



A Century of Progress with Pride

October 23, 2017

Berwyn, I am proud to say, is unquestionably a community that cares. Our people look out for one another – something that is especially true when the holidays approach. Over the years, we’ve learned that when we work together, we accomplish great things. That’s why, along with a group of community-minded individuals, I established the Berwyn Holiday Fund in 2008 to help us maintain the true holiday spirit through private donations.

The Berwyn Holiday Fund sponsors a community Thanksgiving dinner, on Thanksgiving Day, for those who lack funds to provide such a meal, or have nobody to celebrate with. Last year, we served 285 Berwyn residents a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, at a wonderful family-style gathering. This effort is in its ninth year. Through the generosity of donors like you, we have served 2,432 dinners over the previous eight years -- an average of 304 meals each year.

We also sponsor a Holiday Food Basket program, now in its ninth year. Last year, we assembled and delivered more than 450 food packages to those in need. Over the life of this effort, we have delivered 3,397 baskets to disadvantaged families, averaging 424 per year. The volunteers who gathered to help with this act of charity felt humbled by the experience--and grateful for the chance to help the less fortunate.

The Berwyn Holiday Fund also hosts the “Sailors for Christmas” celebration each Christmas Day. It’s a beloved Berwyn tradition, now in its 12th year. It’s Christmas away from home for around 100 young sailors whose service obliges them to be away from home for the holiday. We entertain on average, 97 sailors-- and 52 area veterans – every Christmas. Sailors are bussed in from Great Lakes naval training center, and are treated to a full day of food, fun and friendship in Berwyn’s Skylight Banquet Hall. They are given cell phones for the day so they can reach out to loved ones; the Berwyn library is opened to them so they can have computer access (something most of us take for granted every day). But the biggest gift is fellowship. Volunteers from our community spend all or part of Christmas Day thanking these young men and women for their service. Best of all, many Berwyn military veterans come in to socialize and share their stories.

Like nearly all good things in life, these programs require funding to continue their successful course – and any help you can offer is greatly appreciated. I have included a form that lists sponsorship opportunities, as well as chances to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support – and may we all experience a blessed holiday season.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Lovero