



Times Tribune photo by Steve Castillo

Volunteers at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park made Saturday special for many people in need. Five-year-old Noe Martinez (left) got some special attention from Santa Claus. Judy Halliday of Los Altos (below) and her father, Rex Wardell, were among the 110 volunteers who served close to 1,500 people on Saturday.



Times Tribune photo by Steve Castillo

St. Anthony's food feast brings holiday cheer to volunteers, too

By Ruthann Richter
Times Tribune staff

During the week, Judy Halliday of Los Altos runs a business that sells people on the idea of losing weight. But on Saturday, Halliday was cheerfully dishing out mounds of macaroni and chicken salad to holiday patrons at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, where she volunteers each Christmas.

band, Arthur, decided to volunteer at St. Anthony's, the largest Christmas feast for the needy on the Peninsula.

"Seeing those who have not kind of touched our hearts," Halliday said. "It was so rich for us that we wanted to come back. It's meant so much to us. We've gotten more than we've given."

Halliday, her husband and her 80-year-old parents were among the 110 volunteers who cooked

"If you want to sign up for Christmas, you've got to call five weeks in advance," Fillin said. "This is the time of year when people think of donating their time. I encourage them to come back and work another time. People tend to think of us between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We need to expand people's consciousness to make them realize we work all year 'round."

St. Anthony's, which depends entirely on donations, is open six days