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This turkey is cookin'

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Mayor Robert “Gobbler Bob” Taylor might be a turkey according to a lot of people, but that’s just fine with more than 500 local families for which the mayor’s efforts have paid off.

About six weeks ago, Taylor launched his “The Mayor is a Turkey” fundraiser benefiting the Brentwood Regional Community Chest, which provides food, toys and turkeys for 500 families every Christmas. Taylor pledged that if he got 300

donations of \$8 – enough to buy one turkey for one family – he would appear at the BRCC’s packing and distribution events on Dec. 18 and 19 wearing a turkey suit.

Taylor blew past his goal and reset it to 500, enough for the entire BRCC program. That goal, too, is history.

As of Tuesday, donations good for 637 turkeys had arrived, and more are still coming in every day. The community’s largess will enable the BRCC to add turkey to its other year-round assistance efforts.

“The money will be used to expand the number of families we are able to assist as well as provide ongoing support during the rest of the year,” said BRCC co-president Dana Eaton. “In addition to supporting families through the Community Assistance Program throughout the year, this year we were able to provide financial support to the P.A.S.S. Program at Edna Hill. This clothing closet, started by Edna Hill teacher Traci Kemper, supports children throughout our community and aligns with the mission of the Community Chest of a community supporting its own.”

Taylor is stunned by the response.

“The charitable giving of local people is just overwhelming,” he said. “The Brentwood spirit is just a wonderful attribution to our city. Calls are coming in from everywhere, too, not just Brentwood. People say they’ve never seen anything like this.”

Taylor also announced that as a payoff for surpassing the higher goal, he would be making a series of appearances in the turkey suit. The stops will include a stint from 1 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 19 at The Streets of Brentwood’s Community Boutique, located next to the Rave Motion Pictures Brentwood 14, where he will pose for pictures with residents and thank them personally.

“There is an old Irish proverb that says, ‘A turkey would never vote for an early Christmas,’” said Eaton. “In this case, however, the mayor’s efforts will bring an early Christmas to over 500 families in East County.”

