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## Boys and Girls Club steps up for needy families

Posted: Nov 24, 2011 4:53 PM EST

By Greg Neumann - bio | email



MADISON (WKOW) -- Just two weeks ago, Michael Johnson had a very different Thanksgiving vision.

"My entire family came in from other parts of the country and so I had already had my thanksgiving planned," said Johnson.

But, that's when the CEO of the Madison Boys and Girls Club started hearing the same thing over and over: there are too many needy families this year.

"I started getting phone calls from parents and people from the community saying that the Boys and Girls Club needed to do something this year," said Johnson. "Last year, I didn't get any phone calls."

Johnson scheduled the first planning meeting for a Thanksgiving Day meal at the Boys and Girls Club in the Allied Neighborhood just over a week ago.

That meant his volunteers had to work hard and fast.

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"We have had people here all night preparing food, close to 200 volunteers," said Johnson. "We raised \$7,000 to be able to pull this off and we had about seven or eight corporations stand up to pay for the meals here today."

Robin Miller and her two daughters were more than grateful.

"We don't have any furniture right now or nothing to cook on, because, I lost my job," said Miller. "So, I have a hard time getting furniture right now, so its good to come down here and to have Thanksgiving dinner."

But, it wasn't just a meal.

There was also a room to watch the Packers game in and even supplies stock up for winter.

"I called on some key CEO's in this community and asked them to step up and to help support these families and so we got them diapers, we got them winter coats," said Johnson.

Johnson said if year one of the event is well received the Boys and Girls Club will likely make it an annual tradition.



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