

Volunteers still needed for Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska's "Feed the Philippines" event in Imperial

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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(Breeze File Photo)

278 more volunteers needed

to package meals in

Imperial next weekend

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

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Those who want to make a difference in the lives of others have an opportunity to do so next weekend in Imperial. Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska plans to pack 160,000 meals for children and families in the Philippines at a mega packing "Feed the Philippines" event at Zion Lutheran Church in Imperial Friday, Feb. 21, Saturday, Feb. 22 and Sunday, Feb. 23.

Meals packed during the event will be shipped to the Philippines to starving children and families impacted by the typhoon that hit the Philippines on Nov. 8, 2013. A total of 540 volunteers are needed to make the event a success and as of Tuesday morning 278 volunteers are still needed for the event.

The event will include a total of 10 two-hour shifts where groups or individual volunteers can package meals. A total of 540 volunteers are needed, roughly 54 volunteers each shift. So far, the only shifts that are full are those offered on Friday evening.

Organizers said they will accommodate volunteers of all ages. Stools can be provided for those who have difficulty standing throughout the shift.

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Volunteers are encouraged to sign up online at mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org or by calling a board member. Those who have not packaged meals previously are encouraged to watch a short training video online. Those who have signed up to help at the event are also asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to their shift so they have time to wash their hands and learn their assignments on the packing line.

"Feed the Philippines," a collaborative project of Mercy Meals, Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, has a goal of packaging one million meals total. In addition to the Imperial event, "Feed the Philippines" events will be completed in Sioux City, Iowa, Lincoln, Hastings, Norfolk and Wauneta. The target completion date for packaging all one million meals is April 30, 2014.

The events were made possible by a grant from LCMS to purchase the raw food supplies needed for the packing event. Transportation and distribution of the packaged meals is provided by Orphan Grain Train at no charge.

To register or for more information

Volunteers can register for the event at the group's website at mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org or by calling Laurie Kerchal at 308-350-0975 or Rick Einspahr at 308-883-0759.