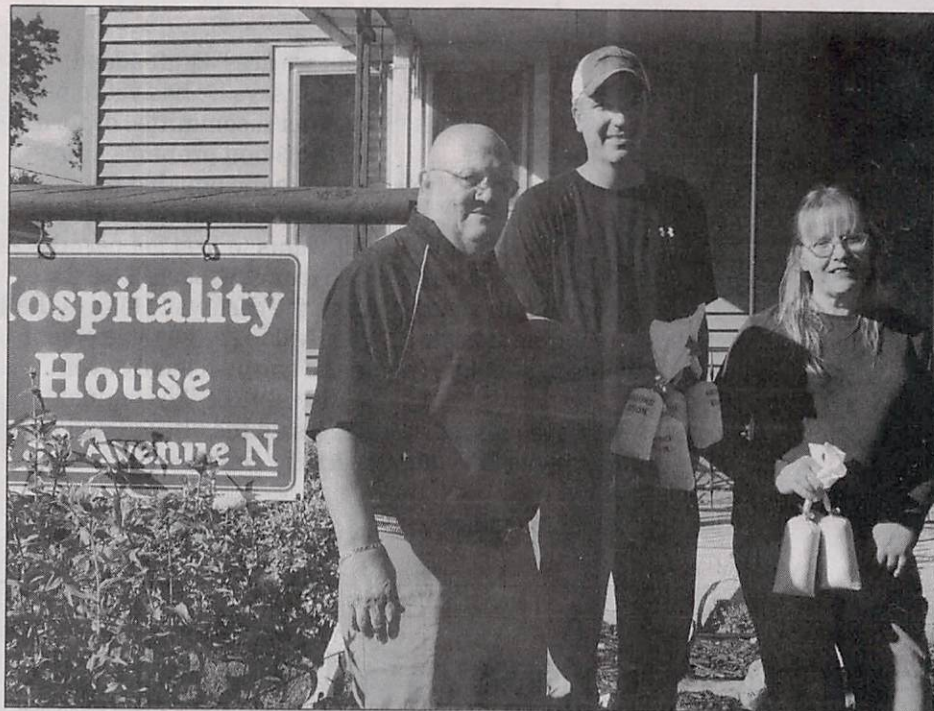


Hospitality House receives 175 lbs. of buffalo meat

The Emma Cornelis Hospitality House in Fort Madison received 175 pounds of ground buffalo meat on Sept. 27 as a donation from the Iowa Safari Club International (SCI) based in Des Moines.

The 'Great Buffalo Giveaway' started as a vision of the Iowa SCI Chapter in 2003. The chapter officers and directors wanted to create a humanitarian program which benefitted individuals in need right here in Iowa. Chapter members wanted to incorporate the essence of what brings members together, hunting, with their desire to help. In 2012, the event name was changed to 'Jack Hagens Great Buffalo Giveaway' after the passing of Jack Hagens, an avid Iowa SCI member and a frequent hunter for the annual buffalo tradition. At the time of his passing, Jack's son Patrick Hagens gave memorial funds to establish an endowment to ensure the annual tradition continues for years to come.

Since 2003, Iowa SCI members have made an



COURTESY

Pictured, from left, are Joe Kowzan, Emma Cornelis Hospitality House Board President, Paul Schulte of Fort Madison, Iowa SCI Member and Mary McDowell, Emma Cornelis Hospitality House Manager.

annual hunt to ranches in South Dakota or Nebraska to hunt buffalo which would in turn be donated to homeless shelters in the Des Moines area.

This year, Iowa SCI wanted to expand their efforts to other parts of the state with southeast Iowa as a target. Nels Spevak, Iowa SCI President approached Paul

Schulte, SCI member from Fort Madison, on the idea of how to reach those in need in southeast Iowa. Spevak stated, "Paul Schulte took the hunt in 2014 to South Dakota and the buffalo that he took helped three shelters last year. We wanted to expand our reach in the state so I contacted Paul to see how we could

help in the community that his family lives in."

The second recipient in southeast Iowa, the Emma Cornelis Hospitality House, located at 2733 Avenue N in Fort Madison, opened in 1989 by Emma Cornelis and the citizens of Fort Madison. The 'Hospitality House' is a short-term stay facility that provides a safe place that

provides food, warmth, and compassion for the homeless and transients of our community and the surrounding area. Annually the shelter provides housing for 150-200 men, women, and children.

The 2015 buffalo was taken by Zach Cook, 15, grandson of Iowa SCI Board Member, Dennis Schemmel from Grimes. Zach's buffalo was taken June 30, at the Laughing Waters Ranch in Bassett, Nebraska.

All of the meat will be donated to Iowa charities this year with the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter and Emma Cornelis Hospitality House in Fort Madison as two of the recipients. The bison's estimated weight was between 2,400-2,500 pounds which equates to 900-1000 pounds of quality ground bison meat.

Typically each year, 'the great buffalo giveaway' helps anywhere from 3-4 shelters in Iowa. To date, with this year's donation of meat, over 40,000 meals will be prepared and shared since inception of the program.

For more information about the Iowa Safari Club International Club visit www.iowasci.com. To find out how to help at the Hospitality House call 319-372-3983.