

Chief Judge Nancy Blount: Proudly Embracing Her City

“Helping another person, no matter how small the gesture, is a rewarding experience.”

Going back to her college days, 36th District Court Chief Judge Nancy Blount has always believed in the importance of community service and helping those in need.

As a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, she recalls participating in events to support the local March of Dimes, for example. “I simply remember the generosity of those we called on and their gratitude at having an easy way to give to an important cause,” she shared.

Today, the concept of giving back is one that she instills in her staff at the 36th District Court in Detroit, where she has served for nearly 36 years—the last five as Chief Judge.

“We are very involved in the community, and I take our commitment and service to the public very seriously,” remarked Judge Blount.

The court has a Public Service Committee and members of that committee even don bright green t-shirts when they volunteer, bearing their motto: “Proudly Serving Others.” One of the big efforts Judge Blount and her team support is Hug Detroit Day, which is an annual drive in late August to collect backpacks and school supplies for local children in need. This year, the Court helped provide more than 150 backpacks filled with supplies, which were distributed at a neighborhood “Block Party” celebration.

Judge Blount stated, “This is a wonderful venue for us to make our presence known, give back to the community, and to positively impact those we serve. I am so proud of our court for coming together to ensure that our Detroit students have what they need to be successful this school year.”

Efforts like this provide an opportunity for the court to interact with the community in an informal setting and share valuable information about the resources available, such as outreach programs, community resources, and specialty courts, adds Judge Blount.

In conjunction with Hug Detroit Day, the court was recognized with several Spirit of Detroit Awards from the Detroit City Council for its improvements in increased efficiency, accessibility, and providing better overall service to the public, as well as for their specialty courts (Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts, Street Outreach Court, and Eviction Diversion Program). The court also received recognition for raising awareness to the needs of the community.

“I am constantly reminded how great the need is for many who appear in our court, and I believe it is better to attempt to help even just a few than to ignore that need,” Judge Blount said. “From providing school supplies and backpacks to the children of our

schools to cleaning up our surrounding neighborhoods, our court tries to focus on doing the most good for those we serve.”