



Donations help fund free meals

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YREKA -- Just a week ago, the situation looked hopeless.

Food was running out at the Greenhorn Grange Hot Meals Program and there would be no FEMA money to buy more for at least four months.

A plea went out to the community in the form of an article in the Siskiyou Daily News Nov. 13. Since then, literally thousands of dollars in donations have poured in.

"I'm overwhelmed," said Sally McClain, bookkeeper for the hot meals program. "It's all I can do to contain myself."

Almost immediately after the article ran, McClain said she received a call from Larry Stidham of Stidham Trucking in Yreka, saying he would pay \$400 per month for the next four months to keep the program running. This is the amount McClain estimated the program would need to stay in operation.

Many more also responded, with donations ranging from \$5 to \$2,000 coming in.

"I've received a lot of calls," McClain said. "In fact, the calls were coming in so fast I started wearing my phone all day. Even the little community church in Big Springs gave \$250, which is incredible."

According to McClain, the food for the hot meals program is primarily funded through FEMA. However, funding has dropped from \$7,500 per year to only \$2,000 per year.