

# ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

## TRI VALLEY THANKSGIVING OUTREACH DINNER

NOMINATOR: MATT TROIANO



The Tri Valley Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner served 350 people in need in our community. Our guests were served by volunteers, with tables adorned with holiday centerpieces, place mats decorated by children, linens, goblets, flatware, and dishware. The meal is a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, complete with rolls, green salad, Jell-O salad, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, roasted vegetables, and green bean casserole. Desserts were homemade apple, mince, pumpkin, and

sweet potato pies. Our guests enjoyed live musical entertainment. Take-home bags, which included pumpkin breads, snacks, food staples, and dental care items were offered. The core group of volunteers first meet in August to start planning, then we meet every month through November. The day before Thanksgiving, volunteers decorated the hall, set the tables, prepped the food for the meal. On Thanksgiving Day, the kitchen crew starts cooking at 6:00 a.m. The set-up crew starts at 10:00 a.m., and servers arrive at 11:00 a.m. The meal is served from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No one is turned away. The day after Thanksgiving, the cleanup crew washes, dries, and puts away the dishes. Most of the food, supplies, and items for the take-home bags are donated by businesses, churches, individuals, and service organizations. The generosity of close to 300 volunteers, many families, members of churches, and service groups freely gave their time and talents to make Thanksgiving special for so many people.