

## 'Count Your Blessings' Delivers Two Tons of Food

UNION COUNTY — Some folks call it the ultimate "labor of love," while others say it's just a nice way of giving thanks for the people and things we have at Thanksgiving.

Either way, the 24th annual delivery of more than two tons of food to crime victims and their families is all ready for next week.

Victim witness advocates from the Union County Prosecutor's Office have put out colorful boxes for county employees to drop off their food donations. Union Police Detective Joseph Casalino will pick up dozens of turkeys donated by the Union County Juvenile Officers Association and on Monday hundreds of items will get sorted and stacked for delivery to selected needy families from throughout the county.

"When all is said and done, it's going to be close to 50 boxes and baskets with more than two tons of food alone coming in from an Elizabeth Boy Scout troop that comes through year after year," said Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow, who noted that donations are generally down statewide because of New Jersey's participation in the nationwide hurricane relief efforts.

"Everyone asks why we do this, but it's just a small way for good people to make sure that some families in need know others really do care," said Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow.

It's become known as "Counting Your Blessings" and is made possible

by the police officers, assistant prosecutors, county workers and the scouts from Troop 23 and Pack 23 from Saint Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth.

For more than a decade, Scoutmaster Dan Bernier has led the charge with the youngsters putting out paper bags and residents filling them up for pickup throughout the city.

Elaine O'Neal, coordinator of the Victim Witness Advocacy Office, said her staff works for days to sort, stack and pack the food so that it can be delivered in time for Thanksgiving with families selected from violent crime case files and recommendations from police.

"We like to bring these families, who might have little or nothing on the table for Thanksgiving, a small measure of holiday cheer to supplement the services we provide," she said.

Included among some of the families from Rahway, Linden, Roselle, Plainfield and Elizabeth is a family devastated by the murder of the family breadwinner and a mother who lost a son to senseless street violence.

Ms. O'Neal, who runs a homicide survivors' group meeting each month at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Rahway, said 20 turkeys came from the juvenile officers group headed by Elizabeth Detective Michael Kelly and another 10 donated as part of retired Prosecutor's Detective Captain Sal Apuzzio's annual contribution.

## Westfield Y Swim Team Performance Scheduled

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Y's synchronized swim team, which has placed in the top 10 at the nationals for the past two years, will stage its annual public performance on Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November 20 at the Westfield Y, located at 220 Clark Street.

This year's show, entitled, "Dangerous When Wet," features nearly 30 swimmers in a series of routines set to music and includes lifts, flips as well as the more widely known balletic moves.

The show offers the public an uncommon look at this unusual and de-

manding sport. The Westfield "Y" "Aquaducks" team is made up of an elite group of swimmers, ages 9 to 18, who come from all over Central New Jersey, including Hoboken, Bridgewater, Basking Ridge, Middlesex, Summit, Princeton, in addition to Westfield and the surrounding towns. The team also includes a swimmer from Staten Island and one from Pennsylvania.

The one-hour show raises money to help defray the cost of the team's travel, which takes them all over the United States. This year, the team will travel to Seattle and Florida, among other locales.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. There are two shows on Saturday, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The performance on Sunday is at 1 p.m. For more information, call (908) 233-2700.



ROTARIANS — District Governor Andy Calamaras, a resident of Fanwood, spoke recently to the Westfield Rotary on projects that clubs have participated in such as school literacy, potable water for villages in Honduras, membership and the Rotary Foundation. Pictured, from left to right, are: Michael Hart, Mr. Calamaras and President Nancy Jackson.

## \$2.48 Million Refund Checks In NJ Returned to IRS

SPRINGFIELD, NJ - The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 2,623 New Jersey taxpayers who can claim their share of undeliverable refund checks totaling approximately \$2.48 million. The IRS can reissue the checks, which average \$946, after taxpayers correct or update their ad-

IRS refund checks are due to:

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Hart, Donald W & Sally Deed    | Cranford         |
| Lineau, Harry                  | Cranford         |
| King, Aisha K                  | Fanwood          |
| Parent, Roger                  | Garwood          |
| Miranda, Filadelfio Cruz       | Kenilworth       |
| Colon, Maria C                 | Springfield      |
| Daly, William F                | Westfield        |
| Gomez, Armando                 | Westfield        |
| Johnson, Quiana A              | Westfield        |
| Leddy, Krispin                 | Westfield        |
| Scarper, Steven P              | Westfield        |
| Deluca, Joseph F               | Mountainside     |
| Gonnella, Lisa A               | Mountainside     |
| Corrales, Danilo & Marlene     | Summit           |
| Cotton, Monica & Mark          | Summit           |
| Delao, Chafen                  | Summit           |
| Furrer, Charles R & Phyllis J  | Summit           |
| Mora, Bertilio & Teresa Gamboa | Summit           |
| Ortiz, Walter & Ann            | Summit           |
| Rodriguez, Marlon              | Summit           |
| Vergara Olivares, Rose Marie   | Summit           |
| Del Rosso, Rose                | Berkeley Heights |
| Butault, Herve & Valerie       | Warren           |
| Conway, Joseph F & Paula L     | Warren           |
| Klyuashtorny, Dan              | Warren           |
| Rothenberg, Marc               | Warren           |
| Ketchens, Melissa S            | Watchung         |
| Lepelstat, Michael H           | Watchung         |

resses with the IRS. In some cases, a taxpayer has more than one check waiting.

Nationally, there are 84,290 taxpayers with undeliverable refunds, totaling approximately \$73 million with an average refund of \$871.

Visiting IRS.gov makes it easy for taxpayers to see if they've missed a refund. The "Where's My Refund?" feature on the site provides taxpayers with information about their refunds. To use it, taxpayers enter their Social Security number, filing status (such as single or married filing jointly) and the refund amount shown on their 2004 tax return. When the information is submitted, "Where's My Refund?" will show the status of a refund and, in some cases, provide instructions to resolve potential account issues.

Generally, refund checks can go astray for a variety of reasons. Often, a life change results in a change of address. When a taxpayer moves or changes address and fails to notify the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service, a check sent to the taxpayer's last known address is returned to the IRS.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can file Form 8822, Change of Address, with the IRS. Download the form from IRS.gov or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

## Residents Say Thank You By Giving to WF United Way

By Carolyn Fieder, Bd. Pres. Westfield United Way

Thanksgiving is a distinctively American holiday, set aside for giving thanks for the blessings of health, food, shelter, family, friends and community. During the Thanksgiving season, many Westfielders, recognizing how much they have to be grateful for, say "thank you" by giving to Westfield United Way, which helps maintain the quality of life for all in our community.

We are grateful to all who have generously responded to the 2005 Westfield United Way campaign, and we urge all who have not yet sent in a pledge card to do so now as a sign of "thanksgiving." By sharing our blessings, Westfielders extend the spirit of Thanksgiving throughout the coming year.

A past edition of the "Friendly Place," a newsletter for Westfield Community Center Senior Citizens (one of the 19 member agencies supported by our United Way), contained the following inspirational message, which we would like to share again this year: "Be Thankful:

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can

hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank you, Lord that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bed-ridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the magazines, and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for the gift of life."

On behalf of all of us at the Westfield United Way, let me wish everyone a most happy Thanksgiving season.

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