One dinner became nine Thanksgiving tables

A spreadsheet, generous neighbors and one useful pack of gum helped Cory and Heather turn a small idea into meals for nine families.

Sixty-five cents short of a turkey

What gets a Thanksgiving grocery order over the finish line? This time, a pack of gum. Heather and Cory's last order came to $49.35, just short of the $50 needed for the discounted turkey. They had already been through checkout enough times to have a system. Cory added the gum. Among the turkeys and ten-pound potato bags, the smallest purchase did a surprisingly useful job.



Heather with the Thanksgiving supplies as one dinner grows into nine, at 7:05.

Cory's original idea had fitted into one sentence: he and Heather could buy Thanksgiving groceries for one local family. He put the offer on a community Facebook page. Two donors asked to stay anonymous, his brother offered to cover a household, and Heather opened a spreadsheet. By Tuesday, four households were in the conversation. The sales let Cory and Heather cover a second family themselves; by Friday, Cory showed five meals and reported an average cost of $86 per family.

Then the number became nine. By Saturday, one family had already picked up its groceries, and the refrigerator was holding turkeys, pies, milk, butter and whipped cream for the others. Heather worked the cans into totes like someone who knew exactly where the mushroom soup belonged. They included foil pans for the sides and a roasting pan for the turkey. The problem had become finding space for everything they could send home.

Cory remembered a time when groceries and keeping the heat on competed for the same money. Heather said having family in town meant they always had somewhere to go for the holidays, even when money was tight. One of the people selected in the drawing told them she was inviting a neighbor who'd otherwise be alone and

planned to share the rest with two other families. As they finished packing, Heather wrote notes for the baskets and made sure the anonymous donors got a share of the credit. Melissa supplied the spelling from chat. Watch them pack the Thanksgiving baskets

Dinner without the missing recipe

Cory had the elk burger browning Tuesday before he found the spaghetti recipe. Or, more accurately, before he failed to find the recipe he swore he had written down. A shaved carrot went into the sauce, red pepper flakes were measured with his heart, and Claire fetched cream of mushroom soup. The farmers-market jalapeño-cheddar sourdough became garlic bread. Cory liked the result, though it was hotter than last time. Twenty minutes after his first bite, he remembered the mini pepperoni. Dinner had carried on without it. Taste the spaghetti with Cory



Cory tastes the spaghetti in the kitchen, at 49:40.

Those leftovers were Wednesday's dinner while Heather made a full batch of her nonalcoholic Kahlúa-style coffee syrup. She was reading a comment when the pot boiled over, leaving burnt sugar on the stove and enough smoke to set off the alarms. Cory stepped in to help with the cleanup. Heather bottled the batch and took particular satisfaction in guessing exactly how much the container would hold. She planned to take some to a friend to taste in coffee for the coffee shop. Watch Heather's Wifey Wednesday replay

One thousand subscribers, one retired bear

The Daily Foolery reached 1,000 subscribers, and Cory reported that the channel was monetized. He also had a milestone promise to answer for: an electric bear-fence stunt. Heather filmed while he brought along a teddy bear and went through twice. He described the shocks afterward, told viewers to leave that stunt to him and announced his retirement as a bear.



Cory’s bear costume makes an appearance in the milestone celebration, at 10:50.

Was there going to be an encore? Justin offered $50 for another go; Cory declined. He said he felt better later and felt fine Saturday, then thanked the people who had helped the channel reach a thousand. Heather had filmed a horizontal angle for a planned edit. For now, the livestream replay tells the story, and the bear’s retirement can stand. The 1,000-subscriber livestream