From left, Jedore, Daquan, Miracle, Jabria and Aaliyah Jefferson opening Christmas presents after Fair Lawn volunteers made a surprise visit to their home on Tuesday. Each year the volunteers deliver gifts to a borough family.

By MARY DIDUCH

FAIR LAWN — When Jabria Jefferson, 17, saw fire and rescue trucks pulling up to her family’s Summit Avenue home with their sirens blazing and lights flashing, she thought there must have been an accident on the street.

But when she and her siblings saw Santa and his elves pop out of the trucks and walk up to the Jeffersons’ door carrying bags of goodies, they knew something was up.

“I said, ‘Mom, I think they’re coming to our house!’” Jabria said, laughing.

Soon the Jefferson family learned that Santa was really Fair Lawn police Detective David Boone, who every year dresses up in the red costume and long white beard as part of the borough’s Operation Santa Boone. The effort brings together the borough’s Human Services, Fire and Police departments to deliver goods and gifts to a selected borough family every Christmas.

“It’s all about the reaction,” Boone said.

In August, the Jefferson family moved to Fair Lawn from Fort Bragg, N.C., after dad Frederick Jefferson, an active duty officer in the Army Reserve who was deployed to Iraq in 2007, was transferred to Staten Island.

He and his wife, Sabrina, have seven children, ages 11 to 18. They have lived around the country — from North Carolina to California to Alabama — but never in the Northeast.

“Being in the military, it’s a great sacrifice,” said Boone, himself an Army veteran who served in the Persian Gulf War.

The kids opened up their bags of goodies to find colorful basketballs, lego toy bricks, an Easy Bake Oven and gift cards to a variety of stores.

Sabrina Jefferson said it made her happy to see carefree singing in her home and her children so surprised and excited, jumping and screaming when they saw Santa arrive.

“Just because we’re military, they come out to support us — it’s wonderful,” Sabrina Jefferson said.

Jabria Jefferson said she and her family had chosen to live in Fair Lawn primarily because they liked the school system.

“It was different at first,” said Jabria, who was holding a new pink basketball, and plays on the high school team. “But everyone is pretty friendly.”

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Boone: Giving back to a military family

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Operation Santa Boone began five years ago, when a client at the borough’s food pantry told Liz Mareena Twiggs, the borough’s human resources coordinator, that her plumbing had broken and that fixing it was going to be expensive. Boone went to the house to deliver goods for the client in need. He wasn’t dressed as Santa that time.

Over the years, the operation has grown to include doors — high school students and borough volunteers — and other public safety officials helping out, Mareena Twiggs said.

This year’s items were donated by residents and local businesses, Mareena Twiggs said. “People were happy to help,” she said.

Mary-Edna Krutchkoff, who runs Adopt a Soldier Platoon Inc. with her husband, Alas, said she had connected with the Jeffersons after they read about the nonprofit in a local newspaper and reached out to her. Sabrina Jefferson soon began volunteering with the group, which sends out weekly care packages to the military and works with wounded warriors and the borough’s food pantry.

“They’re an involved family,” Krutchkoff said. “Just the kind of family you want in this community.”

Members of the Fair Lawn Human Services, Fire and Police departments with Sabrina Jefferson, center, during their surprise gift-giving visit to the Jeffersons’ home.