

2018 People Loving People Thanksgiving Dinner

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Rogersville, TN -

Planning for the annual People Loving People Thanksgiving Dinner is underway. The past few years have seen the dinner grow to the point that over 3500 meals have been served each year and the expectations are for nothing any different in 2018. People Loving People is a part of Four Square, Inc., a non-profit entity created many years ago by Dr. Blaine Jones and Mark DeWitte in Rogersville, TN. This will be the 15th year that the group has prepared the traditional Thanksgiving dinner consisting of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, dressing and gravy, green beans, corn, rolls, cranberry sauce and a dessert. The dinner will be prepared and served at the Joseph Rogers Primary School in Rogersville under the direction of Head Chef Russ Williamson. Preparation again this year will be handled by volunteer teams and primarily by the Sullivan Baptist Disaster Relief Kitchen which is supervised by Mr. Jim Ramey. Preparation begins on Tuesday and ends on Friday of Thanksgiving week.

The dinner relies solely on contributions from individuals, families, businesses, companies and any other sources to fund the event. “We have consistently fed more people over the years and we anticipate feeding as many, if not more this year. A big concern again this year is how the cost of food has continued to increase in price. We need anyone and everyone to step forward and make a contribution to help us prepare for our 2018 dinner as soon as possible” Jones stated. Donations may be sent to **Four Square, Inc., c/o People Loving People Thanksgiving Dinner, P.O. Box 35, Rogersville, TN 37857**. All donations are used strictly to purchase the food for the dinner. Four Square, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and receipt for donations can be made if requested. “We need all the financial support we can get so we can cover the cost of our annual meal” Jones said. Interested sponsors or donors can call Dr. Jones for more information at 423-272-3150.

Volunteers are needed to work in all areas of the event and anyone wishing to volunteer can come to one of the organizational meetings or call **423-921-4175** for more information. The first organizational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 25th. The meetings will start at 6pm and will be held at the Hawkins County Memorial Hospital Cafeteria. A second meetings is tentatively planned for Thursday, November 8th and a third, if needed, on Thursday, November 15th. Meeting updates can be found on the Four Square, Inc. website (www.foursquareinc.org) and People Loving People Thanksgiving Dinner Facebook page. “We specifically need volunteers at the end of the day to help us clean the kitchen and cafeteria area. We would greatly welcome a church or civic group stepping up and taking this chore over for us. We will need a lot of folks to help deliver the meals; serve in the dining hall and numerous other jobs. We will put you to work and trust me, you will be blessed. Last year we utilized well over 425 people in various jobs and we will need them again, if not more, this year” Jones said.

Another opportunity to help out in this event is by preparing desserts to be served with the meals. "Cupcakes, pies and cakes are the preferred items as they are easier to plate and deliver with the meals". Also, cornbread, biscuits, and white bread which are a few days old are needed for the dressing recipe. "Anyone who would like to help in this area is asked to bring their items to Joseph Rogers school on Wednesday, November 21st starting at 10:00am" Jones added. "Last year we were somewhat short on the desserts and the cornbread and biscuits for our dressing. We would love to hear from a Church or Civic group that would like to pitch in and help with this as well". Those interested in helping out in these areas can call **423-921-4175** for more information as well or by leaving a message to be contacted later.

The dinner will be served to anyone who needs it. Guests are asked to come to the Joseph Rogers Primary School Cafeteria to be served and pampered between the hours of 11am and 2pm on Thanksgiving Day. "We want everyone who needs a meal or who needs some company to join us on Thanksgiving Day. No one needs to be alone or not have a meal on this special holiday. We hope to be able to deliver meals to those who cannot come to the meal and we can arrange transportation to and from the meal for those who need that. We give God all the Glory for this wonderful day" Jones went on to say. For those interested in attending the meal, receiving a delivered meal or arranging transportation to the meal, they can call **423-921-4175** and leave a detailed message for us to follow up on. Plans are to distribute flyers throughout all Hawkins County schools so children and families can sign up through school.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner is a great way for students and adults to earn community service hours for Beta Club, ROTC or any other organization that requires accumulation of community service points. It is an easy and fun way for anyone who needs to garner community service work and get credit for it. Those interested in getting points can ask their sponsors to call Dr. Blaine Jones at 423-272-3150 for more information, signup sheets, etc. "Most all of the local schools' Beta Clubs participate in our event so their youth can get community service points. Anyone who would like to get their club or organization involved can give me a call and we will be glad to try and work something out with them" said Jones.

Other traditional Thanksgiving activities will be planned for the day with a big screen TV for football games; Christmas carolers (we need a Youth group or another group to step up and do this for us); children's activities and the like. Another early need that has been recognized is that the group will need to borrow a Charter Cable TV box for Wednesday afternoon through 4pm on Thanksgiving Day to use for the big screen television. Please contact Dr. Jones if you can help out with this. Please plan to attend or volunteer to work on this special day as it "will indeed be a day to give Thanks" according to Dr. Jones. For more information visit www.foursquareinc.org. Click on the Thanksgiving Dinner link to see other links with more detailed information, downloadable flyers, forms and much more. Announcements and other information will also be placed on the People Loving People Thanksgiving Dinner Facebook page. The People Loving People telephone numbers have been consolidated into one number this year – **423-921-4175** for signups, meal deliveries, volunteering, desserts and any other information.

There are lots of opportunities to be involved in this massive undertaking as detailed above – consider where you can be included and provide your services.

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