

Generous gifts of time, money

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- Roses to all area residents who gave of themselves and met others' needs over the Thanksgiving holiday. Those included the staff at Circle U Help Center and more than 120 volunteers who brought cheer and good food. More than 635 meals were delivered Thanksgiving Day to the less fortunate, elderly and home bound in the Richmond area and turkey roasts for another 200 meals were sent to Connersville.
- Roses to the Wayne County Foundation for its Challenge Match Initiative which raised nearly \$400,000 in gifts from the community to 26 participating organizations. That total plus the \$150,000 offered by the foundation for the match brings the community benefit to about \$540,000 — an amazing figure in difficult economic times. “Our community is incredibly generous,” said Steve Borchers, the foundation’s executive director. Indeed.
- Roses to Elizabeth Goodknight Symmes for her efforts to fight pancreatic cancer. Symmes is a Richmond High School graduate who lost her 5-year-old daughter to cancer. Now she’s asking family, friends and even strangers to give \$1 in memory of Caroline to battle this deadly disease. Icons for the Campaign for the Caroline Symmes Cancer Endowment are available for \$1 each at participating retailers, including Papa Joe's and J Street Carryout in Richmond.
- Roses to area shoppers who behaved well in crowded conditions and helped local retailers jump to a good holiday start. Black Friday and the lead-up to it on Thanksgiving Day went well, by most accounts. Shoppers played well with others and their purchases helped retailers start the pivotal economic season on a good note.
- Roses to Indiana University East for distributing \$128,000 in certificates to area guidance counselors. Counselors received eight four-year scholarships ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000. Those monies will be awarded to students who meet the campus’ academic and admission requirements.
- Roses to Wayne County for leading the state in sharing the past with National Road travelers. Fifteen new interpretive signs from Richmond to Terre Haute were installed last week, with several in Richmond and Wayne County. One side of the interpretive panel describes the highway’s history. The other side is site-specific, explaining the significance of the site to the National Road. Wayne County nabbed more than 25 percent of the 15 Indiana markers because it retains many significant assets of National Road history. Wayne has more panels than any other county, including Marion.
- Roses to Fountain City for rallying to a local family’s aid after their husband and father lost his leg in a farming accident. Neighbors and friends of the Jacob White family hosted a benefit chili and pork chop supper Friday at Northeastern High School. The 28-year-old White was hurt Nov. 1. The desire to help the White family is so strong that Pork Chop Charlie came out of retirement to cook chops for the benefit.
- Sports roses to IU East’s volleyball team for its trip to the NAIA Volleyball National Championship Final Site. The Red Wolves finished their season 44-6, the most wins in school history.
- More sports roses, this time to Richmond’s Martin Montgomery, who recently won a deadlifting competition at a World Association of Benchers and Deadlifters event in Las Vegas. Montgomery turns 70 this month.
- Roses also to all those honored in the recent Palladium-Item All-Area Football and Volleyball teams. Hagerstown’s Cole Bartlett was the Offensive Player of the Year in football, while Richmond’s Jimmy Bailey was

Defensive Player of the Year and National Trail's Tony Sonsini was Coach of the Year. Northeastern swept the top two spots for volleyball, with Kerri Kircher earning Player of the Year honors and Jerry Middleton was selected as Coach of the Year.