

# College staff's generosity boosts Appeal total

By LAURIE PELLICHERO

Special to The Times

George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, sent a gift of \$125 to the Times Holiday Appeal with a note, "As in past years, my staff and I are sending you a joint contribution for the 2005 Times Holiday Appeal in lieu of exchanging holiday gifts in our office."

The \$125 was partly made up of checks from Pruitt's staff members Linda Vasbinder, Esther Paist, Elisabeth Dey and Robin Smith.

This donation and others from Times

readers helps bring the total raised to \$23,460 so far.

When the Appeal hit \$20,000, American Standard, which operates a Trane manufacturing facility in Hamilton, pledged to match the next \$5,000 raised by the community. This leaves just \$1,540 left to qualify for the company's match. Funds from this year's Appeal will be used to support the programs of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey.

Obreen and Carrie Harris of Trenton



sent a gift of \$250 with a note, "Trying to teach our great-granddaughter the right thing to do. Her name is Mykal Gerald."

Crosby Kurkjian and Evelyn M. Catoe of Kendal

dall Park sent \$25; Christine A. Thompson of Cranbury, \$25 with a note, "In honor of all the volunteers who help and assist others during their time of need"; and Eleanor Dudbridge of Mercerville, \$10.

Heartfelt thanks to these benefactors.

The Times deducts no overhead ex-

penses. All money goes directly to the designated nonprofit agency.

To make a donation in support of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, please make your check payable to The Times Holiday Appeal and mail or hand deliver it to: 500 Perry St., Box 847, Trenton, NJ 08605. To make a donation online, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

All gifts will be acknowledged. Anonymity, if requested, will be granted.

For more information about the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, please call (609) 951-8550 or visit the Web site at [www.njredcross.org](http://www.njredcross.org).