

By SABREE HILL. For The Sun News

Yasmine Keyera (left) and Quadasha Jackson of Loris eat at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Horry County annual Thanksgiving dinner Saturday afternoon.

Grateful gobblers

Boys & Girls Clubs lays out spread for members

Want more details?

What | Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Horry County

Where | Aynor, Conway, Myrtle Beach and Loris
Information | 828-4759 or 997-4320, or www.carolinaclubs.org

By STEVE PALISIN
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Thanksgiving came early this year for the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Horry County, whose staff and members were eager to light up their two new scoreboards and put a new pitching machine in motion.

As soon as a Saturday morning full of flag football and softball games wound up across the

street, the gym of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Criminal Services Building in Myrtle Beach filled up with hungry players and their families.

Sitting in the bleachers before the buffet opened, Fabian Kendle, athletic director, looked at the crowd of at least 200 people. He was thrilled to see parents and children celebrate Thanksgiving together ahead of the holiday.

"We're one big family," he said.

Before leading grace, Grady "Pete" Crawford, the clubs' executive director, thanked the Youth Diamond Fund, Myrtle Beach Pelicans and Myrtle Beach Rotary Club for their support, collectively several thousand dollars.

The Pelicans' director of community relations, Julie Borshak, enjoyed watching the youth at play. "I saw some pretty impressive talent out there," she said.

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Eric Long, president of the Rotary Club, encouraged the children to dream big.

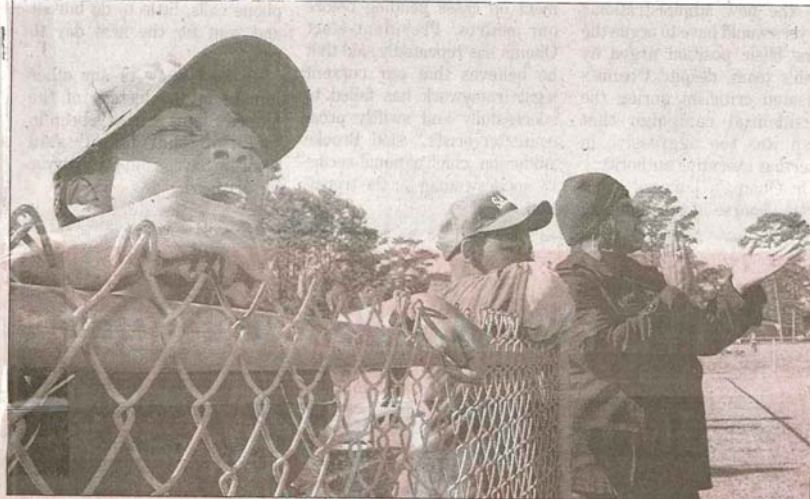
"Believe in yourself, believe in the future, and you can be successful," he said.

Emily Birch, 7, of Myrtle Beach, was one of the first to move through the buffet line.

Eating dessert — chocolate cake — before her full meal, she said her favorite part of Thanksgiving is the gathering of her family. She was quick to note the best part of her Saturday: playing softball.

Gabriel Beachum of Myrtle Beach sat nearby wearing a jersey of the Rose Bowl-bound Penn State Nittany Lions. The 7-year-old also opted to begin his dinner with cake, as his father, Jason Beachum watched smiling.

Thanksgiving means "recognizing everything we're thankful for," Jason Beachum said, "and of course, family, and



By SARRIE HILL For The Sun News

Tynisha Isaiah, 8, of Loris, cheers for her softball team, the Finklea Trojans, at a championship game before the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Horry County annual Thanksgiving dinner Saturday afternoon. The Finklea Trojans flag football team won their age division in the championship before dinner.

in our economy, a job."

It all fell in line with the opening song performed by the boys

and girls, which began with this reminder: "So every day is Thanksgiving."

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