

Redlands Daily Facts

Volunteers in Redlands package meals for those affected by Nepal quakes

By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts

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REDLANDS >> Hundreds of volunteers prepared and sealed around 50,000 meals to benefit those affected by the recent quakes in Nepal Sunday morning in the parking lot of the Tri-Center Shopping Center.

Dream Dinners in Redlands sponsored the cause in partnership with Friends and Family Connection who will ship complete meals comprising rice, dried vegetable mix and protein. Each package will feed up to six people, said Stephanie Carnes, co-owner of Dream Dinners in Redlands.

“I’ve been on the verge of tears most of the morning just to see this many people from the community coming together, and when I heard today we raised enough money to pack up to 50,000 meals for the homeless, that’s pretty powerful. It’s pretty humbling,” she said.

Volunteers of all ages packed to music from various decades, working in an assembly-line like fashion to prepare meals for delivery, while others boxed complete meals for shipping.

Monetary donations from Dream Dinners customers and local businesses made the charity event possible.

While most meals will be delivered to Nepal in the coming weeks, about one-third will stay local and benefit YouthHope in Redlands, Carnes said.



Hundreds of volunteers package meals to benefit those affected by the recent quakes in Nepal in the Tri-City Shopping Center in Redlands. The cause was spearheaded by Dream Dinners in Redlands in partnership with Friends and Family

Sunday's event was held in conjunction with a Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Expo that invited more than 30 businesses to meet with the community for a "fun, interactive and educational day," according to a news release.

"Friends and Family Connection is thrilled about the partnership," said Phil Harris, director of the nonprofit, in the release. "Our role will be to host food packaging events with Dream Dinner franchises and their community which will bring opportunity, awareness and education to the fight against hunger."

To learn more about the cause, visit ffcsd.org.