

## Chamber Gives Back to Community Members in Need

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is proud to once again provide holiday food baskets to families and neighbors in need this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Gerry Wiles Food Basket program was able to provide 100 food baskets distributed at the chamber office to local families this holiday season in addition to donating to local food pantries.

The holiday food boxes including a turkey with all the trimmings and dessert for a family were prepared by four Chamber member grocers: Food City, Hannaford, Tranten's Market and Walmart. The food baskets were distributed at the chamber office to families who had completed applications. In addition, the chamber will make donations to all nine Franklin County Food Pantries to help them meet the season's demand. The money donated to the Care and Share Food Pantry in Farmington and the Wilton Area Food Pantry will be doubled through a matching grant. This food pantries are able to make this money go even further by purchasing food at the Good Shepard Food Bank where every dollar spent there by the pantries equals four meals for families in need.

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone who contributed to this cause including: Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice, Angela Pinkham, Ann Crafts, Azulene Day Spa, Bangor Savings Bank, Becky Davis-Allen, Bee Line Cable, Calzolaio Pasta Company, Central Maine Orthopaedics, Charles & Juanita Crafts, Chrissy & Dave St. Laurent, Coca-Cola of Farmington, County Seat Realty, End of the Rainbow, Farmington Emblem Club, Foothills Management, Franklin County Children's Task Force, Franklin Printing, Franklin Savings Bank, Franklin-



Somerset Federal Credit Union, Friends of Wilson Lake, Glenn Kapiloff, In Memory of Keith Newhall, Katharine & Joshua Wojcik, Larry Karno, Main-Land Development Consultants, Mills & Mills Attorneys, Norman & Leona Leavitt, Otis Federal Credit Union, Patricia Ridley, Paul Mills, Platinum Tanning, Renee Whitley, Rob Elliott Excavation, Senior Planning Center, Skowhegan Savings Bank, Steve & Cheryl Bunker, Susi Pearson, Tents for Rent, The Wiles Family, Turner Publishing, United Insurance Shiretown Agency, Western Maine Wireless, Western Mountain Financial Services and Wilson Lake Inn. In addition, the Franklin Memorial Hospital cafeteria's annual Meal for a Meal raised funds to support the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's Gerry Wiles Holiday Food Basket Program.

In this season of giving, the chamber is grateful to all who support the food basket drive which allows us to help so many of our community members.

## Chester Greenwood Day Event Winners

A clear, sunny day and bigger-than-ever crowd donned in earmuffs made for a successful 41st Annual Chester Greenwood day on December 2. With this year's theme being "Favorite Childhood Toy" parade participants went all out in designing fun and colorful floats showcasing everything from Legos and Hot Wheels to Barbies and Tonka Trucks. The first place parade winner in the adult category was University Credit Union followed by RSU 9 in second place and Barclays in third. Girl Scout Troop 486 came in first place in the youth category with Franklin County Children's Task Force in second place and Mallett School in third.

Several bright and imaginative gingerbread houses were submitted for the Franklin County Chamber's annual Gingerbread House Contest with Patti Toohaker taking first place and Robin Belcher in second for the adult category. Winning first place in youth was Natalie McCarthy and in second place Paige White.

The second year of the Taste of Farmington event was a success with seven local restaurants participating in the event providing samples for visitors. This year the People's Choice award winner was The Roost whose tasting sample showcased their macaroni and cheese with shredded pork. The Franklin County Chamber wishes to thank all who participated in the Chester Greenwood Day festivities and to the volunteers who help to make this year's event a successful and fun day.



Girl Scout Troop 486, Youth Category



Univesity Credit Union, Adult Category



Patti Toohaker Gingerbread House

## The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome our newest members.

We continually strive to connect you to one another and to the community at large. Please visit their website and stop by to say hello.

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