



NAM NOTES

15555 Kuykendahl, Houston, TX 77090 www.namonline.org 281-885-4555

December 2005

Community helps make gala a success

The seventh annual Jeans & Jewels ... A Texas Size Party raised more than \$380,000 for Northwest Assistance Ministries' programs that provide food, medical access, school supplies, education and assistance to individuals and families in need throughout the area.

More than 800 community leaders, volunteers and supporters gathered at The Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel for dinner and dancing, live and silent auctions, and the drawing for a diamond and sapphire necklace.

"The success of this year's Jeans & Jewels gala and the tremendous support the community has shown for the event is truly astounding," said Carole Little, Please turn to Page 4

ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services adds \$25,000 to gala

Raleigh and Kim Jenkins, owners of ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services, served as a Jeans & Jewels gala partner benefiting Northwest Assistance Ministries' Meals on Wheels program with a \$25,000 sponsorship.



The gala is NAM's largest fundraising event and proceeds benefit NAM's programs and services. ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services has "adopted" NAM's Meals on Wheels program with its contribution. UHY Mann Frankfort Stein & Lipp Advisors is a top gala supporter with a \$25,000 sponsorship.

This year's Texas Size Party was a



NAM helps evacuees weather the storm

Hurricane evacuees crowded NAM's lobby for weeks seeking emergency services. With the help of volunteers and tremendous support from the community, NAM provided emergency food, clothing and gift cards as well as information on shelters, food stamps, federal and state assistance, jobs and medical services. NAM also offered internet access through the Rotary Learning Center. More information and photos are on pages 2 and 3.

great success and generated more than \$380,000 to help fund NAM's social service programs. The Jenkins and ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services have been active in the community for several years and have raised more than \$250,000 for NAM over the last nine years.

"We want to give back to the community where we live and work and NAM really makes a difference in peoples' lives," Jenkins said. "NAM also is one of the most efficient organizations I've ever seen. They keep controls in place and get the most out of donations so the money goes to help people who need it.

"The Meals on Wheels program does

so much with so little that providing the program with a boost was an easy decision. The staff and volunteer drivers help so many seniors and physically challenged people with meals that directly impact their lives and health."

NAM Executive Director Carole Little said ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services has been a good friend of NAM for many years.

"We appreciate the Jenkins' support and their recognition of our work and operating efficiency," she said. "NAM strives every day to be good stewards of the resources we receive and to have a positive impact on the community. We will continue our efforts of meeting basic human needs with respect and dignity."

NAM, community rally to help hurricane evacuees

They came at first a few at a time seeking assistance beginning Monday, Aug. 29. They were families who had left Louisiana before Hurricane Katrina hit.



By Tuesday, it was evident, the numbers were growing. By Wednesday, NAM staff members had put a plan in place, and by Thursday, hurricane evacuees

were coming in by the hundreds. Each one was grateful for a place that didn't turn them away, appreciative of any help or information they received and all were in various stages of grief and bewilderment. Many lent a helping hand as they waited, and some came back each day to continue to help.

At the end of the first phase of emergency relief in October, NAM provided over 8,200 individuals with food and clothing valued at more than \$391,900 and with gift cards valued at \$25,470. NAM also provided such things as bedding, underwear, hygiene items, toys, books, medical supplies and medical treatment which are not included in those totals.

Scores of NAM staff members and hundreds of volunteers accomplished what seemed to many observers an insurmountable task. NAM staff members tirelessly took on tenfold their normal workload and in many instances devoted their off time to help their neighbors in

need. Volunteers who wouldn't have been anywhere else worked side by side with us, many working day after day to help us. What's even more amazing is that all of NAM's regular programs and services kept their doors open to continue to serve Houstonians in need. Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 27, volunteers logged more than 6,100 hours. Additional

volunteers worked at NAM's storage units and temporary warehouses sorting donated clothing and other items. Volunteers in our regular programs are not included in the total hours.

The generosity of this community and the fact that area residents chose NAM as the organization they trust to ensure the resources get to the people who need the help is a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence of our staff and volunteers.

Faith-based organizations like NAM are able to act as first responders during a time of great need through the strength and support of our Covenant Congregations, business Community Partners, and Service Partner organizations as well as the community at large.

I sincerely thank our supporters for choosing to support NAM not only now, in this time of tremendous need, but throughout the year. Your contributions really do change lives for the better at NAM.



Volunteers worked in NAM's Food Pantry every day sorting donations and preparing emergency bags of food for hurricane evacuees. Other volunteers continued to serve NAM's regular clients.

Over the last several weeks, I have heard many a grateful individual say they can feel the love and spirit of caring when they walk through NAM's doors.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have gone the extra mile, for stepping up to the plate and making a difference to all that come through our doors. For many staff and volunteers, the volume of daily tasks was overwhelming and I sincerely appreciate the hard work and effort put forth. Your light shines bright.

NAM has put a long term plan in place to assist our neighbors affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to get back on their feet. We are now in the process of raising the necessary funds because we can expect the folks who are now seeking assistance with food and clothing to later become folks needing assistance with furniture, housewares, school supplies, jobs, permanent housing, counseling, childcare and more.

We appreciate your continued patience and support as we rise to face new challenges and put solutions in place.

Sincerely,

P.S. To donate to NAM's Hurricane Relief effort, call 281-885-4608 or visit our website, www.namonline.org.

NAM Hurricane Katrina/Rita Emergency Relief Summary

People Served	8,253
Volunteer Hours (through Sept. 27).....	6,128
Total Food Distributed	\$103,459
Total clothing	\$288,480
Total Gift Cards	\$25,470
Total Value of Distribution	\$417,409
Hurricane Relief donations (Foundations & Businesses Partners).....	\$370,736

Hurricane relief effort touched many people



Community residents were extremely generous and donated large quantities of clothing and household items, upper left. Spring and Klein ISDs conducted drives to benefit evacuees and here, Spring buses dropped off items. Donations eventually reached to the ceiling of NAM's Second Chance Resale Shop, center left, and filled warehouses. Volunteers helped sort clothes so evacuees could redeem NAM vouchers for needed items. The business community was also generous. Above right, Aramco Services representatives donated a new van for hurricane relief on behalf of the Saudi Arabian people. NAM's Carole Little accepted the keys. The Saudi people also donated 500 calculators. Little presented, center, the calculators to SISD's Peggy Garrett and Klein ISD's Cindy Doyle, right, for evacuee children entering the schools. NAM provided a number of services including a 'jobs board,' lower left, and internet access though the Rotary Learning Center.

Sidelines with Sarah Who will be Santa for hurricane evacuees' children?

*By Sarah Fisk
NAM Volunteer Assistance Counselor*

After I heard about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, I then watched as the evacuated families huddled together on one cot.

The eyes of the children looked dull with sadness. Where were the toys? The day after Katrina slammed onto shore, I met families who needed food not just for themselves, but for the other family members who were now living with them. One family housed nine evacuated relatives; another had 13 extra people living in their small apartment. How will these people feed their families?

Within the families there were many children who had been displaced from

their homes, children who had been taken away from their best friends and familiar neighborhoods.

Now that the Katrina evacuees are moving into permanent housing, searching for jobs, and beginning to give their children the stability of routine, there may be no money for Santa to visit. Who will be Santa?

As we enjoy our own holiday celebrations, let's remember the Thanksgiving/Christmas program at NAM.

Don't we want all families to have food for the holidays? Don't we want all children to be comforted with a new toy at Christmas? Don't we want the eyes of all children to twinkle with joy?



**Northwest Assistance
Ministries
15555 Kuykendahl
Houston, TX 77090**

NAM Notes is the newsletter of Northwest Assistance Ministries. NAM Notes is published periodically throughout the year.

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www.namonline.org
281-885-4555

Gala proceeds help fund NAM programs and services

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NAM Executive Director.

“No organization operates alone in the world, and during the past 12 months natural disasters from the tsunami last December to hurricanes just weeks ago have placed unprecedented demands on charitable organizations. Given the level of need throughout the larger world community, we are truly grateful for the support our community has continued to show NAM.”

Ron and Karla Hickman and Fred and Susan Caldwell chaired the Jeans & Jewels Committee, and the gala honored the 10 congregation's that founded NAM in 1983: Congregation Jewish Community North, Cypress Creek Christian Church, Hosanna Lutheran Church, John Wesley United Methodist Church, Kinsmen Lutheran Church, Klein United Methodist Church, Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Plymouth United Church (U.C.C.), St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, and Wildewood Baptist Church.



The top sponsors were UHY Mann Frankfort Stein and Lipp Advisors; ABC Pest, Pool and Lawn Services; Houston Northwest Medical Center/The Tenet Foundation, Ultra Petroleum Corporation, the Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group, the Watson Family Foundation and Administaff.

Jeans & Jewels ticket, table and raffle sales throughout the summer help fund NAM programs during a traditionally



Mentie Cochran with the quilt she made and donated to the gala auction.

slow time for donations. The success of Jeans & Jewels means NAM can serve people who might otherwise go without assistance.

The raffle featured an 18-carat, ladies diamond and sapphire necklace donated by John Wren of Shannon Fine Jewelry & Watches.

Event highlights included nine bidders who agreed to donate a total of \$33,000 to support NAM's Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program that helps homeless families become self-sufficient. Kim and Chuck Watson donated time at their vacation home at Cabo San Lucas and the winning bid was \$26,000. Mentie Cochran spent hundreds of hours making a quilt by hand and she donated the quilt titled "With A Dream a Heart Can Soar" to the auction to benefit NAM. The winning bid for the quilt was \$7,000.

“We're thrilled that so many people came out and had a great time, while lending invaluable support to help their

neighbors in need,” said Jeans & Jewels co-chair Susan Caldwell. “It's inspiring to see the dedication that so many people have toward affecting positive change in our city.”

The enthusiastic response to NAM's appeal for help is no surprise to Paul Mueller, who is a shareholder with top corporate sponsor UHY Mann Frankfort Stein & Lipp Advisors, Inc.

“Once you understand what NAM is all about, it makes perfect sense,” Mueller said. “NAM welcomes members of all faiths who desire to do God's work by helping to care for their fellow men and women. And they accomplish this in an efficient, business-like manner, while also effecting permanent, positive changes in the lives of those they assist. At UHY Mann Frankfort Stein & Lipp, we believe that NAM is an organization worthy of significant support.”

Other community businesses and individuals who helped make this event possible through major sponsorships and contributions included Continental Airlines, The Houston Chronicle, Linda & Harlan Martens, HCC Insurance Holdings, Jackie & Pat Riley, Lynn & Osama Mikhail, Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc., Tom Fuller & Rick Bobigian, Senator Jon Lindsay, Memorial Herman Healthcare System, State Farm Insurance/Sue & Tom Stewart, The Crump Foundation/Margie & Rick Crump, Valerie vonBerg, TGS-NOPEC Geophysical, and Louise & Steve Slater.

Continental Airlines Vice President Jim Stevens said, “Our family has been volunteering at NAM for several years, and it's helped us to understand that anyone may need help eventually. Life's circumstances can change so unexpectedly. I've always been impressed that NAM puts nearly 90 percent of every dollar directly towards program services. That's important.”

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole, past event honoree and annual event supporter, pointed out that the live auction items alone raised

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NAM Programs and Services

Assistance Office	281-583-5600	Second Chance Resale	281-880-9000
Children's Clinic	281-885-4630	Corner Resale Shop	281-885-4544
Development	281-885-4608	Senior Services	281-885-4600
Donations Hotline	281-885-4545		
Family Violence Center ..	281-885-4673	Other agencies at NAM	
Interfaith Hospitality Net..	281-885-4567	Harris County Social Services..	281-885-4591
Meals on Wheels.....	281-885-4622	Harris County Hospital District.	281-587-8596
Rotary Learning Center...	281-885-4616	American Red Cross.....	281-885-4563
NAM Resale Shop.....	281-897-8952	Even Start.....	281-586-1888

Gala, luncheon and celebration were successes



The Jeans & Jewels...A Texas Size Party involved a Luncheon and Style Show, a Congregation Celebration and the gala. Above, from left, Justice of the Peace J. Kent Adams, County Commissioner Jerry Eversole, state Rep. Peggy Hamric and Constable Ron Hickman enjoy the gala. Hickman was also a co-chair. Above right, clergy from NAM's supporting congregations proceed into the Centrum of Cypresswood Christian Church for a special service honoring NAM's founding congregations. Below left, co-chairs Karla Hickman, left, and Susan Caldwell relax at the gala. A new feature this year, unveiled at the luncheon was a cookbook. Lower right, book chair Connie Stick, right, and former Jeans & Jewels co-chair Jackie Riley check out the book at the luncheon. The cookbooks include recipes from NAM staff members and volunteers along with a few family stories about the recipes. The books are still available for \$20 from NAM's Development Department.



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over \$73,000.

Numerous government and community leaders also attended the event, including Eversole, State Senator Jon Lindsay, State Representative Peggy Hamric, Harris County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace J. Kent Adams and Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman

Judge J. Kent Adams said he considers NAM to be a valuable community resource. "As a judge, I see many tragic situations involving women and children who face difficult problems," Adams said. "One resource we frequently suggest is NAM, where they can find temporary shelter, training, and other services for the kids. NAM has helped a lot of people learn how to help themselves."

Co-chair Constable Ron and Karla Hickman said, "Many families, women, and kids need help. The community must work hand in hand with government to absorb some of these activities. NAM does just that. At Precinct 4, we are glad to lend support to community efforts any way we can."

NAM's Little praised the work of Jeans & Jewels co-chairs Fred and Susan Caldwell and Constable Ron and Karla Hickman, noting that "the funds generated by Jeans & Jewels will enable NAM to assist literally thousands of families who find themselves in a daily battle to make ends meet."

Art for the Hungry registration begins; 'Texas' is this year's theme

Registration is now open for Northwest Assistance Ministries' Art for the Hungry Project March 5 through March 19 at Willowbrook Mall.

The unique food drive kicks off NAM's Survival Over the Summer Project and involves youth clubs, organizations, churches and businesses in an interesting competition to build innovative sculptures with non-perishable food items. The sculptures are then displayed at the mall. After the competition, the food goes to NAM's Food Pantry.

Art for the Hungry participants commit to building a sculpture from a minimum of 1,000 non-perishable food items which they collect or buy. The food items represent the entry fees for the event and go to NAM's Food Pantry after the event.

"Art for the Hungry helps ensure that children who receive free or reduced price meals during the school year have nutritious meals throughout the summer when school is not in session," said Carole Little, NAM Executive Director.

The 2005 theme is "Texas." For information or to register, call Alisha Roberts, 281-885-4608, or visit www.namonline.org.

FVC changes names, adds counseling services

NAM's Family Violence Center (FVC) has changed its name to the Family Violence and Counseling Center (FVCC) to better reflect the services it provides.

The FVCC is dedicated to providing crisis intervention and long-term support services to families experiencing abuse in their homes as well as providing therapeutic services to families faced with the stresses of day-to-day living. The expansion in services has been gradual over the last two years.

"The need for increased mental health services is one that NAM has recognized for about 2 years," said Donna Amtsberg, FVCC Director.

In June 2003 the FVC applied for and received a \$22,000 United Way Kid's Way Grant as seed money to start children's counseling. Since that time, the FVC has been able to maintain the children's services and enhance those services with additional part-time therapists. The FVC staff saw the need and received funding that supported children's therapeutic service within the Interfaith Hospitality Network for homeless families.

"A year ago, I started offering therapeutic services, part-time, to adults throughout NAM, not just FVC clients," Amtsberg said. "We recognized that the

need for counseling services truly was felt throughout the building. That need was reflected in the 2004 NAM Needs Assessment, and our own experiences with clients. The idea came about to expand the Family Violence Center to offer counseling services to people outside the Family Violence Center program, and with that we have the Family Violence and Counseling Center."

The core services of the FVCC will remain the same regarding domestic violence, however the therapeutic services will include:

- Adult therapy (domestic violence and non-domestic violence related)
- Children's counseling
- Art and/or Play Therapy
- Adolescent counseling
- Family counseling (long-term goal)
- Increased Educational programming (parenting, domestic violence education, etc.)

Clients will be referred from other NAM programs or clients can contact the FVCC directly. The FVCC has a 24-hour hotline, 281-885-HOPE (4673) or toll free at 888-750-HOPE (4673).

NAM Executive Board adds two members

The Northwest Assistance Ministries Executive Board has added two new members, David L. Jones and Thomas J. Forestier.

Mr. Jones is Senior Vice President, Community Hospital Operation for Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. Mr. Jones joined MHHCS in April 2003. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, and a Masters of Business Administration from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Mr. Jones has served on the boards, committees and task forces of numerous civic and professional organizations including the American College of Health Care Executives (Houston Chapter), Boy Scouts of America, University of Texas Medical Branch School of Allied Health Services Advisory Council, Texas A&M Healthcare Advisory Board, American

Red Cross, and Utah Hospital Association.

Thomas J. Forestier is with The Woodlands office of Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C. as a Shareholder in the Firm's Litigation/Dispute Resolution Practice Area. While attending the University of Texas, Mr. Forestier earned a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering and he earned his law degree in 1987.

Mr. Forestier also has served as a vice president and a member of the Board of Governors of the Houston Golf Association, the official promoters of the Shell Houston Open. Appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, Mr. Forestier is a life member of the Texas Union Advisory Council. He also serves on the Advisory Committee of the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance.

NAM Statement of Activities for the 12 months ended 9/30/2005 (Preliminary, Unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues	\$8,611,100
Total Expenses	\$8,409,917
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$201,183*

*net effect of Hurricane Relief Effort approximately \$287,000

Good Buys Do Good Deeds Shop at NAM's resale shops

NAM Resale Shop
FM 1960 & Hwy. 249 near Fiesta
281-897-8952
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. - Sat.

Second Chance Resale Shop
2580 FM 1960 West.
281-880-9000
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. M, T, W, F & Sat
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thurs

Corner Resale Shop
15555 Kuykendahl, first floor.
281-885-4544
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fri.

*The money you spend helps fund
NAM's programs and services*

Consider these ways to help NAM

• **Time** - The greatest gift is the gift of self. Volunteer orientations are offered twice a month, except December and July.

• **Memorials and Honorariums** - A great way to let someone know you care.

• **Donate to NAM's Resale Shop** - A new or used vehicle, clothing, furniture and other items can help.

• **Donate stock** - Transfer stocks to NAM and designate their use for general operations or a specific program.

• **Adopt a senior** - A gift of \$46 a month provides lunch six days a week for a senior in need.

For information, call 281-885-4608.

Weinberg's endowment match expires Dec. 31

Time is running out for donors to maximize their contributions to NAM's Building Maintenance Endowment Fund.

The Weinberg Foundation's grant offer to match dollar for dollar all contributions for the endowment fund up to \$500,000 is scheduled to expire Dec. 31. Contributing toward this grant effectively doubles the value of any contribution.

To make a donation, please call 281-885-4607.

Gift cards for businesses benefit NAM

NAM has agreements with some area businesses to receive a portion of the funds from purchases made with Gift Cards.

These Gift Cards can be purchased from participating congregations, NAM's Corner Resale Shop or NAM's Business Office and can be used for purchases at Luby's, Kroger's, Randall's, and Foley's.

Program participants also

can link their Randall's Remarkable Card at the Service Counter to NAM's ID number (515) to identify NAM as the user's designated non-profit beneficiary.

The Gift Cards buy the same amount of food or merchandise as other forms of payment, and NAM makes a few dollars.

For information, call Tony Gibbon at 281-885-4581.

Recent grant awards

Aramco Services Company
Banana Republic
The Brown Foundation
Burlington Resources Foundation
City of Houston Mayor's Office
Crump Foundation
Cullen Trust for Healthcare
Discount Tire Co., Inc. Foundation
Edwards Charitable Trust
Episcopal Diocese
Ray C. Fish Foundation
Frees Foundation
Feinstein Foundation
Hamill Foundation
Hand Foundation
Henley Foundation
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Foundation
Houston Endowment

Josten's Foundation
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Charles and Linda Manley Family Fund
John P. McGovern Foundation
McIntosh Foundation
Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
Prudential Foundation
Radio Shack
Rockwell Fund
St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities
Tenet Healthcare Foundation
United Way
United Way of Essex & West Hudson, New Jersey
Valero
Verizon Wireless
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NAM's Wish List

Development Department

Television capable of playing DVDs
Laptop computer, 600MHz or higher with 128 mb of memory and a CD ROM drive

Food Pantry

Nonperishable food items to replenish the pantry
Cash Donations gratefully accepted

Assistance Program

Overhead Projector
Digital Camera and software for computer
Paint, supplies and labor to paint the offices
Portable fans
Two-drawer file cabinets
Copier with coallater/reducing features
Floor heater
Heavy duty stapler

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Fold up baby play pen
Maternity clothes
Toiletries
Griddle
Pillows

Fifty Plus Senior Center

Van drivers
Ride-along volunteers to help the drivers on Wednesday and Friday mornings
Back up bingo caller
Old jewelry, costume jewelery, mismatched earrings, etc. for craft projects

Family Violence & Counseling Center

Office-size paper shredder

Resale shops

Mannequins
Bicycle rack
Rolling racks
Shopping carts
Volunteers
Water cooler

Rotary Learning Center

Desktop copier/fax machine
Two classroom wall clocks

New or gently used children's books for the waiting area

Building Maintenance

500 square feet of carpet padding
160 feet of tack strips
3-3 foot z bar or reducer strips to install donated carpet.
Indoor/outdoor carpet
Commercial floor mats for Fifty Plus
Tile or carpet for FVCC hallways
Tile or carpet for 2nd and 4th floor hallways
More ceramic tile is needed
Poly strapping machine

Children's Clinic

Spanish Children's books
Spanish speaking volunteers
Volunteers with a willingness to help others!
Table scale
Stadiometer
Braun Thermo Scan (Need 4)
Electronic thermometer (need 4)
Rectal probe thermometer (Need 4)
Prove covers for the above mentioned thermometers (10 cases per year)
Child blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 10)
Adult blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 10)
Large Adult blood pressure cuff with bulb and valve (Need 2)
Welch Allyn Otoscope/Ophthalmoscope Kit with teaching head

Meals on Wheels

Copy machine
Volunteer drivers
DocuPen R70
Digital Camera
Portable Scanner
Cell Phone with Minutes

You can do great work by making a bequest in your will to NAM. Call 281-885-4608 for information.

NAM contributors can now donate online. Visit NAM's web site and click on the "Give Online" button.



Holiday Project seeks volunteers and donations

NAM depends on community support to help give our neighbors in need the gift of joy during the Holiday Season and NAM is again calling for donations and volunteers.

NAM will provide food baskets to more than 1,000 families and gift bags to more than 3,500 children in north and north-west Houston through its Holiday Project.

“Providing food, gifts and holiday hope for our neighbors in need requires a lot of support,” said Lynn Mikhail, NAM Assistance Program director. “It takes a big group of volunteers to do the Holiday Project effectively.”

Volunteers assist with distributing food, sorting and filling toy bags, stocking Food Pantry shelves and filling grocery bags. The Assistance office asks only that volunteers be at least 16 years of age.

NAM needs donations of holiday food such as canned fruit, stuffing, brownie or cookie mix, canned peas or carrots, canned soup, tuna, cereal, jello or instant pudding, macaroni and cheese, canned meat items such as chili, ham and salmon, dried beans and turkeys. NAM’s goal is to provide families with not only a turkey or ham, but enough food for three to five days of meals so the holiday food has a meaningful impact on a family’s holiday.

NAM also needs donations of unwrapped toys and age appropriate gifts for children ranging from babies to 18 year olds. “We are asking people to please *not* wrap donated gifts

because volunteers have to unwrap them so they can be sorted based on the age of the child receiving the gift,” Mikhail said. For gift suggestions, visit NAM’s website at www.namonline.org.

Cash donations also are always appreciated because donated funds enable NAM to purchase food and gifts that might not be donated. For information on donating or volunteering call NAM’s Holiday Coordinator at 281-885-4555, extension 3914.

Year-end donations offer tax benefits

Tax season is around the corner and now is the time to take advantage of potential year-end savings with a tax-deductible donation to Northwest Assistance Ministries.

NAM can accept cash, stock, vehicles, “wish list” items and food as well as gently used items for its resale shops.

For information call Alisha Roberts at 281-885-4608 or visit www.namonline.org, NAM’s website.

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