



Giving thanks

Almaden Valley Rotary Club members **Joseph Pileggi, Manuel Naku, Roger Hassler** (district governor), **Rick Valdez, Les Hansen, Edesa Bit-Badal, Miles Yamamoto, Jeff Rosen, Mel Bandanza, Jerry Gibson, Paul Venezia, Paul Uenaka** and **John Baker** with some of the bags to be delivered to the Hoffman Via Monte area residents on Nov. 22. Photos courtesy Edesa Bit-Badal

Almaden Valley Rotary Club delivers food bags and turkeys to Hoffman Via Monte area

Families from the Hoffman Via Monte area received free Thanksgiving food bags and turkeys distributed at the Almaden Hills United Baptist Church on Dec. 22.

The sponsor of the event was the Almaden Valley Rotary Club (AVRC) which has been providing meals for neighborhood families for the past several years. This year they provided food for over 320 residents. The City of San Jose staff of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative helped spread the word and registered those who were in need.

"We had more people coming to receive turkeys than meals available," said AVRC



Concepcion Galvan, Edesa Bit-Badal and **Roger Hassler** pass out food bags to residents of the Hoffman Via Monte area.

President Ed Lacina. "There is a huge need for meals as we have faced the worst economic downturn in recent history."

Families with young children and husbands who have been out of work for over a year attended to receive the turkeys and all the trimmings.

"I'm glad that we are able to provide for our neighbors in Hoffman Via Monte Neighborhood," said longtime AVRC member and this year's organizer for the food giveaway, Paul Venezia. "It is heartwarming to know that these families will have warm food on their table on Thanksgiving Day."

The AVRC members were joined by Councilmember Pyle who came to support and help pass out turkeys. Almaden Hills United Methodist Church partnered with the AVRC by providing the location for the turkey
See GIVING THANKS, page 4



Above, below: Rotarians pass out food bags and turkeys to Hoffman Via Monte area residents Almaden Hills United Methodist Church on the Monday before Thanksgiving. *Photos courtesy Edesa Bit-Badal*



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Continued from page 1
giveaways.

“Those who receive the Thanksgiving box were so thankful and appreciative,” said AVRC Community Service Director Edesa Bit-Badal. “This is what thanksgiving is all about; it is about the spirit of giving and receiving.”

The AVRC, chartered in 1969, has more than 40 men and women representing a wide cross-section of local businesses and professions. The club meets each Thursday for fellowship at Boulder Ridge to hear interesting and informative programs dealing with topics of local and global importance. The club is a member of Rotary District 5170 comprised of 59 clubs and approximately 4000 members.