

About a month's worth of preparation in Riverside Park pays off tonight, when La Crosse's Rotary Lights display is switched on for the holidays.

This is the 18th year for the display, which contributes more food to community pantries than just about any other single event in the area. And festival president Pat Stephens says people from dozens of organizations throughout the region volunteer their time to help.

Two million lights will be turned on in the park after the downtown parade which begins at 5 p-m. Rotary Lights lasts every night from now to New Year's Eve, a total of 39 nights this year.