



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005

CONTACT: DUDLEY MARVIN, PRESIDENT

PHONE: 231-347-4000

E-MAIL: DUDLEYM@STAFFORDS.COM

STAFFORD'S PIER RESTAURANT MAKES SUCCESS OF THANKSGIVING "NEIGHBORS IN NEED" PROGRAM

Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs spearheaded the delivery of 27 turkey dinners to neighbors in need throughout Emmet County on Thanksgiving Day .

The idea for this charitable program began by a regular patron of the Pier Restaurant who would donate a turkey dinner each year and ask that it be given to a local family in need. The restaurant would then locate a suitable family and deliver the dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Two years ago, a second patron was solicited by the original donor and additional conversation on the idea lead to the Stafford's Neighbors In Need program.

Officially begun as a company initiative in 2004, the program helped to deliver 24 turkey dinners throughout the area on Thanksgiving Day, 2004.

2005 began an even greater effort. Pier Restaurant Sous Chef Laura Vaughn was instrumental in finding some of the families through her reserve work with the Harbor Springs Police Department, as well as her involvement in the Harbor Springs School. Gabrielle Sansone, the Pier Dining Room Manager, also contacted Lutheran Child and Family Services, as well as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Christ Child Society and Holy Childhood Church. Through combined efforts, 27 families were provided a complete turkey dinner, delivered to their home on Thanksgiving Day. Turkeys were paid for by the donations of local patrons.

"We can only hope our numbers will increase in the years to come," said Pier Restaurant Events Coordinator, Jody Ewbank. "As a team, we were thrilled at the phone calls we received from community members who were willing to donate their time in our kitchen, or on the road delivering these dinners. The program only reiterates to those involved how fortunate we are, and what we take for granted, especially during the holiday season."

END