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Local charity wins when DART 'fights'

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) employees and agency consultants collected 49 tons of food in support of the Union Gospel Mission during the annual "friendly food fight." The total is a sizeable increase over previous years, thanks to a large donation from Dallas-based Schepps Dairy, a subsidiary of Dean Foods Corp. The competition also collected \$6,017 in cash donations.

The total amount assembled during the agency's 17-year effort, 402,848 pounds (201 tons) of food is roughly equal to the weight of about three DART super-light-rail vehicles or nine of DART's new CNG buses. The campaign has also raised nearly \$56,000 in cash through the years.

The Union Gospel Mission is a non-profit agency that has provided food, beds, clothing and shelter to homeless men, women and children in the Dallas area since 1949.

DART employees spread holiday cheer

DART Police will also provide food and toys to 85 families through their Santa Cops program on Sat., Dec. 21. Many of the items to be handed out were collected through DART's "stuff-a-bus" campaigns in early December at Mockingbird and Cityplace/Uptown Stations.

Donations also supported another DART employee initiative, "Comforting of the Souls," which for six years has provided blankets and socks to residents of area nursing homes. Bus operators plan to distribute the donated items Sat., Dec. 21.



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