



# ROTARY CLUB OF FRONT ROYAL

Ron Llewellyn, President

## NEWS RELEASE

*The Rotary Club of Front Royal delivered 153 boxes of food to needy families through its "Doc Smith" Christmas Basket program*

For Release: Tuesday, December 23, 2014

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Front Royal – The Rotary Club of Front Royal delivered 153 boxes of food to needy families through its Doc Smith Christmas Basket program. On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> volunteers from the Rotary Club helped pack up donated food items into gift boxes that were either picked up or delivered on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

According to Chairman Bret Hrbek, "The goal of the Doc Smith Christmas Basket program is to provide basic food staples to families in need in the community to make sure that they can have a traditional Christmas dinner."

The Doc Smith Baskets include the following items:

- *Ham*
- *Bread*
- *Powdered Milk*
- *Stuffing Mix*
- *Jelly*
- *Bag of Flour*
- *Bag of Sugar*
- *Canned Vegetables*
- *Miscellaneous Items*

The Doc Smith program has been a long-standing program in Front Royal. It was originated by Edgar C. Smith, Chief of Police in 1916 who was most commonly referred to as Doc Smith. The program was named after him based-on his continued service to the needy. This program typically services 100-150 families throughout Warren County. A local Sorority (Psi Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority) has

coordinated this program for approximately 30 years (1973-2003). The Sorority approached the Front Royal Rotary Club in 2003 about the possibility of taking this program over. The Rotary Club gladly did so.



*Club Members Blair Mitchell (L) and Larry Adkins (R) assist with filling Doc Smith Gift Baskets (boxes) with food for families in need in the Front Royal-Warren County Community*



*Food collected for distribution*

Chairman Bret Hrbek added, “I really want to thank all of those who donated food items, cash and/or their time for the project. Through this project we have directly impacted the lives of approximately 380 people in our community this year.”

The list of donors includes:

- Martin's Grocery
- Front Royal United Methodist Church, United Methodist Men and Women
- Phi Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Tau Sorority
- Edward Jones
- Warren County Public Schools – Teachers and Students
- Rotary Club of Front Royal

According to current Club President Ron Llewellyn, “The Doc Smith Basket Program is one of the more exciting and personally fulfilling projects that we work on each year. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to personally thank our Committee Chair Bret Hrbek and each of the volunteers for putting in the time and effort to help make Christmas a little brighter for 153 families in the Front Royal-Warren County community.”

The Club would like to take the opportunity to thank its FY 2014-2015 Club sponsors. With the sponsors' support, the Club is able to better serve the Front Royal-Warren County community.

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