



If you were riding by Hampton High School, in Hampton, on Saturday, November 2nd around 2 p.m., you probably saw a large number of people attending a sporting event. The event was a baseball game, where the players dressed up in costumes. They weren't playing for points, per se, the teams were competing to raise food and funds for the Hunger Ministry at **Pine Chapel Baptist Church**.

This is the fourth annual Crabberween Baseball Benefit that is hosted by Danny Mitchell, who is the Coach of the Hampton High Baseball team and member of Pine Chapel Baptist Church. Danny is a firm believer that, "no one should go hungry — especially children." So, he came up with the idea for this game as a creative way to raise money and non-perishable goods for the Hunger Ministry at the church.

For the past four years, Danny with the assistance of his wife Sindi recruited former and active players from the three area high school teams. Each player must wear a costume and provide 10 can goods as a requirement to play in the game. The many spectators that show up for the game must pay their way in with a cash donation or can goods. This year, there were 33 players and 300 spectators in attendance, raising an astounding 5,063 non-perishable goods and \$3,051.

The donations filled the Fellowship Hall at the church. Those goods are then distributed as an outreach to the community.

"Even though we're a small church, our outreach is large. We take food on a regular basis to neighborhood food banks throughout the year, and this is in large part due to the 'Crabberween ministry' that has been going on for four years now," Pastor David Parker shared. "This major outreach to the local community brings in so much food and financial funds that we are able to use it for a variety of ministry projects. None of the funds go to waste. All of it is used, whether it be for the local food banks, local elementary schools, pregnancy centers, nursing homes, or for the homeless."

There is no doubt that this is more than a game not only to those who give but especially to those who benefit from what is given. When the Lord Jesus sent out the 12 on their first mission trip, He said: "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward (Matthew 10:42, NIV)." In the same way, the Lord has sent out His followers at Pine Chapel Baptist Church to reach their Jerusalem with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus by giving food to the hungry. ■

