

Misericordia University donates four ballistic shields to Dallas and Dallas Township police departments

DALLAS, Pa. – Misericordia University has donated high-tech safety shields for use by the Dallas and Dallas Township police departments to help protect them as they respond to any incidents involving gunfire.

The university provided \$15,580 to purchase four ballistics shields that will be shared by the two Back Mountain departments. The shields are manufactured by Baker Ballistics in Lancaster, Pa., and make use of light-weight plastics to offer a high level of protection for the local officers. “Over the years, shields weighed as much as 60 pounds and we abandoned them because they were so cumbersome to carry,” said Robert G. Jolley, Dallas Township chief of police. “The new shields fold for easy storage and accessibility, and at only 12 pounds simply put offer the greatest weight to protection available on the market.”

Misericordia is the first university in the area to make a donation that directly affects the safety of local law enforcement officers, Jolley added. “This presentation shows real initiative on the part of Misericordia to improve our law enforcement capabilities for all residents of the Back Mountain.”

“Safety is of utmost concern to us,” noted Misericordia President Michael A. MacDowell. “It is our responsibility as one of the largest employers in the Back Mountain to make sure those dedicated to keeping our community safe have the tools they need to do their job. These shields will help improve safety response not just for the campus but for the entire Back Mountain population.” The university Campus Safety Department, under the direction of Paul Murphy, director of Campus Safety & Facilities, and Robert Cragle, associate director of Campus Safety, employs 13 safety officers to protect the campus community that totals over 3,200 people, including both full and part-time staff, faculty and students.

“Misericordia University is proud support the efforts of our local law enforcement officers and help prepare them to respond to dangerous situations anywhere in the Back Mountain,” said Murphy. The university also makes the athletic facilities in the Anderson Health and Fitness Center available to law enforcement officers in the area.

“Although the borough is only responsible for a small portion of the campus property, that along Lake St. between Main St. and Center Hill Rd., we have full cooperation with Dallas Township and Campus Safety to coordinate efforts,” added James Drury, Dallas Borough Chief of Police. “These shields will greatly add to our officers’ protection and our ability to respond to a variety of incidents.”

Philip Walter, chairman Board of Supervisors, Dallas Township, summed up the thoughts of all involved. “For us, having the new shields is like having insurance. It is important to have on hand, yet you hope you never need to use it.”

Founded and Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia University is Luzerne County’s first four-year college and offers 32 academic majors on the graduate and undergraduate levels in full and part-time formats.

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