

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

This year's third annual Feed My Starving Children mobile packing event begins in Imperial next Tuesday, July 23.

The event will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Crossroads Wesleyan Church, 1710 Wesley Drive in Imperial. It will run through Saturday night, July 27.

Dick Banks of Imperial, chair of the event, said they expect the truckload of food to arrive Monday. They will set up that night with packing to begin at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

Banks said his committee set a goal of packing at least 500,000 meals again this year. Last year, volunteers packed a total of 520,992 meals.

The cost for each meal is 22 cents so Banks said they need to raise \$110,000 to cover the cost of the event. He said there is about \$10,000 remaining on a \$30,000 \$1-for-\$1 matching grant. He has no doubt the grant will be matched and the necessary funds raised.

"God will provide the needed funds," he said. "We're doing his work."

Banks often looks to Matthew 25:40 for inspiration: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

All volunteers welcome

Banks said they will always take any and all volunteers who want to help pack food.

He said there are four two-hour shifts each day. With the exception of the first shift Tuesday, shifts run from 12-2 p.m.; 2:30-4:30 p.m.; 5-7 p.m.; and 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Last year, they added a 10 p.m. to midnight shift on one night. This year they are adding those shifts on both Friday and Saturday nights. On those days, the 12-2 p.m. shift will not be held.

People can call committee members to sign up for a particular shift or they can just show up.

"We can always find something for them to do," Banks noted.

The easiest way to sign up for a shift is to go FMSC's web site at www.fmsc.org, Banks said. Once there, click on the "Locations" tab or "MobilePack," and then click on the "MobilePack Events" link to find the Imperial event.

There, people can sign up individually, for a family or group. People can also make donations to the event online.

If donations are made on the website, donors should note event No. 1307-39 to ensure donations go to the Imperial event.

For more information, to volunteer or inquire about donations, people can contact Banks at 308-883-0397 or any of the other committee members.

They include James Marlatt at 308-882-6386, Paul Hickman at 308-414-1407 or Rhonda Hickman at 308-414-1406.