

FCCLA students help fill empty cupboards

By JULIE HUSS
jhuss@derrynews.com

DERRY — Under rain-soaked skies, students at Pinkerton Academy gave a sunny outlook to many who are struggling without enough to eat.

Students participating in Pinkerton's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization braved the dismal elements on May 29 to help unload hundreds of boxes of food to help support local food pantries. Students representing other schools' FCCLA also came out to Pinkerton to help with the food work.

The food delivery was part of FCCLA's Feed the Children project, joining students from schools across the state to help make a difference in the lives of others.

FCCLA is a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders, while addressing important personal, family, work, and social issues through Family and Consumer Science education. The organization has more than 200,000 members and 7,000 chapters from 50 states and the

District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

In New Hampshire, there are 19 FCCLA chapters with 333 members.

The Pinkerton chapter raised over \$3,000 of the total \$14,550 raised statewide to support the food drive.

A truck delivered the food to Pinkerton on May 29, and a second truck took food to a site in Berlin. The Pinkerton distribution supported food pantries in the area including Holy Rosary SHARE Fund/Gerry's Emergency Food Pantry in Rochester; Society of St. Vincent de Paul Exeter; St. John's St. Vincent de Paul Society in Concord; St. Peter's Parish; St. Vincent de Paul, Concord; Friends of Forgotten Children, and First Baptist Church Community Food Pantry, Derry. Volunteers arriving at Pinkerton to help with the food distribution included representatives from FCCLA's state staff, NH Career and Technology directors, Dept. of Education representatives, and other volunteers.

Joan Gallagher, representing Career, Technical Student Orga-

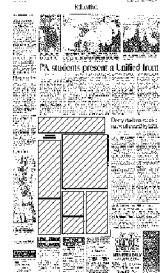
nization, said this is the second year FCCLA in New Hampshire has had Feed the Children come to the state. She credited all the hard work of the FCCLA students across the Granite State working hard to raise money from fundraisers like dinners, car washes, and securing donations from business and other supporters.

New Hampshire FCCLA's two trucks contained 400 boxes of food each, 400 boxes of personal care items, and two pallets of other items.

"In this economy, for people to open up their purse strings, there are a lot of people who care about what's happening to people here in New Hampshire," Gallagher said.

She added the food distribution and the students hard at work exemplifies everything President Barack Obama and his new administration hope to accomplish, challenging everyone to take leadership roles and help others.

"We are being challenged by the new president," Gallagher said. "He asked for all that and we did it."





ALLEGRA BOVERMAN/Staff photo

Pinkerton Academy students and other students from other regional schools were on hand at Pinkerton on Friday morning to help unload a huge truck full of food and hygiene supplies bound for food pantries all over southern New Hampshire and local families who need the food and supplies. From left to right are Pinkerton sophomores Kaitie MacCall of Windham, Matt Linehan and Danielle Cole, both of Derry. Up on the truck are, from left, Katie Kelly, a junior from Derry, and Kelsey Veilleux, a senior from Derry. They were all helping to transfer water from one truck to another.