

# Eagles have 'a good core'

By Tim Krohn Mankato Free Press January 4, 2010

MANKATO — While many service clubs struggle to keep and draw active members, the Eagles Club thrives and annually raises more than \$20,000 for cancer programs.

Bob Weiss, director of the foundation at Immanuel St. Joseph's Mayo Health, which receives the money, thinks the fundraising efforts likely keep members involved.

"The Eagles have maintained strength, I think, because of the strength of their cancer fundraisers. I think it gives the members something to work toward and be proud of," Weiss said.

John Cedergren, chairman of the cancer drive, said organizing the two-months of events takes a lot of people and time.

"We have a good core of about 25 volunteers and a lot more who help as much as they can." The Eagles has 440 members and another 160 in the women's auxiliary.

Sunday's auxiliary breakfast is one of the oldest of the fundraisers, dating back about 30 years.

Over the years, more events were added, including a steak and egg breakfast, an auction and the Bite-a-Burger for Cancer event that has become the most popular.

"We started doing a couple hundred burgers, now we're over 2,000," club manager Chris Badeaux said.

"It's a lot of patting and a lot of frying. It takes 40 people just to get them ready," he said.

The task is intensified because the burgers are delivered to area businesses that order them for employees — with most sent out over the lunch hour.

Weiss said the Eagles have donated about \$150,000 to ISJ in the past decade. "They were raising \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year; now it's grown to \$20,000."

Funding goes to help in the new Andreas Cancer Center, an \$8 million facility that is to open in August. It is funded by a \$4 million gift from the Andreas family, and the Glen A. Taylor Foundation makes a 50 percent match to all other donations.

"The Eagles give quite a bit. From my perspective, they're just a shining star in what they do to help the foundation help patients," Weiss said.

- Chilly temps and icy roads may have contributed to the low turnout for this year's Eagles Club Cancer Fundraising Breakfast. Matt Johnston



- Alie Hermanson helps prepare "made to order" breakfast plates in the kitchen of the Eagles Club Sunday. Matt Johnston



**Steadfast fundraisers for cancer keep Eagles viable**