OU students, staff and leaders collected 1,175 pounds of food to support the Macomb Food Program, more than double their initial goal.

Back on November 18, more than 275 Oakland University students, staff and alumni participated in the Macomb County Santa Parade, an event that also marked the start of the group’s annual food drive to support the Macomb Food Program. The drive got off to an auspicious start with more than 800 pounds of food donated on the first day.

Having surpassed its initial goal of 500 pounds of food, the group set a new goal of collecting 1,000 pounds by November 29. When staff from the Macomb Food program came that day to pick up the donations at the Anton/Frankel Center in Mount Clemens, they were greeted by students, staff and leaders from Oakland University’s Macomb County campus – along with Mount Clemens Mayor Barb Dempsey – and were presented with food donations totaling 1,175 pounds. The Macomb Food Program will distribute the food to a network of more than 50 food pantries and hunger relief organizations.

During the food pick-up, Dempsey presented OU-Macomb Executive Director Julie Dichtel with a silver sponsor award for OU-Macomb’s support of the Macomb County Santa Parade.

“OU strives to be a good community partner in Macomb County,” Dichtel said. “The parade and annual food drive is just one example of how the university provides opportunities for current students and alumni to engage with their university in the community where they live.”

Along with the annual parade and food drive, OU supports and participates in other community events, such as the Let’s Move Festival of Races and Tara Grant Walk/Run, and also hosts an annual alumni event at Jimmy John’s Field.

To learn more about Oakland University programs and events in Macomb County, visit oakland.edu/Macomb.
Mount Clemens Mayor Barb Dempsey presents a silver sponsor award to OU-Macomb Executive Director Julie Dichtel for OU-Macomb’s support of the Macomb County Santa Parade.

Shannon Mallory, program manager for the Macomb Food Program, is pictured with Dempsey and Dichtel.