

## 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 don't have the means for a holiday meal to pick up a free pork loin roast.

With the first car in line at 12:30 a.m., 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.

"We will feed four families with this pork and this will be one of my daughter's treats for the year," said Jessica, a struggling mother from Cambridge, Iowa who took the time to tell us her story. "She doesn't get to have this every day. If she gets a four ounce piece of meat once a week it's wonderful."

"This truly is a need for so many of these families, and the gratitude and appreciation for the pork grows every year," said Tracy Borkowski, Director of Production Maintenance for Iowa Select Farms. "Many people passed us handwritten thank you notes and one family handed us two dozen homemade cinnamon rolls."

"We had many stories from Good Samaritans," said Dana Spree, Human Resources Supervisor. "One lady was taking her pork loin back to her church where they planned to prepare a meal for several homeless families; another planned to deliver the pork loin to a veteran in their neighborhood they knew could use a helping hand."

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. Operation Christmas Meal was broadcasted live on "Van and Bonnie in the Morning" program on News Radio WHO 1040.







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