



REP. KARL VAN ROY • 90TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

VAN ROY'S VIEWS

LEGISLATIVE E-UPDATE

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Happy Thanksgiving! Giving Hope to those Less Fortunate

I'm sure you, like many others, are busy getting ready for the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. Folks are busy cooking, traveling somewhere or getting ready for visitors, putting up Christmas decorations, planning their holiday sale shopping, deer hunting, and of course, gearing up to watch some great Packer football!!

In all this hustle and bustle, don't lose sight of the holiday we are celebrating. Take some time to reflect on all the people and things in your life for which you can be grateful. For most of us the holiday season will include a traditional holiday meal, gifts, parties, and time with family. However, not everyone is so fortunate. Holidays are a time for giving, and now is a good time to remember those people, to lend a helping hand and give hope to someone in need.

For the last several years, I have volunteered my time as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. I'll be at the west side Farm Fleet this Friday at 11:00 a.m., and I'll be at several other locations in December. The money collected in the kettles will fund valuable programs throughout the year to help people meet their basic needs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing, transportation, and household needs. The Salvation Army also has numerous programs they participate in during the holidays including: food baskets, Giving Tree, Adopt-A-Family, Coats for Kids, and Toys for Tots, among others. This is a worthwhile charity that uses its donations wisely and does a lot for our community. They still have thousands of hours of bell ringing slots open, and a huge goal of \$1,025,000 to meet! To sign up for a slot, go to <http://greenbaysa.volunteerfirst.org/public/default.asp>. You can also make a secure donation online at: https://secure3.salvationarmy.org/donations.nsf/donate?openform&t=US_USC*USE*USS*USW

Why not bring a smile to the face of a youngster and participate in the Toys for Tots campaign? This program accepts new, unwrapped toys that will be given to needy boys and girls of all ages for Christmas. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve has operated this program since 1947. Last year, coordinators nationwide distributed 19.2 million toys to 7.6 million needy children. Go to www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=7304781 to find a

donation drop-off site nearest you. If you don't have the time, you can also sponsor a toy by giving a cash donation. The money is used to buy toys at bulk discount rates. Sponsor a toy online at: https://secure.entango.com/donate/tft_google07. If you have questions, please direct them to Sgt. Mark Brunick at 920-336-3070.

Paul's Pantry was started as a result of a need to care for hungry people in the community who are unable to purchase enough food for their family. Since 1984, Paul's Pantry has distributed over 62 million pounds of food to the needy of Brown County. They handle nearly 25,000 pounds of food daily. For more information on how to donate food or volunteer your time, go to:

<http://www.paulspantry.org/paulspantry/home/donations/default.asp>

I know there are many other great programs out there in the Green Bay area for you to donate your time or money to besides the three I mentioned here. I sincerely hope you take the time to find one you like and decide what you and your family can do to provide hope and joy to those less fortunate than yourselves during this holiday season.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

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