



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCPD DONATES 70 FOOD BASKETS AND HUNDREDS OF TOYS TO OCEAN CITY FAMILIES

The annual OCPD Christmas Needy Drive proved to be a blessing to many local families. With a volunteer crew of more than 50 people, Chief Bernadette DiPino and her staff tended to more than 60 families, including more than 150 children, this past Saturday at the Public Safety Building.

The OCPD Christmas Needy Drive was started by Chief DiPino's grandfather in the Baltimore Police Department many years ago. The tradition was continued by her father in Baltimore, and later by Chief DiPino in Ocean City. This year is the 13th year for the OCPD Christmas Needy Drive and each year the event has grown.

This year, the Department was fortunate to have received 26 bicycles that were donated by Harborside Refrigeration and Atlantic Physical Therapy. In addition, hundreds of toy and monetary donations came from Fager's Island, The Greene Turtle, The OC Hibernians, the OC Elks, the 1st State Detachment Marine Corps League and several Ocean City community members. The OCPD Christmas Needy Drive volunteers not only helped families load toys and boxes of food for the holidays, but also assisted in transportation for some people who otherwise would have had to take the bus.

Chief DiPino was very pleased with the event. "Every year our community seems to be more generous than ever. I was truly overwhelmed by the donations and the volunteers from the community as well as from the police officers and their families; this was truly what Christmas is all about. On behalf of the Ocean City Police Department, and the families who received these wonderful gifts, I can not thank our community enough."

I also want to thank Food Lion Grocery Store and particularly the store Manager Cheryl Tucker and Customer Service Manager Tracy Smith for working with us to ensure we were able to provide a bounty of food to those in need.

Extra food and toys were given to the Noel Group and Ocean City Baptist Church, on North Division Street. The Ocean City Police Department sincerely thanks all of those who made donations in support of this event.

December 22, 2008

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com



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Pictured are the many Ocean City Citizens and Police officers and their families who volunteered to distribute food and toys to the many needy families in the Ocean City Community this year.



Pictured from left to right: Food Lion Customer Service Manager Tracy Smith, Store Manager Cheryl Tucker and OCPD Chief Bernadette DiPino. The group is pictured standing in front of a trailer full of food boxes prepared by the Food Lion employees for this years OCPD Christmas Food and Toy drive.

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