

gram and meal. The menu will include turkey with raspberry glacé, roasted autumn vegetables, cornbread dressing, and pumpkin cheesecake bars for dessert.

Call Jennifer Snyder at 712-464-4214 to make reservations by Thursday, Oct. 31.

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By **LARRY DEVINE**  
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Ah, the sounds of the season. Dozens of motorcycles roaring down Carroll streets Sunday afternoon, Oct. 6, was a sure sign that Christmas is just around the corner.

Enjoying the sunny weather with mid-60s temps, the motorcyclists participated in the annual Christmas Toy Run organized by Harley-Davidson of Carroll.

The parade route started at the store on Highway 30 East and traveled through Graham Park, west to Quint Avenue, north to 18th Street,

east to High Ridge Road and returned to the store, where riders were treated to a chili lunch.

Entry fee was at least one new toy or game per rider, and those donations were given to New Opportunities' Carroll County Family Development Center for distribution to low-income households with children from newborns to 14-year-olds.

In addition to the riders' donations, a number of parade spectators contributed gifts, collected in a vintage pickup truck trailing the cyclists.

The ride traditionally brings in a generous load of gifts for New Opportunities, and this year was no exception, said Terry Ruchti, of Harley-Davidson of Carroll, who led the riders on the parade.

"This is always a good time to bring people together, and the donation we give to New Opportunities is always good, so it makes you feel good," Ruchti said. "We just enjoy doing it. We know our customers enjoy doing it, because they always come back to participate, rain or shine, but today was a beautiful day to ride."

Surveying the collection of gifts — footballs, basketballs, toys, games, dolls and stuffed toy animals — sitting in front of a lineup of cycles in the store's showroom, Ruchti said, "We're going to help somebody have a good Christmas. That's what it's all about, help somebody who needs a little help. ... It's just that giving



**A 1951 Ford F100 trailed the Christmas Toy Run riders to collect gift donations from parade spectators.**

back. It always feels good."

The ride attracts more than Carroll-area motorcyclists; some come quite a ways to participate. For instance, David and Amber Rausch noted that the distance was 107 miles from their home in Omaha, Nebraska, to Harley-Davidson of Carroll, as they participated in their third Toy Run. The Rausches this year made the ride both a Christmas and Halloween event. David, in bovine costume, and Amber, dressed as a green dragon, rode a 1981 Honda Goldwing and 1996 Yamaha Virago, respectively.

"It's lots of fun and helps a good cause," Amber said

of the ride, adding, "It's fun to ride through the neighborhoods and see the kids and grown-ups smiling and waving."

The Rausches rode to Carroll along with longtime friends Jim and Lisa Haubrich of Council Bluffs, who traveled together on a Kawasaki Vulcan. Jim Haubrich has family in the Arcadia and Maple River areas.

New Opportunities recently began the application process for households with children to receive gifts, according to Kristina Grossman, Family Development Center coordinator.

Grossman said of the Toy

Run, "We always really look forward to their event, not only because it brings awareness, but it's a fun event to go out and see everyone come together as a community and really support families that don't have the means to have a good Christmas without using our program."

The need is even bigger this year, as New Opportunities is expanding the gifts program to children as old as 14. Previously the program served newborns through 10-year-olds, but another local program serving older children was discontinued, so New

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