

PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER STARTS FLOOD RELIEF FUNDRAISER FOR COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL



(Left to Right) PHS football players Jason Lemonidis, River Crane, and EJ Miller sell raffle tickets during lunch to raise money for a high school in Colorado affected by devastating floods.

Palatine High School senior and football player River Crane lived in a town called Lyons, Colo. When he heard news about devastating floods that happened in his town and throughout Colorado, he knew he needed to help.

Crane launched fundraising efforts at PHS to send to Lyons Middle/Senior High School in Colorado. With the help of the Varsity Club, the PHS Football team will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the community. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 during the school day and at the football games through homecoming.

“The flood happened and a lot of people my family know were affected,” Crane said. “I felt like I owed the town something. I left friends there, and my football team, and I feel bad because I don’t know if they will even get to play a season. I just wanted to help out.”

After brainstorming with his family and other students via Twitter, he came up with a fundraising idea to help out a high school in Lyons, Colo. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets, and raise roughly \$5,000 for students. While Crane’s family is safe and was not directly affected from the flooding, the town is still in disarray. All money raised will be given to a relief fund that has been set up for Lyons Middle/Senior High School.

“I hope this gets the school back on its feet and helps buy new equipment,” River

said. "I just hope this fundraiser can help get things up and running again out there."

At half time of the homecoming football game, five raffle winners will be selected to kick an extra point and field goal to earn prizes. If they make the extra point, they will win \$25 and attempt a kick from the 30-yard line to win \$250.

"We are trying to make a donation direct from our kids to their kids, and our school to their school because they have lost athletic fields, equipment, and stuff they will need to replace," said Mark Johnson, Varsity Club sponsor and social studies teacher at PHS. "If we can do something at PHS to help out, River's idea is a way we can do it."

For any questions, please contact Mark Johnson (varsity club sponsor) or Coach Rick Splitt at Palatine High School.