

## **Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska hosts a successful MegaPack Event**

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
Thursday, 27 June 2013 16:32 -

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**Approximately 80 volunteers came together to make last Saturday's MegaPack Event a success for Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska. Here Robert Ahrens, front left, Mary Haarberg and Harold Nordhausen, right, work on one of the assembly lines during the MegaPack Event. (Christi Christner | The Wauneta Breeze)**

**By Sheri Hink-Wagner**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

Approximately 80 volunteers from across the region came together to make the Mercy Meals MegaPack Event a success.

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“Mercy Meals while started by a small group, could not exist without the work and effort of those who help pack,” said Pastor Keith Wellman, president of Mercy Meals board of directors. “The Lord has blessed us beyond our wildest expectations with both funding and people to do the work.”

The week prior to the event a group of approximately 10 people met to put labels on the food bags so the MegaPack Event volunteers would not be slowed down by having to label bags.

Then, on Saturday approximately 70 volunteers and board members packaged meals in three shifts.

All ages have volunteered at Mercy Meals since it started last fall, from the very young to the elderly.

All-in-all the volunteers packed 22,458 meals on Saturday, which equaled 74 boxes and 47 bags.

With Saturday’s flash of activity, the organization has now packaged almost a quarter of a million (231,858) meals for anyone who’s hungry across the world.

Pastor Wellman said it’s been found that anyone who’s starving and eats Mercy Meals food for two weeks will come back from starving to normal.

“While we may never know the people who benefit from these meals, we may know them in eternity. But, rest assured, we say our thank you in their place,” expressed Pastor Wellman. “Words can not adequately express our appreciation for our tremendous volunteers.”

The organization will host fundraisers at Wauneta’s Harvest Festival in July and again at the Chase County Fair in August.

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Mercy Meals will begin packing meals again in September with two regular packings each month. It will also make every effort to accommodate groups who would like to come together for a special packing event.