

Riverside kids cook, help



Tyler Shaw and Carly Potter are students in Riverside's Culinary Arts Program

CRAIG HODGE/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

By [Diane Strandberg - The Tri-City News](#)

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It was a feat no amateur cook would dare try: Cook and carve 30 turkeys in a day.

But Riverside secondary culinary arts teacher Darren Straumford and his 80 Grade 11 and Grade 12 students were up to the challenge.

And Shawn Bayes, the executive director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, is grateful. "I mean to thank Riverside because really they saved us," said Bayes.

Each Christmas, the organization, which provides shelter services and a drop-in program for women, puts on a holiday meal with all the trimmings and a visit from Santa. This year, however, the Fry Society didn't have anyone to cook the turkeys.

But Riverside came through and yesterday (Thursday), approximately 700 women and children were expected to sit down to a meal mostly prepared by students from the Port Coquitlam high school.

Bayes said she contacted the school knowing it had a culinary arts program and hoping it could help. Her organization continues to have ties to the community even though it no longer has an office here because the New Westminster and Surrey shelters serve 100 Tri-City families and 25% of the 9,000 women who attend Elizabeth Fry's drop-in programs come from the Tri-Cities.

The relationship seems to be working out. The organization raised funds to pay for the turkeys, students cooked

and carved them, and then the meals were transferred by vehicle in warming trays to the Sapperton Pensioners Hall, where the meal was served.

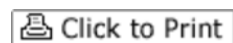
In an email interview, Straumford said a lot of work went into preparing the meal and he's proud of his students.

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