perris Senior Center, 100 North D Street.

The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day.

"This is a wonderful effort and we are so proud of our Youth Advisory Committee for stepping up and helping out our needy seniors," said Perris Senior Center Recreation Leader Jessica Munoz. "They are a great group of young adults who are interested in helping our City in any way they can."



Perris Youth Advisory Committee Members Aasiyah DeAndrade, Viviana Pavon-Cortes and Jacqueline Reliford are pictured with Perris Senior Center Recreation Leader Jessica Munoz, who is helping coordinate the food drive to assist underprivileged Perris senior citizens.

Munoz said the Senior Center is accepting a wide assortment of donated foods—turkey, ham, gravy, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, stuffing, butter, hot chocolate, yams, salads, pies, soups and pasta. Boxed and canned foods and beverages also are part of the food drive.

YAC members Aasiyah DeAndrade, 16, Jenna Owens, 16, Viviana Pavon-Cortes, 16, and Jacqueline Reliford, 15, are spearheading the collection drive, which to date has collected more than 700 cans and packages of food and \$300 in cash. Those funds will be used to purchase turkeys and hams.



Perris Youth Advisory Committee Member Jenna Owens sorts canned food collected to aid senior citizens through the holiday season.

The teens solicited donations from markets, schools, and civic groups and announced the food drive at its recent open-mic night. Major contributions came from a Boy Scout troop and Enchanted Hills Elementary School.

Jenna said she had collected food for the underprivileged with her church and her dad's motorcycle.

"You never know when you might find yourself in need," she said. "I like helping people who are less fortunate."

Aasiyah said she was more than pleased at the response to the YAC effort, a result of the hard work the teen-agers put into mounting a successful event.

"When you put in the effort, you get an amazing response," she said.



Perris Youth Advisory Committee Members Aayisah DeAndrade, Viviana Pavon-Cortes and Jacqueline Reliford take a break from sorting canned goods collected to brighten the holiday for underprivileged Perris senior citizens.

Viviana said she excited and happy with the community's response to pitch in for the needy.

"It's amazing to see how much we've collected and how well the community has responded," she said.

Jacqueline said she is pleased that residents young and old, adults and school children, businesses and civic groups joined together to brighten the holidays for deserving Perris residents.

"It's nice to see everyone helping out," she said.

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