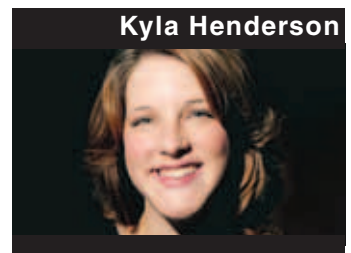


Military wives potluck for good times, good cause



MILLING ABOUT THE WHEAT CITY

Kyla Henderson is a Brandon freelance writer.

Clockwise from top left:
 ● Military Wives Sisterhood founder Gayle Raynor and member Becky Brown attend the sisterhood's potluck fundraiser at First Presbyterian Wednesday;
 ● military kids Jordan Walsh, 4, Cassie Jones, 7, and Avery Walsh, 7, mug for the camera;
 ● wives Maggie Gustafson and Jill Puikkala enjoy their meal, knowing it's for a good cause: raising funds to train landmine-sniffing dogs;
 ● Grayson Jones gets a big hug from big sister Cassie.

(Kyla Henderson/for the Sun)



The Military Wives Sisterhood got together Wednesday night for a potluck and games night, but also to raise some money for a good cause. Held downtown in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, a small group of moms and their children dined in honour of fallen CFB Shilo soldiers Cpl. Paul Davis and Master Cpl. Jeff Walsh. "We haven't seen each other since Christmas, so originally we were just going to have a potluck and

games night, but then we heard about the Night of a Thousand Dinners," said Gayle Raynor, chair and founder of the Military Wives Sisterhood. The group decided to register their potluck as a Night of a Thousand Dinners with the Canadian Landmine Foundation to support the training of land mine detection dogs, since two dogs currently being trained as mine detection dogs will be named after

Davis and Walsh. "We really wanted to raise some money to go towards the training of those two dogs," Raynor said. The local event offered a tantalising spread of home cooked meals and the children were busy with games such as Twister. "A good time was had by all," Raynor said. The group is still gathering donations in support of the Canadian Landmine Foundation

until March 1. Night of a Thousand Dinners is an international fundraiser that encourages smaller gatherings like potlucks and office parties to turn themselves into an event of global significance by collecting donations for the foundation. The Canadian Landmine Foundation aims at raising awareness and funds to stop the human and economic suffering caused by land mines.

The Military Wives Sisterhood holds an event once a month and will celebrate its second anniversary this year on April 27. For more information about the Military Wives Sisterhood, visit their Web site at: www.militarywivessisterhood.com or contact Gayle Raynor at 725-3210.