

SPORTS

Essex launches community service competition

By **JOE GONILLO**
The Essex Reporter

There's a new way to get competitive at Essex High School: the Competitive Giving League. Giving back to the community is the goal and Heavenly Food Pantry, the Essex Junction Foodbank branch, is the recipient.

"The Competitive Giving League is yet another means for the student-athletes to hone their leadership skills via a community service challenge," said Athletic Director Ed Hockenbury. "Leading and winning certainly occurs both on and off the playing field."

Organizer Kristin Kany, the EHS Athletic Leadership Council and the Heavenly Food Pantry are combining forces for this good cause. Essex High School's fall sports teams, faculty and staff will compete in a "winners in community service" competition during the week of Oct. 14. The team that brings in the most items for the local food shelf will be crowned the victor at the Hornet's last home football game on Oct. 18. In addition to food donations by the athletes, other EHS students can donate on behalf of their favorite team or teacher in an effort to bolster the competition. Fans and parents of athletes can give nonperishable items, too.

Many groups at Essex High School are contributing to making this inaugural competitive season a success: CTE Graphic Design students will help with promotional materials; EHS Digital Media Club's EHSPN students will offer media assistance; EHS math league members are assisting with data compilation and formula creation

to determine the winning team based on roster size and donation ratio; and the ALC is promoting participation in the competition among all students, parents, faculty, staff and fans.

"This community competition is a clear win-win for all involved," noted Kany. "The athletes get to tap into their inherent competitive nature to go head-to-head for a common good. They also participate in hands-on organization of a big project... This fun contest can help enhance school spirit for all involved, teachers too. And all our effort is geared toward serving others and helping fellow Vermonters, something with which our state especially excels."

"We're hoping for a very successful first season and plan to expand into winter sports," she added. "In the spring, we're setting larger goals involving a greater community by challenging a rival school to help their community in this Competitive Giving League. That is our vision."

Actual donation days for this contest are Oct. 11- Oct. 18. Team boxes will be located in the EHS main lobby. At the final home football game on Oct. 18, fans can get \$1 off the admission fee by bringing in a nonperishable item to donate. Heavenly Food Pantry accepts non-expired nonperishable food items, including proteins and baking products, as well as household cleaning items, hygiene products and infant needs. Smaller jars, cans, boxes and jugs are best.

For more information contact Kristin Kany at competitivegivingleague@ccsuvt.org or 324-4566.

Essex High School Spirit Week Schedule

- **Thursday, Oct. 3** – Decade's day (Seniors-80s, Juniors-70s, Sophomores-60s, Freshman-50s)

