

Community Collects Food For Ronald McDonald

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
 BEDFORD (Bedford Co) — Bedford County businesses and high school FFA groups united to deliver three pickup truckloads of food and \$300 in cash donations for the "Operation Checkout" Day for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey.

February 9 was chosen as the annual checkout day because this is the 40th day of the year. According to the Department of

Agriculture, the United States has the lowest food-cost world wide spending an average 10.9 percent of its income on food. This compares with 51.4 percent spent in India.

Ronald McDonald Houses are supported mainly by donations and provide housing for families when they need a home away from home because children are receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals.

Participating in the Bedford



FFA members attending the ceremony, from front left, are Amy Clouse, Nick Smith, Brett Bowser, Jenny Sweinhart, Courtney Ripple, Amanda Cessna. Back from left are Amy Snyder, Andy Clark, Jason Mowry, Jerome Bollman, and Matt Marshall. All of these students belong to NBC FFA.



Dale Thomsen, a local farmer, talks about the wonderful hospitality he and his family received at a Ronald McDonald House.

County effort were Bedford Farm Bureau Coop, First American Banks in Everett and Woodbury, Mid-State Bank in Loysburg, Agway in Curryville, Manns Choice Grocery and Hollidaysburg Trust in Martinsburg.

Farm Bureau women, Brenda Over and Jenny Turner, were at Giant Eagle on January 29, taking donations.

Groups collecting donations included: Boys Scouts of

Clearville, NBC, FFA, and Chestnut Ridge FFA.

An entire pickup truckload was donated by Everett IGA.

Speaking at a special ceremony held on the square in Bedford was Dale Thomsen, a local farmer who used the Ronald McDonald house at Hershey.

"Our infant daughter was diagnosed with a serious heart condition and had to be life-flighted to Hershey," Thomsen told the group. "Without the Ronald McDonald House, there is no way my wife, our son and me could have stayed in Hershey. Those people were wonderful. I cannot say enough

good about them.

Thomsen asked the group to save the aluminum tabs off pop cans because these are collected by the Ronald McDonald Houses. The aluminum is sold and goes far in helping to support the organization. To find out more about this project contact Thomsen or one of the Ronald McDonald Houses.

Other speakers at the ceremony included: Brenda Over, Bedford County Food Check-Out Day coordinator; Norman Sollenberger, Bedford County Farm Bureau president; and Dick Rice, Bedford County Commissioner.

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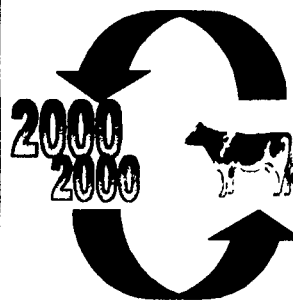
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