

# Youth center celebrates



**Bill Boland, Rich Negri and Fr. Lou Brown dish up Thanksgiving dinner at the Corning Area Youth Center Wednesday in Corning.** [ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER]

## Kids and families turn out for annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Corning Area Youth Center on Wednesday

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CORNING - Eight-year-old Jayden Rodriguez and his brother, eleven-year-old Jacob Rodriguez, each said the food at the 16th annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Corning Area Youth Center was fantastic.

The two just disagreed about what the best part of the meal was.

"I liked the mashed potatoes," Jayden said.

"No, I think the turkey was the best," Jacob said.

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**Dick Pope, Frank Muccini and Phil Palmesano hand out parts of Thanksgiving dinner at the Corning Area Youth Center Wednesday.** [ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER]

# YOUTH

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More than 100 kids, parents and community members gathered Wednesday to bring the kids, who often use the Youth Center, together with family members to celebrate a Thanksgiving-style

dinner.

Nine-year-old Owen Starner said he didn't know what part of the Thanksgiving Day dinner he thought was the best. The meal offered mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, green beans and of course, turkey.

"The turkey maybe, it was really good," Starner said. "But it all was."

For dessert, various pies

and cakes were served, and all the kids in the large crowd really seemed to enjoy the dessert.

Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, executive director of Family Service Society Inc., said the event continues to grow each year.

"This event really incorporates the parents and family members," Ayers-Friedlander said. "And I

think the little decorations made by staff members and the kids look wonderful."

Lee Tuma, a 14-year-old, said he likes to hang out at the Youth Center, which he and many kids do daily, because he gets to spend time with friends.

The Youth Center staff provides the 15-25 kids that come after school every weekday with free math and science tutoring and food.