

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS MEAL

*Helps 4,000 Families*

Continuing what has become an annual holiday tradition, the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation and Iowa Select Farms coordinated Operation Christmas Meal, a unique event inviting families who would not otherwise have the means for a holiday meal to pick up a free pork loin roast.

With the first car in line at midnight, Operation Christmas Meal ran from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the Friday before Christmas and featured employees sporting Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, snowmen and reindeer costumes handing out fresh, boneless roasts to a steady line of participants, many of whom took the time to share their personal stories of hardship.

"It was an incredible thing to be a part of, my heart is so warm," said Deb Safford, office manager for Iowa Select Farms. "Many participants teared up when receiving their loin and we heard countless stories of hardship and struggle."

Over seventy Iowa Select Farms employees—many of whom have volunteered previous years—bundled up and braved the cold to be a part of Operation Christmas Meal. "One in eight Iowans is food insecure and this time of year it's so important for families to get together and have a great holiday meal," said Sham Brown, DVM, and member of the Health Services team. "The work the Foundation does and impact it makes on Iowa families is why I keep coming back to volunteer every year." Volunteers like Sham and Deb not only spread Christmas cheer by dressing up in costumes but they all helped by packing and handing out loins to the participants.

Each 4.5-pound roast provides 24 servings of lean, nutrient-rich pork, with the 4,000 roasts supplying 96,000 total servings. Families also received a recipe booklet filled with easy, delicious and economical ways to prepare the fresh pork loin roast. This was the 6th year Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation teamed up with News Radio WHO 1040's Van and Bonnie in the Morning to organize Operation Christmas Meal.



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## DIAMOND



## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE



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