

WELFARE 1-10-91 SJM 1B

Cupboard's almost bare



Eugene Louie — Mercury News

MORE SUPPLIES NEEDED — Volunteers David White and Linda Lovelace package donated candy to be distributed at at Valley Churches United headquarters in Ben Lomond. The center is out of emergency cold-weather supplies.

Cold snap drains aid center's supplies

By Terri Morgan
Special to the Mercury News

Providing emergency relief to more than 500 freezing farmworkers has left disaster resources at an emergency relief center in the San Lorenzo Valley at dangerously low levels.

"We depleted all our emergency supplies providing for 500 to 600 freezing farmworkers in Davenport," Annette Marcum, director of the Valley Churches United, said of the group's work late last month.

The 9-year-old organization was called on to help north Santa Cruz County residents who found themselves unprepared for the record-breaking low temperatures that swept Northern California. Established after the 1982 flood, the group was set up to help San

Lorenzo Valley residents during the emergencies that seem to plague the Santa Cruz Mountains at least once each year. But for Marcum, cries for help have no boundaries, and the Valley Churches United responded to a plea for assistance from the Davenport Resource Center.

The call came just hours after Marcum and volunteers with the Valley Churches United's Christmas Project finished delivering food and gifts to 4,974 needy Santa Cruz County residents.

"You have to act when the emergency is there," Marcum said. "Those people were freezing. We don't hog our disaster supplies."

Marcum said the Davenport farmworkers now have enough warm clothing, sleeping bags and blankets to keep them comfortable

for the rest of the winter. However, blankets, sleeping bags, and bottled water are needed at Valley Churches United to restock disaster shelves. Also needed are first aid kits and battery operated transistor radios.

"Those supplies are our mainstay in case of an earthquake or other disaster," Marcum said. "Right now our cupboards are bare."

The organization, which spent nearly \$1,000 to purchase sleeping bags and blankets during the crisis, is also seeking cash donations to help replenish its coffers.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

Call the Valley Churches United at (408) 336-5651, or mail or deliver your donations to their offices at 9340 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond.