

## **'Shop With A Cop' spectacular**

The Cumberland Valley Optimist Club wishes to thank everyone who assisted in any way to make this year's "Shop With A Cop" program a spectacular success; it was absolutely the best year for our annual event!

It was a banner year with 14 law enforcement agencies participating, giving 44 middle school students from Allegany and Mineral County the opportunity to shop for gifts for their family and themselves. It is an awesome experience to see 44 police cars approach Walmart with sirens blaring, escorting excited children who are anticipating their shopping adventure. The program is designed to give students the opportunity to experience a positive one-on-one relationship with a law enforcement officer and the opportunity to purchase gifts for their loved ones, thus experiencing the joy of giving.

Following their shopping extravaganza, the students were treated to a brunch provided by the Cresaptown Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Ladies Auxiliary of FOE 2883. While they dined on hot dogs, french fries, pizza and cake with sponsoring officers, members of the Optimist Club and many volunteers wrapped the purchased gifts for the children.

A special thanks to the many businesses and individuals who contributed financially so that this event could happen. Contributions were received from Adams Family Funeral Home, Arby's Three M Associates, B&D Salvage, Blankenship's Country Store, Bonnie Gaughan, Center for Career and Technical Education Law Enforcement Class, CHP Truck & Bus, Cover-Up Girls Quilters of Frostburg Senior Center, Cresaptown Eagle Riders 2883, Cresaptown F.O.E. Auxiliary 2883, Cresaptown F.O.E. 2883, Dee Fazenbaker, Dr. Diane D. Romaine & Associates, Duckworth Insurance SVCS, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Faith, Hope, & Images, Fort Cumberland FOP Lodge 90, FOP Lodge 144, Fred and Vicki Bartik, Georgia Martin, Hillegas Construction, I.B.E.W. Local Union 307, Iron Workers Local Union 568, James and Laura Williams, Jim and Beverly Mann, Jim Swann, Jon Loff and Kathy Rogers, Kelco Federal Credit Union, Keyser City Police Department, Keyser Middle School Builders Club, KMK Insurance Agency, Kristi Otto Allstate Insurance Co., Mary L. Hawkins, Menchavez Pediatrics, MoonGlo Skating Rink, Opposite Genders, Oster Brothers Truck Service, Prestige Cleaners, Rehab First, Rex and Sandra Burton, Ridgeley VFW, Scarpelli Funeral Home, Sheila R. Riley, Skidmore & Alderson, Staggers, Heare, & Whiteman Progressive Physical Therapy, Standard Bank, Total Biz Fulfillment, Tri State Fleet & Equipment Service, Wanda's Clocks & Trophies, Western MD Building & Construction Trades Council and Western MD Central Labor Council.

Thank you to the Cresaptown Fraternal Order of Eagles and Ladies Auxiliary for donating brunch to the students, police and wrappers. Thanks to all of the guest wrappers, including Grace United Methodist Church of Midland, Nicky Miller and daughters, Cover-Up Girls and friends. Thanks to Carl and Cinda Bucklew, Dan and Marianne Lasher, and Rhonda Downton for donating bicycles and helmets as door prizes. Thanks to Pat Stakem for his donation of fishing rods and Mike Kerns for donating DVR players as door prizes and thanks to Ron Brown for transporting the bicycles to their destination. Thanks also to the Cumberland Times-News for their coverage of this program.

A very special thanks to the 44 officers involved, most of who were donating their off-duty time. Agencies who participated were Allegany County Sheriff's Department, Mineral County Sheriff's Department, Maryland State Police, West Virginia State Police, C31, Cumberland City Police, Keyser City Police, Ridgeley Police, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Maryland Fire Marshal's Office, Frostburg State University Police, Finan Center Security and Frostburg City Police. Without the assistance and dedication of these fine officers, this program could not exist; they are to be commended!

The "Shop With A Cop" program seems more successful every year and it is truly a community effort, depending on our entire community for funding. As always, you have met the challenge and we extend our heartfelt thanks. Thank you!

**Judi Lazarus-Haag**  
Shop With A Cop chair