

and the third Monday of each month being a regular board meeting. **Onica Ulveling**

EXTRA EFFORT FUND Donations assist community residents facing array of needs

Times Herald staff

From child care and education programs to helping local residents struggling with food, medical and transportation needs, contributions to the Times Herald's annual Extra Effort Fund have made a major difference over more than three decades.

To date, Extra Effort has received more than \$410,000 in donations. Assistance has been provided through dispersal of funds to many local agencies.

The 34th annual Extra Effort campaign has kicked off, and checks made payable to "Extra Effort Fund" may be mailed to the Carroll Times Herald, 508 N. Court St., Carroll, Iowa 51401.

Most recent recipients have been New Opportunities, Head Start, Carroll Community of Concern, RSVP, Carroll Area Child Care Center, Breda Day Care, Lil' Wildcat Education Center in Glidden, Manning Day Care, Carroll Summer Fun Camp, and Family Resource Center.

Following are highlights of how some of the recipients have used funds:

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND HEAD START

"It's such a huge help. There are so many people — low-income families, young families, retired folks — who benefit," New Opportunities CEO Chad Jensen said. "Some projects we would not have been able to do otherwise. There's no other funding for some of these things. The only way we could have helped out these families is through the Extra Effort Fund."

Jensen said Extra Effort has helped New Opportunities and Head Start purchase backpacks, books and other education supplies, sensory toys and children's safety car seats.

New Opportunities has helped families pay some of the cost for a washer or dryer so families can do laundry at home instead of having to travel with children to a laundromat.

"Another big thing is auto repairs," Jensen said. "There are no funds, no grants or anything to help with auto repairs. A lot of our low-income families, in order to get to or from work, of course they need to drive. We're able to help them with that so they can continue to work, and that's what we want. At New Opportunities we want people working. We want them to be in the workforce and doing what they need to do



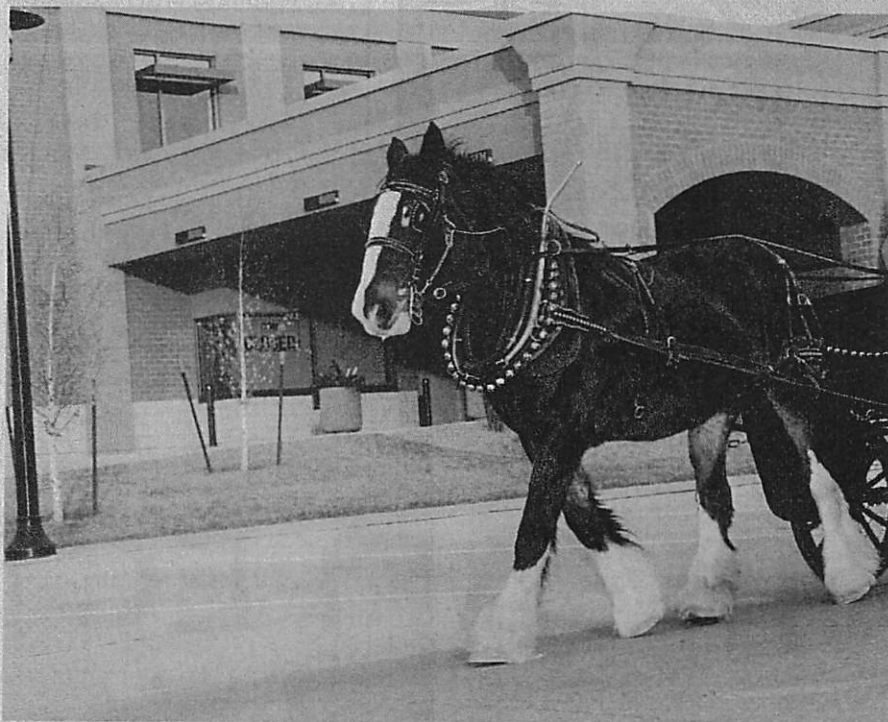
The Christmas season got off to a merry and bright start with Carroll Chamber of Commerce Professionals hosting a decorations-lighting program Friday night at the Depot Plaza. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made their grand arrival on a Carroll Fire Department truck, and children and adults plus a couple of their elves and special-guest costumed characters gathered to view the Depot Plaza's Christmas decorations, and the crowd then sang carols. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus then moved into the Harold Bierl Community Room, where they listened to children's Christmas songs. Pictured with Santa and elves are (from left) Paxton (6), Isla (3) and Ryland (4) and Makinse Nichols of Carroll. The elves are Carver and Minden Lueth, children of Carroll's Christmas celebration will be featured in a future edition.



Santa returned a high-five with some visitors.



Ellie Wiederin, 14, of Carroll, Ankeny, and Santa Claus.



Rides in a Cinderella vis-a-vis carriage pulled by a Shire draft horse driven by Tom provided Saturday afternoon. Rides began in front of the Carroll Chamber of Commerce Plaza on Fourth Street before returning.

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LOANS

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like the ACLU and NAACP and debt cancellation advocacy groups such as the Debt Collective and Student Debt Crisis Center.

MULTIPLE EXTENSIONS

The Trump administration implemented the pause on student loan repayments due to the coronavirus pandemic and the Biden administration has extended it multiple times.

A federal appeals court issued a nationwide injunction that barred the Biden administration from carrying out its student debt relief plan following the challenge by the six GOP-led states — Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas and South Carolina.

The Biden administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to vacate the nationwide injunction.

"The Eighth Circuit's erroneous injunction leaves millions of economically vulnerable borrowers in limbo, uncertain about the size of their debt and unable to make financial decisions with an accurate understanding of their future repayment obligations," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar wrote in the filing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Looney previously was a senior economist for public finance and tax policy with former President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, and was an economist at the Federal Reserve Board.

"It's like a tax cut," Looney said of student loan borrowers who would qualify for debt relief.

SECOND LAWSUIT

The Biden administration stopped accepting applications for student debt relief following a second decision from a federal judge in Texas who separately ruled the program was unlawful.

In Fort Worth, U.S. District Judge Mark Pittman, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, ruled that the program was an "unconstitutional exercise of Congress's legislative power." He ruled in favor of two borrowers, backed by a conservative advocacy group, who brought the challenge.

The Department of Justice has already filed an appeal to that ruling.

Pittman wrote in his opinion that "[w]hether the Program constitutes good public policy is not the role of this Court to determine."

Sabrina Calazans, the outreach director at the Student Debt Crisis Center, said prior to Tuesday's announcement that the Biden

DONATIONS

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for their families, but sometimes it hits them wrong and they don't have the money, so it's a huge help."

Jensen said New Opportunities is seeing more need than ever.

"Our food pantry is busier than it's ever been," he said. "We're having new families every day come in and ask for help from our food pantry. The great thing about New Opportunities is we have a lot of programs we can offer our clients, but we're all about resume-building. We're all about helping people get back on their feet and get back into the job market. We want our programs to help clients for just a few months to get them back on their feet. And sometimes the Extra Effort Fund is a great piece of our services because it helps families get off our programs quickly and get back into the workforce."

COMMUNITY OF CONCERN

Community of Concern Director Roxie Reinart said that agency has been adhering to Extra Effort's intent of paying for needs not covered by government programs.

Reinart cited the situation of a man with a fam-

any donations that I can use for those programs so we can keep them going.

They're beneficial to the community, and the volunteers benefit from them, too, especially Pen Pals. If you're a volunteer who has limited mobility, it's a program you can do and give back, because you can do it from home."

She added, "I can't say enough how our community does so much for so many organizations. It just benefits us when we're able to help each other."

Speak Up! serves students about 330 fifth graders in the following schools: Carroll Community, Kuepper Catholic, Glidden-Ralston, IKM-Manning, Schleswig and St. Rose of Lima Catholic in Denison. Pen Pals serves about 160-180 third graders at Kuepper Catholic, Glidden-Ralston, Ar-We-Va, Boyer Valley, Schleswig and St. Rose of Lima.

BREDA DAY CARE

Breda Day Care is looking into remodeling its preschool classroom and toddlers' area and expanding capacity. The day care, which opened in 1990, is providing care for eight children 18 months old or younger, 10 2-year-olds, five 3-year-olds, two 4-year-olds and six school-age children (5 through 9). The day care

LIL WILDCAT EDUCATION CENTER

Lil' Wildcat Education Center in Glidden celebrated its grand opening in October.

The one-story, wood-frame center houses six classrooms (infants, 1-year-olds, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-through-6-year-olds, and after-school and summer programs) six restrooms, a kitchen, a laundry room and a mechanical room.

The center is open Monday through Friday year-round and can serve up to 60 children, infants through 11-year-olds. Programs include a 3-year-olds' preschool. The center is located just north of Glidden-Ralston School, making it convenient for parents to drop off and pick up children!

CARROLL SUMMER FUN CAMP

Dozens of children every year participate in Carroll Summer Fun Camp, an education-based summer day camp led by teachers and is designed to integrate children with an autism diagnosis into a population of typical peers.

"People with disabilities, just having something to do, a routine, is really important to them. Also, as far as preventing academic regression over

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