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Fresno State Students Respond to Food Theft

(FRESNO, Calif.) – While stealing lunches typically might be an elementary school problem, Wesley United Methodist Church found itself a victim of a neighborhood bully when lunches were stolen yesterday, ruining what was to be a dinner tonight, Aug. 16, for El Dorado Park children.

But Fresno State students, with a “little” help from Me-n-Eds, hope to save the day for the church’s weekly Basecamp program community dinners that utilizes student and community volunteers.

Wesley Church planned to serve dinner to El Dorado Park children at 5 p.m. but on Wednesday the back door was found pried open and the hot dogs and popsicles stolen leaving no food for the dinner.

“The loss was not just the food most of which was donated,” said Vickie Healy, pastor of Wesley Church. “The greater loss is the time it takes out of our day to tend to the repairs of the doors and locks and the regrouping for planning and shopping for the food. We will not give up or give in because of this kind of vandalism and theft.”

To give the church time to repair damages and ensure a meal for the local youth, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) stepped in. ASI arranged with Me-N-Ed’s to provide tonight’s meal and is calling on student volunteers to help as part of community revitalization efforts.

Thursday, Aug. 16 at 5 p.m., Fresno State students will be serving 25 Me-N-Ed’s pizzas to local youth in the Wesley United Methodist Church, Fireside Room located at 1343 E. Barstow Ave.

“Fresno State students act as role models and are creating relationships with the youth in the El Dorado Park who are the future of Fresno State. This makes both our community and our university stronger,” said Arthur Montejano, ASI president.

According to Healy, the student’s help came at the perfect time.

“We are so grateful to the Fresno State volunteers for stepping in to help with dinner tonight. It felt like angels swooped in,” Healy said.

Last year nearly 400 students volunteered over 1,600 hours in community revitalization efforts surrounding the Fresno State campus.

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ASI is a body of elected student representatives that encourages student involvement in campus-wide decisions and funds student programs. As the student government we ensure that students’ rights are protected and their voices are heard.