

Hunger from page A11

ing their bills," said Kozlowski, development director for the Baldwin Soup Kitchen.

Like other food distribution sites, the Baldwin Soup Kitchen relies heavily on food donated by the Food Bank of Oakland County to pull its holiday basket program through the year.

This holiday season, the Food Bank hopes to collect enough canned and non-perishable food to fill three trailers during its 12th annual Marathon For Meals food drive, hosted by former WLLZ radio personality Bob Bauer, Nov. 29-Dec. 20 in the Northwood Shopping Plaza parking lot on 13 Mile and Woodward Avenue.

"We're very excited about it over year," said Kozlowski, who expects to get enough food to warehouse until baskets are made for next year's Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Jim Macy, food bank executive director, expects a strong turnout at the marathon site where sponsoring radio stations, including WDFN, WKQI and WWWW, will broadcast live to urge donations. In addition to the trailers of food, Macy hopes the event will raise the \$125,000 goal, which is earmarked for food distribution purposes. Donors can contribute on-site or by calling Ticket Master at 645-6666 to charge a donation. About \$80,000 was raised last year.

Food from the marathon will be donated to about 100 emergency food distribution groups in Oakland County, including soup kitchens, pantries and shelters.

"Our mission is to alleviate hunger in Oakland County by collecting and storing and distributing donated food to a network of 100 emergency food providing organizations," said Macy, who cited that 64,000 people in Oakland County live

below the poverty level; 40 percent of them are children.

Food Bank fund raiser and board member Gary Dembs said the marathon helps expose hunger in Oakland County.

"When you look at Oakland County, most people don't look at that population and say there's a hunger problem," Dembs said. "We've been able to establish through Marathon For Meals something that's put the spotlight on hunger."

The Food Bank also donates goods for

other holiday food drives during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

The Lighthouse in Pontiac is packaging Thanksgiving baskets for thousands of needy families this month. Baskets are filled with three days worth of food, including a turkey or a gift certificate for a turkey; fruits and vegetables; and pasta and bread. The Salvation Army in Pontiac is in charge of this year's Christmas basket program.

Various grocery stores, including the Shopping Center Market, Kroger's, Hol-

lywood Market, Nino Salvaggio and Westborn Market, are also sponsoring "Check-out-Hunger" this month and next month. The program allows shoppers to pick up a \$1 coupon in the checkout line and have it added to the grocery bill. The \$1 is then donated to the Food Bank.

To volunteer to assist at the Marathon For Meals site or with packaging at the Food Bank, call (810) 332-1473.



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLNAR

Helping Hands: Lake Orion High School students (from left) Blair Richards, 17, Jamie Trimm, 17, and Katie Champine, 17, recently received a tour of the Oakland County Food Bank. During the visit, the trio helped pack a few food baskets for needy Oakland County area families.

Wish lists of needy

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

For some Oakland County residents, food, clothing and shelter will be the greatest gifts you could give them this holiday season.

As the weather turns colder, community donations will make the difference for the homeless and poor who would otherwise do without these life sustaining gifts.

If you are thinking about contributing to the poor and homeless this holiday season, here's a list of some organizations that serve Oakland County area residents, their functions and locations, and what items they are in need of this year.

To help needy county residents enjoy the holidays, donations are being accepted at:

American Red Cross/North Oakland Regional Office: Provides disaster relief assistance through food, shelter and clothing to victims of house fires and other disasters. Also provides health training courses and collects, processes and distributes blood and blood products to hospitals.

Monetary donations are especially needed for the disaster relief program during the holidays when house fires are on the rise. Checks can be mailed to American Red Cross, 2388 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303. The Red Cross also collects blankets for the homeless which can be donated between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Fridays. For more information, call (810) 334-3575.

Baldwin Church and Cen-
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