



ing the Garrett County part of the program for the past eight years.

"It is a Christmas joy to be part of a wonderful gift-giving program that benefits more than 400 children in Garrett County," she said.

She and a small group of volunteers work with Diane Shade in the Cumberland office to see that applications are completed. A team of Garrett County volunteers travels to Cumberland and hand-packs all the toys for the towns in Garrett County. Nasif hosts the toy pick up at the Oakland fire hall, where the 400 children's toys arrive and are handed in one evening.

She noted that Santa Claus attends during the toy pick-up, handing out candy canes, along with posing for photos. Calvert County high school students take part in the program as well, earning service hours.

Chuck Kohler, president of the program, makes several trips back and forth between Garrett County and Cumberland during the effort, bringing the toy collection barrels and signs, and offering any other help needed.

Shade processes every application into the system, and tracks the items until they are delivered, and the gifts are delivered by Mark Blacker.

"Please consider a toy or money donation to make this year the best year ever with Toys for Happiness for the children of Garrett County," Nasif said. She noted that Toys for Happiness also can provided emergency items to families victims of home fires in Garrett County.

"We hope this year will be our best ever with Toys for Happiness," she said.

TOYS FOR HAPPINESS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF – The 2015 Toys For Happiness program was launched with a recent kickoff dinner, during which local participants were honored and thanked for their work with the program. Toys for Happiness is headquartered in Cumberland, but it operates in Garrett County as well. A plaque of appreciation was presented to Alex Mellott, who is the president of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department, at the kickoff event. The gift was given in gratitude to the OVFD for members' assistance in the program last year, when they staged "Fill a Truck Load with Toys," collecting toys and donations in front of First Peoples Bank. Pictured from left are Tammy Mellott, wife of Alex Mellott who is in the center, and Mary Ellen Nasif, the Garrett County coordinator of the program. Applications are now being accepted for Toys for Happiness, and can be found online at www.toys4happiness.org. Paper applications can be obtained at all Garrett County public libraries, Garrett County Community Action, Department of Social Services, Head Start and the Judy Center, and Burlington Family Services, or by contacting Mary Ellen Nasif at 301-501-2858. The deadline is Nov. 19. The gift barrels will soon be distributed throughout the county for gift donations. See story.

Applications Now Accepted For Toys For Happiness

The 2015 Toys For Happiness program, headquartered in Cumberland but operating in Garrett County as well, was launched with a recent kickoff dinner. Applications are now being accepted for the holiday gift program.

At the kickoff event, a

plaque of appreciation was presented to Alex Mellott, who was representing the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department. The certificate was given in gratitude to the OVFD for members' assistance in Toys for Happiness.

Last year the OVFD assisted in "Fill a Truck Load with Toys," collecting toys and donations in front of First Peoples Bank. This event will take place once again on a

date to be announced.

Garrett County has been participating in the Toys for Happiness program for more than ten years.

Applications to receive the benefits of Toys for Happiness are now being accepted. Persons may apply online by going to www.toys4happiness.org. Paper applications can be obtained at all Garrett County public libraries, Garrett County Community Action, Department of Social Services, Head Start and the Judy Center, and Burlington Family Services, or by contacting Mary Ellen Nasif at 301-501-2858.

The deadline for submitting applications is Nov. 19. Delivery date is scheduled for Dec. 16.

Christmas barrels for the project will soon be located across the county, and persons are invited to donate toys to the program by leaving them in the containers.

Nasif has been coordinat-