

Houghton College students giving back to community

Fundraisers help disabled student and giving 125 turkeys to needy families

HOUGHTON — True to the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, faculty, staff and students at Houghton College undertook several fundraising endeavors to show their thanks and support for others.

Hundreds of people joined to raise funds in support of

Emily Crikelair and her family, a sophomore at Houghton who was tragically struck by lightning on June 10 at her home in Stratsburgh, Pa. Emily was hospitalized at Crozier-Chester Hospital and then Moss Rehabilitation Hospital and is currently in long-term rehabilitative care

at her home.

“There has been a real outpouring of support,” said Sherra Hynes, vice president for Student Life. “Many students who gave don’t even know Emily. The fundraising has been a fine example of this community taking care of its own,” she said.

Spearheaded by the class of 2011 and campus fundraising, the Houghton community set a goal to raise \$2,500 to cover the travel expenses of the Crikelair family as they followed Emily’s recovery to hospitals and rehabilitation centers across Pennsylvania.

Through the means of various collections, student donations, the sale of ‘pray for Emily’ green wrist bands, meal donations and concerts, the grand fundraising total is estimated today at more than \$5,000.

The giving continued as Houghton hosted the fifth annual turkey drive, a student-initiated effort to provide Thanksgiving turkeys for families in Allegany County who may have otherwise gone without.

The students set a goal of raising \$1,250 and nearly doubled it with funds totaling \$2,400 just days before Thanksgiving.

Led by event organizer Shannon Marriam, a junior at Houghton, the student body raised money for the turkey drive via residence-hall penny wars, other campus fundraisers and donations given at the men’s basketball Turkey Drive Classic hosted at the Nielsen Center during the weekend of Nov. 21.

The funds raised are given to local stores. Selected families receive a coupon allowing them to pick up their turkey at participating locations.

Last year, 71 turkeys were distributed across Allegany County through a partnership between Houghton College and surrounding agencies, food pantries and grocery stores. This year, that number jumped to 125 turkeys.

Director of Security Ray Parlett, who managed the distribution of the turkeys, commented, “When the stu-

dents reach out to the community in this way, it not only helps the surrounding areas recognize the value of what we do here, but it also raises our awareness of the need all around us.” He stressed that this program is wholly organized by students.

“There is so much need right at our doorstep,” Mr. Parlett continued. “It would be such a shame to pretend it didn’t exist.”

Houghton, founded by The Wesleyan Church in 1883, provides an academically challenging, Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences to students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds and equips them to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world.

The college of 1,200 students is located in Western New York, just 65 miles from Rochester and Buffalo.