

Downers Grove Moose Family Center provides Mooseheart much needed Kitchen Equipment

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Gary Urwieler, John Klasing, Scott Hart and Mooseheart Residents

A staple of the Downers Grove community, the Downers Grove Moose Family Center #1535, teamed up with the Mooseheart Child City and provided much needed new kitchen equipment to the family style homes located on the Mooseheart Campus.

Back in January, John Klasing, Bag League Commissioner, asked Scott Hart, Executive Director of the Mooseheart Child City & School, "What does Mooseheart need that the Downers Grove Moose Family Center's Winter Bags League can help provide?"

Hart thought about it for a few days and called Klasing informing him of changes taking place at Mooseheart. Hart stated, "On Friday, March 27th the Mooseheart Central Kitchen staff will prepare the last bulk meal to be sent out across campus to the 26 children's homes. After 40 years of daily food preparation and cooking at a central facility, Mooseheart administration decided it was time for a change of direction. Family Teachers and children will now be heading out on a weekly basis to local grocery stores to purchase food items aligned with Mooseheart's 6-week cycle

menu, which was developed by Family Teachers with the assistance of a licensed Dietitian. Children and teens will now be able to assist with the homes' food budget, meal preparation and cooking. These are all great independent living skills that our kids will need once they graduate and move on from Mooseheart. With this change, new kitchen equipment is needed."

Klasing created a shopping list of new equipment and reviewed it with Hart. Klasing then shopped for \$1,500 worth of crock pots, mixers, bowls, utensils and toaster ovens.

Roy A. Brown III, Governor of Downers Grove Moose Family Center, stated "That generous participation of our Downers Grove Moose Bags League helped make this transition a reality." On Wednesday, March 25th, Hart and Gary Urwieler, Principal of Mooseheart Schools, attended the Bags League Dinner and tournament. Brown stated, "Many of our members enjoyed having dinner with the young ladies and listening to their thoughts about how lodges like Downers Grove have improved their life at Mooseheart."

At the dinner, Hart talked about the Mooseheart School and opportunities for the children. Klasing presented Hart, Urwieler and four residents of Mooseheart \$1,500 worth of kitchen equipment to be distributed on the Mooseheart Campus for the homes to use. Hart thanked the Bags League members of the Downers Grove Moose Family Center for being so generous.

Moose International is an organization of 1.9 million members that is active in four nations dedicated to bettering the lives of children and the elderly in need, and helping to make communities better places in which to live. Along with other units of Moose International, the Loyal Order of Moose supports the operation of Mooseheart Child City & School, a 1,000-acre community for children and teens in need, located 40 miles west of Chicago; and Moosehaven, a 63-acre retirement community for its members near Jacksonville, FL. Additionally, Moose Lodges conduct approximately \$95 million worth of community service annually.

For more information on the Downers Grove Moose Family Center #1535 visit www.DGMoose.org or contact us at 630-968-4550

Mooseheart Child City is a residential childcare facility. The Child City is a home for children and teens in need, from infancy through high school. Dedicated in July 1913 by the Moose fraternal organization, MOOSEHEART cares for youth whose families are unable, for a wide variety of reasons, to care for them. Some have lost one or both parents; others are living in environments that are simply not conducive to healthy growth and development. Whatever the reason, the men and women of the Moose, through unparalleled generosity and volunteerism, furnish the resources necessary to care for children in need. The Moose fraternity provides children with a wholesome home-like environment and the best possible training and education.

Children live in one of up to thirty residences designed like a spacious single-family house. Each is home for six to twelve children. The heart of the program is Family Teachers - providing a consistent, systematic method of care, with emphasis on social-skills development - skills essential for success in later life. For more information please visit www.Mooseheart.org

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