

ON THE TOWN

Foodbank working to fill 'The Empty Plate'

LORRAINE D. WILSON / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Hosts of the tribute dinner to honor Pierre Claeysens and to benefit the Foodbank were Michael Towbes, left, Larry Crandell and Tom Parker, with Brett Burkey, the grandson of Pierre Claeysens.

It's not too late to contribute a turkey, canned food or dollars to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and help feed hungry people in our community on Thanksgiving Day. Just bag it up and deliver to 4554 Hollister Ave., near the Page Youth Center with easy parking.

Pierre Claeysens remembered being hungry in war-torn Belgium, and as a result, he supported the Foodbank with a \$1,000 check each month since the Foodbank began in 1982.

To honor his memory, the Foodbank held a tribute dinner in the Loggia Ballroom of the Four Seasons Biltmore. The theme was "The Empty Plate" with artists and community leaders designing plates for the auction.



Lorraine D. Wilson

Jeanette Nadeau, executive director of Foodbank, presented a special plate to Brett Burkey, Pierre's

grandson, and she said, "This is to honor all the plates Pierre has filled for more than 20 years. We are grateful for his support and that of the community. Last year we were able to provide food to more than 55,000 people in Santa Barbara County, but this year our donations are low."

The tribute was hosted by: Michael Towbes, Larry Crandell, Tom Parker of the Hutton Foundation and the Biltmore. Among the sponsors of the benefit were: Sarah Miller McCune, Melinda Staveley, Rob and Judy Egenolf, Danyel Dean, Tom Breedon and event co-chairwomen Maggie Wordell, Diane Durst and Brigitte Guehr.