



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **December 18, 2007**

Sheriff Roles Up Sleeves to Feed Needy Families

The working poor can barely make ends meet. There are families who struggle to put food on the table for their children. There are senior citizens who face the agonizing dilemma of choosing between buying food or medicine. There are disabled veterans. There are homeless men, women and children. There are people in Newport News whose bellies rumble with hunger.

Councilwoman Sharon Scott said “enough” and founded the North District Holiday Food Drive Party. In its sixth year, she invited the Sheriff’s Office back to help.

Scott said she started the food drive as a response to the children in our City. According to Scott, half the students in Newport News are on the free or reduced lunch program at school. That’s right, 50%. She didn’t want them going hungry when school is on recess. The Food Drive is designed to bridge the gap over the holiday break.

Deputy recruits with the Newport News Sheriff’s Office learn that public service extends beyond the regular business day. It means reaching out to the community through volunteer work. Sheriff Morgan worked alongside ten recruits on Monday. They sorted through 4-tons of food, separating it by category. They turned the American Legion Denbigh Post banquet room into a virtual grocery store.

That “store” will be open Tuesday, December 18, 2007 from 2pm – 7pm to anyone who is in need. There are no pre-qualifiers. It is operated on the honor system.

This year, 400 families will be given a ham, a turkey and a shopping bag to fill with items of their choosing.

The event continues to grow. Last year, the line wrapped around the American Legion building. This year, Councilwoman Scott and her committee of dedicated workers collected double the amount of food. Scott extends a sincere thank you to the corporate and individual donors, without whom this event would not be successful. She also thanks the Sheriff’s Office for their hard work.

The media is welcome to cover the event. Join us and watch the true giving spirit of the holidays come alive.

WHAT: 6th Annual North District Holiday Food Drive Party

WHEN: Tuesday, December 18 from 2pm – 7pm

WHERE: American Legion Denbigh Post; American Legion Drive; Newport News (off Warwick Blvd. and Lucas Creek)

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