Rev. Kim and Jane Kerchal from the United Kingdom took time during their visit to Wauneta to volunteer at Mercy Meals. They are shown standing next to two of eight pallets of food ready to be sent to people in need throughout the world.

57,600 hungry people will

benefit from meals packaged

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska just finished their busiest week to date.

Last week, volunteers packaged roughly 30,000 meals bringing their total number of packaged meals up to 57,600.

Over the past month volunteers from Imperial, Hayes Center, Palisade, Hamlet, Wauneta, McCook and South Wales, United Kingdom, have been busy getting these meals ready for shipment at the Mercy Meals building in Wauneta.

“Things are really going great for Mercy Meals,” said Pastor Greg Stuckwisch, a volunteer and board member with the organization.

The organization has been fortunate in that people have stepped forward to volunteer their time and made financial donations too, enough to purchase enough food to package another 60,000 meals.

Rev. Kim Kerchal and his wife, Jane, of South Wales, United Kingdom, volunteered their time to help package meals during their visit to the area. Both had nothing but good things to say about the efforts they witnessed at Mercy Meals in Wauneta.

Rev. Kerchal noted, “I think it’s amazing what’s happening here at Mercy Meals.”

In early December the Orphan Grain Train will come to pick up the packaged meals and drop off supplies to make another 60,000 meal packages.

The food packaged is highly nutritious and carries a cost of only $0.10 per serving–which includes food and packaging materials.

“We can feed 100,000 people for only $10,000,” said Pastor Stuckwisch. A donation of $10 would purchase the food and supplies needed to provide 100 meals.

Get involved

Mercy Meals is currently looking for volunteer groups or individuals to help package the food that will arrive in early December.

Those interested in signing up to volunteer or wishing to make a financial contribution can do so by calling Pastor Stuckwisch at 308-350-0243, Laurie Kerchal at 308-350-0975 or Mary Haarberg at 308-883-6761.

Volunteering at Mercy Meals is a family-friendly affair. Young children are welcome to join their parents and older siblings. Y

oung children can either play at the house or color the shipping boxes that will be sent to people in need throughout the world.

The group will also open the doors to their facility on Dec. 15 during Wauneta's Santa Saturday.

They will be holding a bake sale and a silent auction fundraisers to assure there are funds available to purchase another shipment of food and supplies.

How does Mercy Meals work?

Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska, based in Wauneta, allows volunteers to package nourishing food that will be delivered by the Orphan Grain Train to children in need throughout

the world.

The organization's hope is to instill a sense of self-empowerment, civic duty, world awareness, kindness towards fellow men and women and an appreciation for the blessings in their daily lives for the people who receive the meals.

Once volunteers package the food, it is shipped free of charge by the Orphan Grain Train to those in need.

The food is shipped both internationally to places such as Haiti, India, the former Soviet Union, but is also shipped domestically to places including an Indian reservation in New Mexico.