

# Sixty volunteers prep 10,000 meals for hunger project

More than 60 volunteers converged at Notre Dame's Collins Auditorium in West Haven recently to successfully package 10,000 meals as part of the "Stop Hunger Now" project.

The volunteers included a mix of young and old, including students from the St. Martin dePorres Academy and Notre Dame High School Interact Clubs, the University of New Haven Rotaract Club, as well as Rotary members from West Haven, Orange and North Haven, and Notre Dame High school staff.

In all, it took the group about 90 minutes to package the 10,000 meals that will be delivered to needy areas of the world that include the earthquake stricken region of Nepal.

"On behalf of the Notre Dame Interact Club, I want to thank everyone who came out to support the Stop Hunger Now joint service project," said Kathy Wielk, who is also the current president of the Rotary Club of West Haven.

"We had amazing success. With more than 60 volunteers, we packaged over 10,000 meals in 1.5 hours!"

During the event, volunteers work in teams at each packaging station. Volunteers set up and take down packaging stations and equipment, fill bins with raw ingredients, scoop ingredients into meal bags, weigh and seal the bags, box and stack them on pallets, and load the pallets and equipment onto a truck.

Wielk noted that Stop Hunger Now was founded in 1998 and is based in North Carolina. Its mission "is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources" to realize that goal.

Since its founding, Stop Hunger Now volunteers have provided more than 180 million meals in 65 countries. This year, the organization will package 45 million meals, and ship more than \$9 million in donated aid, mainly vitamins and medical supplies to those in need, Wielk said.

"This is fantastic," she told volunteers as they posed for a group picture afterward. "I want to thank everyone for their time and effort," adding, "This was a great opportunity to have Rotarians of all ages participate in a service project that will impact the lives of so many people."