



Perris Press Release

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Holiday Harvest Helps Those in Need

Perris officials once again pitched in to make an early Thanksgiving dinner a special treat for families struggling to beat homelessness and regain their self-sufficiency.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and City Councilman Mark Yarbrough joined other members of the March Joint Powers Commission in distributing turkey and all the trimmings to the residents who gathered at the Joint Training Center near March Air Reserve Base.

The property is controlled by the March Joint Powers Commission, which is charged with providing direction about how land belonging to the former March Air Force Base is redeveloped after the facility was downsized in the 1990s.

The 7th Annual "Holiday Harvest" provided a highlight for residents housed in Joint Powers Commission property—U.S. Vets, Lutheran Social Services and Path of Life Ministries.

Those programs provide education, employment and housing assistance for people trying to escape homelessness. More than 250 people enjoyed the feast. Clowns and face-painting provided entertainment for the children.

Busch and Yarbrough are long-time volunteers at the holiday feast and say they look forward to brightening the lives of people affected by long-term unemployment.

"It was a very nice time, a very good turnout," Mayor Busch said. "It's an opportunity to have someone who has gone through a misfortune to have a nice dinner. You can see how much they really appreciate it."

Yarbrough said many of the people living in the shelters hold down jobs, drive cars and want to return to independent living. But many have lost jobs and fell behind on the rent or mortgage and are forced to live in the shelter until times improve.

"They have been knocked down almost to the bottom," Yarbrough said. "It's a good feeling to be able to spread some holiday cheer."

Moreno Valley City Councilman Bill Batey joined the Perris team in distributing food at the feast.

"Helping people who are in need and want to help themselves is something you never get tired of doing," Batey said. "I am pleased to be able to take part in such a great program."



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch serves turkey to some deserving families during the 2010 Holiday Harvest at the Joint Training Center near March Air Reserve Base.



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough dishes out salad while volunteering at the Holiday Harvest in 2010.