

THE TRUMPET

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PARKLAND FEEDS ALLENTOWN

by Mark Walsh

This March marks the 4th annual Parkland High School canned food drive. For the last four years, Parkland has been donating cans to the Second Harvest Food Bank, which is a warehouse collection center of all donated foods. The food that is sent here is forwarded to distribution centers around the Lehigh Valley, benefiting any family in need.

This year, the Parkland School District has donated 15,796 pounds of food, or almost 15,000 cans. This food will provide at least 10,000 meals to families, some of which are in the school district themselves. The rest of the food will be sent around the valley to small food banks such as soup kitchens, churches and women's shelters. Some of these distribution centers are located in Schnecksville, Orefield and Northwestern.

The Second Harvest Food Bank started in 1982 out of the back of a rented truck in Philadelphia. This organization has since



Volunteers sort food at Troxell before moving it to the Allentown Food Bank.

grown to feeding over 60,000 people a year and distributing 4 ½ to 5 million pounds of food a year. Second Harvest has also joined "Feeding America," a government program out of Chicago which assigns places like Second Harvest



photo courtesy of Parkland SD

Parkland's student and staff volunteers visit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

to a specific area. Their warehouse, which receives and sends out trucks full of food each day, is a total of 18,000 sq. ft. and holds around 800,000 pounds of food at any given time. Donated food normally is sent to centers and given to families within the next week after donation.

Second Harvest strives to help anyone in need. Director Ann McManus, who has been in charge for 11 years, tells *The Trumpet* that, "any person should not be embarrassed to ask for help." She says that, "regular mothers and fathers who have been working for 20+ years are

being hit hard by the economy, and many are afraid to ask for help."

While Parkland is their number one donation source from schools, they receive help from other schools and companies as well. Kraft and Nestle local plants donate over 2 million pounds of food a year, which range from produce to candy. Many schools in the Lehigh Valley donate large portions, from public schools to private schools of small enrollments. Grocery stores are another big contributor, giving all money donated from shoppers at check out to the food bank in store credit. Top grocery store contributors include Weis, Giant and Wegmans.

One new program created by the Second Harvest is the Backpack Program. This program benefits elementary students who sometimes do not eat meals over the weekends. The donated items include peanut butter, cereal, juice boxes, granola



photos by Mark Walsh

Parkland volunteers learn about the operations of the Food Bank.



Parkland High School Student Council students unload the trucks bound for the Food Bank from the High School.

bars, helpings of fruit, vegetables and cans of Chef Boyardee. These items are easily preparable meals for kids who may not have the proper parental help in making meals.

For the future of Second Harvest, it can only be seen as promising. Within the next two months the warehouse will see a new cooler that will double the current amount of cold storage space. They hope to start a Fresh Food initiative, which will store dairy products that will be given to food distributors within three to five days.

The Second Harvest Food Bank and its average twenty employees as well as constant volunteers are doing an amazing deed to the community, feeding as many people as they possibly can. Parkland High School looks forward to the continuation of gratuitous donations of canned goods.

A LOOK INTO LCTI

by Dolly Malik and Aaron Spikol

Contrary to popular belief among Parkland students, a lot goes on at LCTI.

While most Parkland students sit silently at desks, patiently taking notes as a teacher lectures on subjects like math and history, a small but significant portion of their fellow students are pursuing another, more hands-on form of education. These students attend Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI), one of the largest technical schools in the country, where students can study anything from cosmetology to welding in state of the art facilities that often resemble their real life professional counterparts. Whereas the average Parkland student spends most of his or

her time in classes meant to prepare him or her for core classes in college, which in turn may be just preparation for further schooling, students at LCTI spend most of their day learning specific, career-related skills. These are meant to help them become certified in their respective fields and in the process often cutting out extra years of schooling and allowing students to get jobs right out of high school. The Parkland *Trumpet* was lucky enough to spend a day at LCTI, visiting classes and talking with its students and teachers.

Parkland High School has about 2,500 students that attend LCTI, including AM students, PM students and full day students. AM LCTI students go to the auditorium in the morning instead of the first period classes other students attend. There, they listen to the announcements and proceed

outside to board the buses to LCTI.

Upon reaching LCTI, students go to their designated labs, which is what classrooms are called for the different career exploration. Just like PHS, LCTI has different wings for the different careers students can explore. Among those labs are cosmetology, auto technology, commercial photography, culinary arts, health related technology and masonry.

As in a regular class, teachers teach students, but unlike classes at Parkland, students are given large assignments for the day that they usually have to complete before lunch, which is the end of their time in the lab for the day. Most of the work they do during a school day is hands-on work such as preparing food, fixing cars or graphic design on computers, depending on the lab and level.

Within each level there are a number 'competencies,' or lessons, which must

be mastered for the student to move up a level. Competencies come in the forms of both memorized knowledge, such as facts learnt out of a textbook or on a computer, and the ability to perform hands-on work. With as many as seventy students in a lab, and usually no less than thirty or twenty-five, the teacher's time is scarce, with students thus expected to pursue learning independently, with older students helping younger ones. In general, students progress at their own personal rates, with teachers administering tests once a student is ready. Between all four levels of a lab there can be hundreds of competencies that a student needs to learn, ranging from being able to correctly label the various surfaces of teeth in the dental technology program to being able to quickly and efficiently change a flat tire in the automotive wing. Besides

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