

A Thanksgiving Story



There is a great deal of folklore surrounding the first Thanksgiving celebrated in 1621. What we know for sure is that the colonists were grateful to have planted their first successful harvest. On Tuesday, November 25, a similar feast occurred at the Trumbull Career & Technical Center. This was not a triumph against the elements, but a celebration of the human spirit.

Andy Hake, a Government teacher at the TCTC, treated all 70 of his students to a turkey dinner. The menu included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin and apple pie. Santisi's IGA provided Hake with a discount to purchase the commodities. Brigitte Gillies, Restaurant Services Instructor cooked the turkey and Hake and several of his friends assembled the meal. Patti Abby, the owner of the Warren Baking Company donated pies for the occasion.

Hake's rationale for the dinner was the topic of conversation in the building. He stated, "I wanted each of my kids to know that regardless of their personal circumstances or the G.P.A. that they counted for something in my eyes. I am grateful to be their teacher."

This is the second year that Hake has arranged Thanksgiving Dinner for his students. Last year, he overheard some of them talking in his classroom. They said they would not be having a meal because their parents were out of work. Several said they had never had anything special on this holiday. Hake did something about it. He said, "I did not want to

embarrass anyone by asking questions of a personal nature. I figured the best thing to do was to have dinner for all of them.”

The final chapter of this story is yet to be written. It will occur when a few of his students motivated by his good deed reach out to others. And what about those kids who because of life’s circumstances weren’t slated to have a Holiday meal? For them, the first Thanksgiving did not happen in 1621. It took place in 2008 at the TCTC.

On Tuesday, November 25, Andy Hake did not teach about Pilgrims, Pumpkin Pie or Plymouth Rock. Instead, he role modeled a more powerful lesson. We are our brother’s keeper.