



NEWS FROM: Office of the Public Defender Matt Shirk, Fourth Judicial Circuit www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com

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Assistant Public Defenders Donate Time so Others will Donate Resources



Jacksonville, FL (May 13, 2011): Attorneys at the Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk serve the community each week by defending indigent clients, but two attorneys go the extra mile to improve the lives of those less fortunate within the city of Jacksonville. Assistant Public Defender Michael Kalil (pictured, right), along with APD Tricia Rado (left), partnered with the Jacksonville Bar Association to collect donations for Duval County Public Elementary Schools and the Downtown Ecumenical Service Council.

For the elementary schools, Kalil and Rado collected supplies such as, pens, paper, paint, and crayons, among other things. The Downtown Ecumenical Service Council requested donations of small toiletry items such as soaps, shampoos, dental care, deodorant and razors. In addition to collecting the needed supplies from the Office of the Public Defender, the team from the PD office also collected donations from other private law firms around Jacksonville. Contributors included;

Terrell Hogan, Marks Gray (pictured below), the Bedell Firm, Rogers Towers, and the Jacksonville Bar Association. The organizations had from April 9th – April 29th to donate to the cause.



APD's Kalil, Rado with donors from Marks Gray

It is no secret that APD's handle large caseloads each week, however, when Mr. Kalil was asked why he chose to take on the challenge of collecting donations, he said, "Our job as Assistant Public Defenders is really just about taking the skill set we possess and using it to serve our community. I believe part of our responsibility, not just as APDs but also as citizens of Jacksonville, require us to get involved in things going on around our city. People don't realize what a difference something like a toothbrush can make, not only on a person's physical state but also on their outlook in life. We are not just helping people with their health and appearance; we are helping them feel better about themselves and giving them necessary tools

for improved health and wellness." It is no doubt that Jacksonville is a better city and for some, their lives are improved as a result of the philanthropic efforts of the Assistant Public Defenders.
