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St. Ann's teacher gets into spirit of Thanksgiving

Ruth Campbell
Midland Reporter-Telegram



She was chosen the person students would most like to see in a turkey costume as part of a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry dubbed Feathers for Food. In its inaugural year, \$800 was collected.

St. Ann's Catholic School teacher Lesley Pagano is the biggest turkey.

She was chosen the person students would most like to see in a turkey costume as part of a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry dubbed Feathers for Food. In its inaugural year, \$800 was collected.

At the same time, students collected 500 food items for the charity.

"We should be able to supply lots of food for people who would be doing without," Pagano said.

For Feathers for Food, youngsters had three contestants from which to choose -- two teachers and a parish priest. Pagano, now in her 19th year at the school, won the honor.

"It was just a friendly competition," said Pagano, whose birthday falls on Thanksgiving this year. "I got a lot of votes because of that."

Her costume was inflatable and featured a fan inside. She had a little trouble navigating the stairs.

"It was really great fun. The little ones were a little timid and the older ones wanted the lollipops I was passing out," Pagano said.

She will have to cook for her family -- and she is making turkey, which she will now view with love.

Each year at this time, she misses the birthday cake.

"They don't give me birthday cake when they're making pumpkin pie," she joked.

On the serious side, St. Vincent de Paul Society President Kevin Harrington said the agency would not be able to stock its shelves without help from private donors such as the Boy Scouts and St. Ann's Catholic School.

The agency is open twice a month and serves 10-15 families during those times. It also helps pay for utilities for needy families. When donations are received, Harrington said the funds are used to buy food.

"We can't operate unless we have private donations from either the school or Boy Scouts. ... Oftentimes the school is how we stock our shelves," he said.

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