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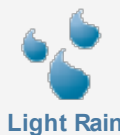
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## Help Needed For Thanksgiving Feast Boys & Girls Club Of Dane County Trying To Meet Heavy Demand

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MADISON, Wis. - Sunday's chilly temperatures were a reminder that the time of year has arrived during which many need a little help.

Some of those folks are served by the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, who need a few extra things to finalize their plans to put on a Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings.

Michael Johnson, the CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, said he didn't expect to be shopping for a Thanksgiving feast for 400 the week of the holiday.

"At first, I was like, 'We can't take this on, this is overwhelming,'" said Johnson.

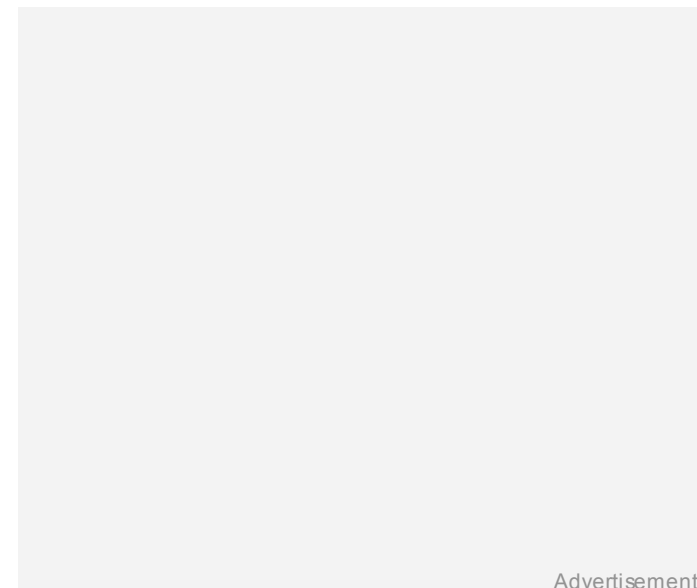
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But Johnson found himself in the store -- getting a little help from Jeff Greenheck of Metcalfe's Markets -- when his phone wouldn't stop ringing with calls from people wondering if he could help them out.

"A lot of phone calls from kids, from parents," said Johnson. "Last year, I got no phone calls, and so it was amazing when I started getting phone calls. I was totally surprised."

Johnson said he knows what it is like to be without, so he had no trouble stepping up to help out.

"Growing up in public housing in Chicago, I remember when my family ate noodles for Thanksgiving," he said.

The heat will be on in both Madison-area Boys & Girls Club kitchens.

But just how big is the need? Well, one single parent has nine children to feed.

"It wouldn't be possible for somebody by herself to try to do that for her kids, so that's what we're here for," said Greenheck.

Donors have already taken care of some of the signature dishes. But as the guest list grows, Johnson said he knows they'll need a little extra help to make a last-minute meal something to be thankful for.

"We just kind of jumped out there on faith and said, 'We're gonna figure this out, we're gonna make it work,' so I'm very confident this community is going to step up for these families," said Johnson.

Thanks to the help of Fresh Madison Market, Umoja Magazine, 93.1 Jamz, and Metcalfe's, a lot of the fixings are taken care of, but help is still needed.

To donate, go to the Boys & Girls of Dane County [website](#).

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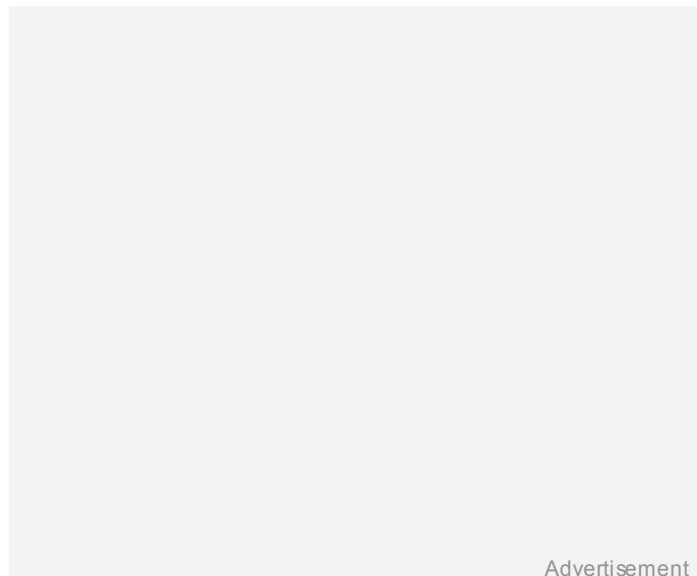
For some perspective, Johnson said that some families can afford to go shopping for all they'd need to have a Thanksgiving meal, but then not have money for other things they need for their families.

The Boys & Girls Club is hoping the meal will also help those who aren't necessarily as financially healthy this year as they might typically be.

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