

# DAILY NEWS NEWS

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LOS MOLINOS >> The Tehama County Community Action Agency was able to serve both the two- and four-legged members of the county's families through a partnership with PETS at a Tailgate Food Giveaway held Friday at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Los Molinos.

While the two groups have worked together at events like Lift Tehama, a November event that aims to serve the low-income and homeless population by offering several services in one location, this was the first time partnering at a food giveaway, Providing Essentials for the Tehama Shelter — PETS — Vice President Ronnie Casey said.

"It's very exciting," Casey said. "We were delighted to join the giveaway. It was very successful and the people were amazing. We had roughly 150 to 200 people that we served. We didn't expect to have as many show up for the pets portion of the giveaway."

The food was provided by PETS through a donation from the Walmart Distribution Center, which occasionally takes bags it cannot sell and gives them to the organization.

"The Walmart DC has been exceedingly generous," Casey said. "When they have a product they cannot sell they tape it up and set it aside. When they get enough they give us a call and we pick it up and hand it out. This is the third time they've done it."

The group gave away about 1,000 pounds of food at about four pounds per person with a few getting a limited amount of canned food available as well, Casey said.

When a donation is received, PETS normally collects the food and gives some to the shelter, local rescue organizations and directly to pet owners at events such as Lift Tehama. The hope for next year is to be at Lift Tehama on Nov. 13, as well as Tailgate Food Giveaways in Red Bluff, Los Molinos and Corning.

While PETS will not be able to join the Community Action Agency for its third giveaway scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 4 at New Life Assembly Church, 660 Solano St., in Corning.

Donations to PETS of food or money to go toward medical expenses of shelter animals are always welcome. For information call 528-8702.

On the human food side of the event, there was a great variety of food items given away through a partnership between the Butte and Tehama community action agencies, North State Food Bank and Food Link, said Community Services Supervisor Mike Baldwin.

"Just today we estimated there was 20,000 pounds of food given out needy families. We had 22,000 pounds given out in Red Bluff earlier this year."

Items given out included zucchini, cucumbers, kale, onions, chopped sweet potatoes, several varieties of lettuce, watermelon, corn, broccoli, cauliflower, canned olives, and a variety of bread. The produce primarily came from local farmers through the Donate, Don't Dump program that allows farmers to find a use for extra produce on their hands, Baldwin said.

This is the third year the Tailgate Food Giveaway has taken place in Los Molinos and the fifth year it has been in Tehama County. The program is meant to serve as a supplement to meals in order to help low income and homeless Tehama County residents stretch their budget while being able to provide fresh, healthy fare to them, Baldwin said.

"We have a great crew of volunteers and we couldn't do it without them," Baldwin said. "We had 19 people from the community today who love serving it."

The group served about 300 people. If you estimate each person in line as representing a family of at least three, that means the reach of the program is about 900 people, with food received lasting about three or four days, Baldwin said. One woman, who was third in line, told volunteers she had been waiting in line since 6:45 a.m. The line stretched the length of the parking lot to the furthest tree opposite the entrance.

The event included a group from Tehama County Public Health that put on an educational display regarding nutrition.

For information on Tehama County Community Action Agency events, visit [www.tehamacountycaa.org](http://www.tehamacountycaa.org).

## Tehama County Community Action Agency partners with PETS in food giveaway



Tehama County Community Action Agency Community Service Aid Lisa Dannaker, left, assists a man in getting bread at the Tailgate Food Giveaway Friday in Los Molinos. Julie Zeeb - Daily News