

A Beautiful Thanksgiving
November 22, 2012

By Ann Waller

It was a busy but orchestrated scene at the Lathrop Senior Center as volunteers from the Lathrop Christian Center helped Rotarian Steve Dresser prepare the vegetables and turkey for his famous turkey soup. The soup has become a signature first entrée to the full-course Thanksgiving meal provided by the Lathrop Sunrise Rotary Club. As the pots of soup simmered, others were setting-up the tables, placing colorful cornucopia centerpieces on the tables, and the sounds of John Tesh's movie themes played in the background. Meanwhile, at Sierra High School in Manteca, Rotarian Bob Gleason and his crew of volunteers were picking-up trays of baked turkeys and the rest of the main course to be served on this exclusively American holiday, Thanksgiving.

Shortly before eleven o'clock, guests began arriving and took their seats. Many of the families were returning guests from last year and it was gratifying to see the familiarity of the community as they began conversing with one another. After the club's President Tyler Silva's brief introduction and invocation by Bob Gleason, Lathrop High School Rotary Interact students began serving the guests.

This year, Rotarian Cheryl Arrington brought fresh flowers and supplies to make corsages for the women. She taught Interact students how to make corsages and soon the beautiful corsages were delivered to the women guests. Another treat for the women were basic manicures done by the Interact students. Many women were delighted in the simple nail polish services and with personal conversation, the students seemed to know how to make it a little more special for the women.

With the wonderful volunteers and donations coordinated through Jeff Liotard of Manteca Sunrise Rotary and the Second Harvest Food Bank, the club was able to serve about two hundred dinners. This included the take-out dinners that were delivered to the families that were unable to come to the center. No doubt the ambience of the senior citizen's center added to the family dining-room intimacy of the event and with personable service, it was truly a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner shared by all who participated.