

# Media Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:    October 28, 2014**

## **"Lt. Patty Simons 19th Annual Law Enforcement Food Drive Begins"**

*Area businesses are asked to participate*

Norristown, PA (October, 28 2014) – The 19th Annual Law Enforcement Food Drive is underway. In November of 2007 the food drive was renamed in dedication of Norristown Police Department Lieutenant Patty Simons. She was an active and vocal member of this effort since its inception, and we would like her legacy to continue to be part of this wonderful cause that was dear to her heart. The planning committee met on October 28, 2014 at the Police Athletic League in Norristown, PA. More than a dozen local law enforcement agencies and area businesses will team up to collect more than nine tons of food. The food collection, one of the largest in our region, will supply the Catholic Social Services in Norristown, Eagleville Elementary School Snack Backpack Program, the Patrician Society in Norristown and the Salvation Army Norristown Corps with food for operations throughout the next year.

Catholic Social Services through their Core Values of Compassion, Dignity, Charity, Justice and Excellence feeds a total of 700 people a month in Norristown, with only 3 feedings a week. The Eagleville Elementary School Snack Backpack Program provides up to 91 students with child-friendly, easy-to-prepare, nutritious food items for children to take home with them every weekend during the school year. The Patrician Society rents space at Saint Patrick's School basement in Norristown to feed 1500 people monthly. They are the largest cupboard in Montgomery County, not funded by County or State funds, and rely solely on private donations. For 32 years, they have been providing assistance for elderly people on fixed incomes, homeless persons, and parents with children.

The Salvation Army's food shelter serves 100 hundred meals a day, along with breakfast and afternoon snacks that are provided to children. When families leave the shelter, they are also provided with food in an effort to help them start out on their own. The Salvation Army was founded 140 years ago as a religious and social services organization. Since that time, the organization has taken a holistic approach to working with people addressing their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Food may be dropped off at all participating police departments and businesses, with

the final day of collection being Wednesday , December 17, 2014. On Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 9:30AM , a parade of police cars and motorcycles will lead a flatbed tractor -trailer loaded with donated food and toys from the Police Athletic League to The Salvation Army on Swede Street. Dozens of law enforcement officers, politicians and government representatives will form a human assembly line to unload the trailer. The Salvation Army Band will be on hand to provide music and holiday cheer. The rest of the food will be brought to the Catholic Social Services and the Patrician Society in Norristown and to the Snack Backpack Program at Eagleville Elementary School.

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