

Organizers ready for annual Thanksgiving outreach
Pat Kimbrough
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High Point Enterprise

HIGH POINT – Those without the means for a Thanksgiving meal will have a place to go thanks to a holiday tradition in High Point.

Organizers of the outreach effort expect 3,800 to 4,000 meals to be served Thursday. Some of the free meals are served at Carter Brothers Barbecue and Ribs, while volunteers also make deliveries to local shut-ins, homeless and others in need in the greater High Point area.

“It’s open to everybody – just come in, sit down and be served, no questions asked,” said pastor Steve Ervin of His Laboring Few Ministries, the primary organizer of the effort. “We’ve got a lot of things prepared already. We’ve got over 400 turkeys so far. (Tonight), we’ll start fixing all the dressing, beans and everything that goes with it and start preparing the plates to go.

“It looks like everything is coming together well.”

Ervin, who is joined in the effort by local Realtor Ed Price, Carter Brothers and hundreds of other volunteers, said demand is expected to be high not only for the Thanksgiving meal but for the free meal that is also provided on Christmas.

A total of about 9,000 meals are expected to be prepared and served for both days at a cost of around \$35,000.

“As soon as Thanksgiving is over, we start planning for Christmas and looking at what’s needed,” Ervin said. “Sometimes, we have some supplies that are left over from Thanksgiving that we can use, but usually, we have to start with the same needs as Thanksgiving – everything from turkeys and things for the rest of the meal to monetary help. The need starts over.”

Organizers expect 300 to 400 volunteers to help with the meals. There are typically fewer volunteers who participate on Christmas, so Ervin said there may be a need for assistance on that day.

pkimbrough@hpe.com | 888-3531