

# Late donations saved Easter feast

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**Suzi Brakken** April 1, 1992  
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Last-minute donations of carrots, celery and zucchini made for a well-balanced, pre-Easter turkey dinner at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park on Saturday.

And those who missed it can look forward to leftovers Monday, since the annual feast drew only 700 people, almost half the turnout organizers had expected to serve. "We felt it right away. I expected a big line-up, but it didn't come," said Max Torres, manager of the dining room at 3500 Middlefield

Road that feeds low-income and homeless people every day except Sunday.

Most folks who ate turkey and all the trimmings at the special meal Saturday arrived early, just after the doors opened at noon. By 1 p.m., many of the long tables decorated with tablecloths and flowers were empty.

Torres speculated fewer patrons showed up for the free meal because welfare checks had been distributed just three days before.

"There's a pattern. When they get their checks, there's less people in line. But once they run out of money, they come back," Torres said.

Another reason for the low

turnout may have had something to do with a religious tradition, suggested Guadalupe Molina, who arrived for the meal from Redwood City with her unemployed husband and two young sons.

Many Hispanic families do not eat meat on the three

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