



All Things Ignatian



Holiday Spirit Community Outreach

A Creighton Tradition in Giving since 1992

What began as a Christmas food drive has become an annual holiday outreach at Creighton University, providing help to those in need from Thanksgiving to New Year.

The Holiday Spirit Project has its roots in the University's annual Christmas food drive -- a grassroots effort that began around 1985. Through this effort, employees donated food for local pantries during the University's annual Christmas luncheon. Along with monetary donations, it's a practice that continues today. In 2011, Creighton employees donated more than \$1,100 and 325 food items during the luncheon in support of the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter.

While holiday outreach is nothing new at Creighton, in 1990, Creighton President Michael G. Morrison, S.J., asked Creighton employees to commemorate 450 years of Jesuit education worldwide by helping 450 needy individuals in the Omaha metro area. That total was more than doubled, as 31 departments provided assistance to 1,000 needy individuals.

Food Drive

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Collection of food donations and money. Rick Davis and Joleen Richwine December 2011.

In 1992, the first "Christmas Spirit" committee was established. The main focus of the committee was the same as today: to coordinate outreach service programs and connect employees with those in need.

Donations to the project have varied over the years, from helping an elderly couple with home repairs to providing a family with a Thanksgiving meal.

Holiday Outreach

Through the "Holiday Spirit Project," faculty, staff and administrators at Creighton are reaching out, in a coordinated effort, to those less fortunate in the community. The response has been tremendous.

In 2011, nearly 70 departments, divisions and offices provided assistance to hundreds of individuals through some 40 different agencies and families.



Photograph of some of the food, personal and paper products collected in 2011.



Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.