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Concord

Holiday food basket project gets blessing

About 70 tons ready for delivery

By RAY DUCKLER Monitor staff

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Father Anthony of St. Peter's Church in Concord gave his blessing yesterday to kick-start a good cause.

The local church leader, joined by Gov. John Lynch and Senate President Sylvia Larsen, blessed the volunteers, the donated food and the needy as part of the Capital Region Food Program's annual holiday food basket project. The weeklong project provides nonperishable food items for 2,100 families in Concord and 17 surrounding communities.

Tori Berube, publicity chairwoman for the Capital Region Food Program, said 5 tons of food was donated by the public, and an additional 65 tons was purchased by her organization. The food, stored at the New Hampshire Army National Guard facility in Concord, will be boxed by categories, then boxed again for each family before delivery.

"Today we spent the time building boxes," Berube said.

Food will be delivered Tuesday and Wednesday, with the following two days reserved for emergency deliveries upon request from any of the 30 social service agencies partnered with the program. Food left over by Dec. 26 will be given to the agencies to stock shelves.

Donations came from across the age spectrum. Concord High students gathered 4 tons of food, while folks at Havenwood Heritage Heights, a local retirement home, collected 2,000 cans of nonperishable food items.

"They volunteered as kids, and now they come back and they bring their kids or they bring their grandchildren," Berube said. "It's really a fabulous time of year."

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