Supporting a safer, better prepared, and more responsive Monroe County

Our first edition of Community Connections shared highlights of Sanofi Pasteur’s partnerships with key groups focused on educating and mentoring our next generation. Now in its second edition, this newsletter focuses on how the company prioritizes its partnerships with community safety and security organizations through not only philanthropic giving, but also volunteerism, resource development, and relationship building.

The goal: to make Northeastern Pennsylvania a safer place to live and work, thereby strengthening our Swiftwater site and enhancing quality of life in our community.

Whether it was to help fight crime, encourage safety education, or contribute to natural disaster preparedness, Sanofi Pasteur donated to literally dozens of emergency responder organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania in 2012 alone. One of those organizations is the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management, which Sanofi Pasteur has supported in multiple ways, including contributing to state-of-the-art equipment for its firefighting training facility. The company also purchased critical safety equipment and apparel for the Monroe County Control Center (911), including protective gloves, eyewear, face coverings, and full-body suits.

Keeping our loved ones safe

When Sanofi Pasteur learned the Monroe County Community Safety Program was slated to be eliminated due to county budget constraints, the company quickly stepped up to help fill the funding gap. According to Monroe County Highway Safety Coordinator Nina Woodling, Sanofi Pasteur’s donation contributed to the program aimed at providing children’s car seats to local needy families, promoting safe seat belt usage, and educating the community about the dangers of distracted driving. Woodling is pictured below (left), sharing some smiles with a young mother after showing her the correct way to install a car seat.
To further aid children and families in our region, Sanofi Pasteur also assisted the Pennsylvania State Police in funding the installation of a digital fingerprinting identification system to help decrease reporting time in the event of a child abduction. This system uses cutting-edge technology to streamline the fingerprinting process, improve accuracy, and provide parents with a convenient way to access their child’s identification information.

In a more localized effort to help make our communities safer, Sanofi Pasteur equipped the Pocono Township Police Department to better combat gang and drug activity by contributing to the purchase of a cell phone decoding device. The company also provided a specialized K-9 SUV, which houses Falco, a German Shepherd trained for explosive detection and human tracking. According to Chief Phil Riley, “In today’s world, there is a great demand for the K-9 unit at all hours of the day and night. We are extremely grateful to Sanofi Pasteur for this specialized vehicle. It helps keep our community safe, protects our officers, and makes us a more effective police department.” Chief Riley (far left) is pictured here with Officer Christopher Staples and Falco.

The company also contributed to the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department’s K-9 Program.

As part of Sanofi Pasteur’s comprehensive Community Relations program, the company not only provides monetary donations to local first responder groups, but also supports active participation by its employees. For example, Donald Zipp (pictured, left) and Steve McManus (right) roll up their sleeves as volunteers for the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee, while Melissa Lauer (center) has taught biosafety and infection control classes to local police, firefighters, and EMS personnel. Zipp, like many courageous local responders, was called into the line of duty for the Ross Township tragedy, helping run the Chestnuthill Township Crisis Management Team.

We thank all of Monroe County’s emergency responders for their support during the Ross Township tragedy. Our hearts go out to all who were affected and whose lives were forever changed.

Photography in “Keeping our loved ones safe,” “Empowering law enforcement,” and “Responding to one another” sections provided by David W. Coulter Photography.

Watch for periodic Community Connections updates. And be sure to visit the Sanofi Pasteur Community Relations website at http://community.sanofipasteur.us to read more about our commitment to the local community.

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