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Teen parents support Meals on Wheels

Posted 1 month ago

Braemar high school students put on their cooking mitts for charity on Global Youth Service Day last week.

The north-side school for pregnant and parenting teens drummed up close to \$900 with a student-run pancake breakfast and raffle fundraiser to go toward a large industrial pancake griddle for Meals on Wheels.

"I think this is just a really good way to work with my school and with the other teens in my school, to make the community see that even though we're young parents, we can still help," says Raegan Tarasoff, the Grade 12 student who took charge in the fundraising effort.

Tarasoff says she put in about 40 hours of work over the last month to prepare for last week's event.

"We had to go to businesses and get donations from them, and we had to get the decorations, set up the gym, make flyers and stuff like that, and just get the word out."

She says the experience was stressful, but a lot of fun.

"It turned out really well, we're really happy."

The griddle will cost a total of \$1,500. Tarasoff says the school will raise the remaining \$600 with a hot dog barbecue in the coming months, and she hopes the school will continue doing similar fundraisers.

"We are going to try to start doing it annually," she says. "Maybe not this exact fundraiser, but we want to try and do something like this every year to encourage the students in this school to be involved in the community."

Braemar connected with Meals on Wheels through Alberta's Youth Volunteer Society (AYVS), which matched several local high schools with charitable organizations for Global Youth Service Day.

AYVS youth program co-ordinator Andree Patenaude says Braemar's fundraiser has affected the whole community.

"This school, not only has it reached the students in the school, but they've reached the surrounding community ... and the volunteers at Meals on Wheels," Patenaude says. "So this school has had kind of a compound impact."

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