This year marked the 16th year that Nate Goldberg and his family donated their time and money to make Thanksgiving a little better for some Detroit-area Jews.

"My sister and some of her friends got it started," Goldberg said. "We put the food baskets together and delivered them to people's homes. It started right after my father passed away, and we wanted to do something in his memory and to honor my mother," he said.

This year, Jeanette & Harry Goldberg Thanksgiving Baskets, Inc. — named for Goldberg's parents — recruited Jewish Family Service volunteers to pack and distribute the food from Yad Ezra's warehouse in Oak Park. Each year, the event is a family gathering for the Goldbergs.

"I help to put together the mailings, and organize getting the food from the stores," said Goldberg's daughter, Beth. "It had always been friends and family doing this, but now it's turned into a community-wide project."

There was enough food purchased for 120 families, and the money for the food came from donations. "No money
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from the donations goes to mailings, or the rental of a truck,” he said.

The truck is used to pick up the food from the stores to take to Yad Ezra.

When the distribution was done on Nov. 24, 33 JFS volunteers were there to help.

“My father has been involved in doing work for disadvantaged families,” said Elanah Nachman, one of the volunteers. “I was raised to want to do work like this.”

The volunteers ranged in age from 15 to 70. Ryan Trager, a 16-year-old student at Groves High School, was at Yad Ezra for a class, but plans on doing more work with JFS.

“It’s nice to give your time for something like this,” he said. “It makes you feel like you’re worthwhile, and making a difference instead of sitting around.”

The food baskets included a turkey, rice, macaroni noodles, soup mix, and fresh produce which was picked up by Goldberg the morning of the distribution.

“This is one of the biggest mitzvahs you can perform,” Goldberg said to the volunteers. “You should be commended.”

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