

A THANKSGIVING TRADITION



Chris Karam, Bill Boland, Sal Trentanelli, Rich Negri and Mark Ryckman serve up Thanksgiving dinner to area youths and their families at the Corning Area Youth Center Tuesday in Corning. ERIC WENSEL PHOTOS/THE LEADER

Corning families, officials gather for turkey, trimmings

By Jeffery Smith
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CORNING | More than 100 kids, parents and local community leaders gathered Tuesday at the Corning Area Youth Center's 14th annual Thanksgiving Day dinner.

"This type of events brings everyone together," said Carly Cushing, Youth Center director. "It's been great."

Sal Trentanelli, Youth Center board member and Corning's police chief, said the annual event continues to grow each year.

"This is the biggest crowd I've ever seen at the Thanksgiving Day dinner," Trentanelli said. "It great for the kids, the families and the community leaders to get a chance to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner together."

Mayor Rich Negri was one of the many volunteers serving dinner.

"This is fantastic," Negri said. "We do it every year, and I love it. It's one of my favorite events."

Eleven-year-old Danielle VanDemark, a Corning-Painted Post Middle School student, has been visiting the Corning Area Youth



Katie McConville, coordinator at the Corning Area Youth Center, brings a basket of apple pie out of the kitchen during the annual Thanksgiving dinner Tuesday evening.

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Assemblyman Phil Palmesano dishes out the green beans at the Corning Youth Center Tuesday evening at the annual Thanksgiving dinner. ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

of the kids, but I don't know most of the parents," Smith

said. "So I met more people today."

Robin Foster, executive director of Family Service Society Inc., said the Youth Center staff, several volunteers and contributors helped make the event a

success.

"This is the biggest crowd I've seen at this event," Foster said. "I think the kids love to come here and the parents and local officials love it, too."

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

Marylou Stead, Youth Center chef, prepares 12,000 meals and snacks for children each year.

The Thanksgiving Day dinner included mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, green beans and of course, turkey. For dessert, various pies and cakes were served, including apple pie.

