

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STAFFORD'S PIER RESTAURANT DELIVERS 54 THANKSGIVING DINNERS**

**Harbor Springs** – Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs spearheaded the delivery of 54 turkey dinners to neighbors in need throughout Emmet County on Thanksgiving Day.

The idea for this charitable program began five years ago by a regular patron of Stafford's Pier Restaurant who would donate a turkey dinner and ask that it be given to a local family in need. It began as a company initiative in 2004, and the program has grown from one family to fifty four families in five years. This year, Toril Fisher, Executive Director of "Farming For Our Future at Pond Hill," along with Lynne Irving and the group "Community of Peace" produced art work to send along with the delivered meals.

The program this year began an even greater effort. Stafford's Pier Restaurant Managers Carol Parker and Lindsey Walker worked with Kathy Hart, Executive Director of The Manna Project, to coordinate those in the community that could benefit from the program.

"Without the generosity of our neighbors and friends, this program would not be possible. From those who donated monetarily, and those that worked on the production and delivery aspect of this program, it is truly a community effort," said manager Carol Parker. "The gratitude of the recipients was overwhelming. During these difficult times, it is important to show care and concern" added Walker. Carolyn Sutherland, who has delivered with her husband Jim and daughter Ami Woods since the inception of the program added "it is gratifying to our family to be able to volunteer in this capacity. This is a wonderful way for a family to celebrate together." For more information, please contact Stafford's Pier Restaurant at 231-526-6201.

Pictured here is Brian Ewbank, Managing Partner for Stafford's Hospitality and Toni Gramzay, wife of Gerald Gramzay, Corporate Chef for Stafford's.

Stafford's Hospitality owns and operates four northern Michigan landmark properties: The Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs, The Perry Hotel and Bay View Inn in Petoskey and The Weathervane Restaurant in Charlevoix. Stafford's Hospitality has been in business since 1961.

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