

# Rotarians collect food in honor of Carmen Speno

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## Waterloo Rotary Club donation

Waterloo Rotarians and some of the nearly 500 food items donated to Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency in honor of the late Carm Speno.

Where's the story?



1 Points Mentioned

**WATERLOO** — Carmen Speno died several years ago, but the Waterloo Rotary Club member is remembered each fall on his birthday.

The club pauses to remember Speno and collect food items for the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency (SCCAA) in his memory.

Speno was known for urging Rotarians to bring in food items each week to donate to the SCCAA food pantry.

The tradition began six years ago in honor of Speno's 90th birthday. Rotarians were challenged to bring in 90 food items in his honor.

The annual goal is to collect at least one food item for each year that Speno would have celebrated on his birthday.

This year's goal was 95 food items. Club members brought in 497 cans, boxes and bottles of food, exceeding last year's 467 items.

“Rotarians are proud to remember Carm each year and his commitment to help feed the hungry by donating food in his honor,” said project chairwoman Kathy Sigrist.

SCCAA Director Anne Wilkes said the food will be a big help for the pantry. She said as food prices increase and the money families have to purchase food decreases, the pantry is a viable option for many needy families.

“When I began a year ago, we distributed food monthly. But because of the growing demand, we now distribute twice a month,” Wilkes said.

Wilkes said the Rotary Club donation will ensure that families will have a great Thanksgiving and will have food throughout the holidays.