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## Churches, Community Kitchen welcome 150 for free holiday meal

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About 150 people turned out at Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira on Sunday to take advantage of a free community Easter dinner.

The dinner was a joint effort by the Elmira Community Kitchen and a coalition of six area Episcopal churches.

"We were looking for a way to do an outreach to the community and the Community Kitchen gave us the opportunity," said Barbara Brownrigg of Grace Episcopal Church, one of the dinner's organizers.



People attended the dinner for different reasons, including financial.

"A holiday meal costs two weeks of regular groceries," said Sharon Caruana of Elmira, who enjoyed the dinner along with her mother and her two sons. "You can't do a holiday meal when you have a strict budget."

The dinner gave Dave Palmieri of Elmira a chance to socialize.

"I wouldn't have anybody to talk to. I have just myself," Palmieri said. "It makes it nice to have the company of other people. It's fantastic."

Sharon Caruana, left, enjoys Easter dinner Sunday with her sons Kenaniah, 6, and Isaiah, 4, and her mother, Peggy Chaffee. The family took advantage of a free community Easter dinner at Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira. (JEFF MURRAY / Staff Photo)



JEFF MURRAY / Staff Photo  
Matt Hartley, from left, Judi Brayer and Dan Brayer serve up ham and other food Sunday during a free community Easter dinner at Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira.



JEFF MURRAY / Staff Photo  
Volunteer Lisa Frost carries two platefuls of food out to guests during Sunday's community Easter dinner at Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira.



JEFF MURRAY / Staff Photo  
Residents enjoy a free community Easter dinner Sunday at Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira, courtesy of the Elmira Community Kitchen and a coalition of Episcopal churches.