FUNDRAISER 5:30 PM 12/02/2017 S. KOCH

 The UW-River Falls Honors Program is wrapping up the first of their projects in a larger campaign to increase student involvement in the community and fight hunger in River Falls. Sophia Koch (cook) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 61 O/C: STD

SOPHIA KOCH: FRIDAY IS THE LAST DAY THAT STUDENTS CAN DONATE PENNIES TO THE HONORS PROGRAM’S “PENNY WAR” PROJECT. PENNIES COUNT FOR POSITIVE POINTS, AND ALL OTHER COINS COUNT AS NEGATIVE POINTS. A TROPHY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UW-RIVER FALLS COLLEGE THAT HAS THE MOST POINTS. THE MONEY, SAYS PROGRAM DIRECTOR KATHLEEN HUNZER (HUN-ZER), WILL BE SENT TO SUPPORT THE RIVER FALLS FOOD PANTRY.

KATHLEEN HUNZER: AND SO, ANY MONEY WE RAISE WILL GO TO THE FOOD PANTRY, BECAUSE EVERY DOLLAR WE RAISE, THEY CAN BUY APPROXIMATELY FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF FOOD.

SOPHIA KOCH: BRAD OLSON IS A VOLUNTEER FROM THE FOOD PANTRY WHO PICKS UP SHIPMENTS OF FREE FOOD TO STOCK THE SHELVES OF THE PANTRY. THE ORGANIZATION, HE SAID, DOES A GOOD JOB OF PROVIDING FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN NEED.

BRAD OLSON: WELL, IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS I’VE BEEN HERE, I DON’T REMEMBER US NOT REALLY HAVING ANY FOOD, EVER, WHICH IS GOOD.

SOPHIA KOCH: ACCORDING TO STATISTICS FROM THE PIERCE COUNTY HUNGER PREVENTION COUNCIL, THE RIVER FALLS PANTRY SERVES SIX HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT INDIVIDUALS AND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE HOUSEHOLDS. EVERY INDIVIDUAL GETS ABOUT THIRTY THREE POUNDS OF FOOD A YEAR, AND EVERY HOUSEHOLD GETS ABOUT SEVENTY EIGHT. THE HONORS PROGRAM, HUNZER SAID, PLANS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE FOOD PANTRY AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS LIKE IT. FOR FALCON NEWS, I’M SOPHIA KOCH (COOK).

In addition to the penny war, the Honors Program will also be collecting receipts from Family Fresh, which count as money towards the food pantry. Receipts can be dropped off at any time at the Honors Program office in 139 Hagstead (hag-sted) Hall. The Honors Program will be putting on the penny wars again next fall, and will also be organizing other projects like “Caroling for Cans” and “Shoe Away Hunger.”

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