Local food shelves report increased use

By Randy Forst
Staff Writer

The wind chill was five degrees below zero at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday as the line for food began to form outside the Disciples Ministry Church, Mission.

The mission opened at 10 a.m. and the line grew longer, stretching around the corner and continuing nearly two blocks.

About 5,000 bags of groceries were handed out in four hours yesterday, and the church, at 1900 Oliver Ave. N., had to turn away some people who arrived too late, said Jeannie Durand, who works at the mission.

State and local officials say that requests for food by the poor this holiday season are up over last December.

"Last year we helped nearly 20,000 people over the holidays," said...