

The Capital

County Lawyers Display Largesse

By LESLIE HUNT
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Claudette Robinson, a social worker at Van Bokkelen Elementary School, watched with delight as local lawyers came parading in with 100 Thanksgiving turkeys and food baskets for needy families.

But that delight was tempered on Tuesday, because she knew that another 20 families from the Jessup area had asked to sign up for the holiday baskets after the deadline.

Ms. Robinson mentioned this to the members of the Anne Arundel County Bar Association delivering the goodies to the Severn school, and it was like magic.

"Off they went to the nearest Shoppers Food Warehouse for 20 more turkeys and baskets. It was truly heartwarming," said Ms. Robinson. "We feel blessed that they extended their time to do this for us."

The association, which teamed up with Graul's Market of Annapolis, delivered another 100 baskets to the Admiral Oaks community on Tuesday.

Over a three-year period, the 1,000-member association has raised more than \$17,000 through its annual food drive, including close to \$6,000 this year.

"Donations kept trickling in past the deadline," said Fran Czajka, executive director of the association. That money has been donated to the Anne Arundel County Food Link Program.

"They (the association) have been extremely active in our community. We value their partnership and value everything the association does for our community. The volunteers we so pleasant and helpful," said Bill McIntyre, coordinator of CPDC Gateway (Community Preservation and Development Corp.), the youth program at Admiral Oaks.

"It was fantastic. The families were so pleased and excited. I thought it was a big success."

The program was initiated three years ago by former president Kevin Schaeffer, said Karen Cook, current president of the county bar association.

"Our community should be really proud," said Ms. Cook. "Not only do they contribute to such things as food the needy, through their donations; we also provide backpacks for children in September. They also contribute a vast amount of time and talent in so many other ways, such as pro bono legal services for our citizens."

Ms. Czajka was among the lawyers making the deliveries on Tuesday.

"It is very rewarding and heartwarming doing work that will be appreciated," she said.

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