

Dear 2010 “Stockings For Soldiers” Friends:

We Did It ... THANK YOU to everyone who worked to help us.

Our 7th Annual “**Stockings For Soldiers**” community project has been successfully completed and we are so very grateful to all of our generous volunteers.

From December 1st to December 3rd, we filled three post office tractor trailers and sent our **1475** boxes off to our brave and courageous troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has been a tremendous and resounding success. We have had so many wonderful volunteers who worked so hard and so quickly to help us to try to “make a difference” in the lives of our wonderful deployed troops who are in harm’s way Serving their Country.

As in previous years, our military contacts, who are West Point graduates, sent us so many, names of their troops, which include fellow Army soldiers as well as military members from Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coalition troops. They have asked us to include them all in our project and we were honored to do so. For some of these troops, our personalized stockings will be the only gift they will receive for Christmas.

Last year, our **500** volunteer elves worked very hard and sent **6,600** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,200** boxes that weighed **36,000 pounds**. We also made many small polar fleece blankets and many homemade knitted hats for our troops. We had hoped to exceed those numbers this year because that would mean that more deployed troops would receive some Delaware Love and Hugs for the holidays. In addition, our volunteers are from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York and people from all over America joined with us.

I am so proud and pleased and thrilled to tell you that **this year**, we even surprised ourselves with the amount of Goodies that some of our special troops will receive: So many more volunteers stopped by to give us a hand. We have mailed **1,475 boxes** packed with **8,911 homemade, personalized Christmas Stockings** that were filled with over **42,000 pounds of Christmas Goodies**. We also **made 2,500 polar fleece blankets** and over **500 knitted hats** for our troops.

Included in these figures are **275 large boxes** (holding approx. **2,200** stockings) that will go to several Chaplains in Afghanistan and Iraq who will give out our stockings to those who otherwise would not have received anything for Christmas. In addition, we sent over **8,900 personal greeting cards** and **several hundred letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools.

We all can be so proud of ourselves for bringing so many smiles to so many of our troops this Holiday Season. This wonderful eight week project was such a **Team Effort**. Each and every person has played a very important part in its success. We could not have succeeded without **everyone’s** help. Sincere **Thanks** go to all our **500+** kind and generous friends, who live near and far, who have contributed to the success and completion of this community project.

At this time, I would like to mention just a few of our special Friends in this “short” email. **When I hear back from our troops, I will send out their notes intended for all of us.** I appreciate everything that all of you did to work so hard, so quickly, so efficiently and so successfully. I know our troops are so grateful and will be so happy to receive our Goodies. Because of our combined efforts, we will be able to touch the hearts of almost **Nine Thousand** of our most precious young men and women who are bravely Serving their Country.

Bless each of you for doing so much to make a difference for our wonderful troops. Please accept our deepest **THANKS** for each and every donation, contribution and good wish that we received.

THANK YOU ...

Thank You to the wonderful and generous **Patterson-Schwartz Realty Company** for graciously allowing us to use, once again, their spacious 5500 sq. ft. store in Branmar Plaza in North Wilmington. Our deep appreciation goes to Dick Christopher, Chris Patterson and Jeff Olmstead for making it possible for all our volunteers to work in such a fabulous environment. We are so very grateful for their tremendous generosity.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful and generous members of the Rotary Clubs of District 7630, Area One. Our Rotarians were invaluable in their financial donations and contributions of Goodies for our troops. I would especially like to **THANK** all the Rotarians in the following Rotary Clubs: Brandywine-Naamans, Elkton (MD), Wilmington, Caesar Rodney, Hockessin-Greenville, Newark Morning, Wilmington West, and Newark, Brandywine Hundred.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful Chesapeake Bay Area 629 Girl Scouts and their terrific Leaders. These special people were invaluable in their enthusiasm, helpfulness and hard work. We are so grateful for their wonderful Leaders who donated their time and energy to teach their Scouts how to make a positive difference through kindness and volunteering.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to over 500+ hard working volunteers who came to our Stocking Store to donate their time, purchase Goodies for our troops, donate needed funds and who brought a cheerful, happy-to-help attitude. **Thank You** to all these new friends and to our dedicated **Team Leaders** who maintained the continuity needed throughout the week and who worked so hard to keep this community project going. Our community endeavor was tremendously successful because friendly folks of like-minded attitudes all worked together, beautifully, to achieve such a high level of success and cooperation. My deepest **THANKS** to these wonderful people for making everything look so "easy." Our winning team was:

Lyn Gill – Elf Extraordinaire,

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Janet Armitage | Leonice Bartlett | Ingrid Berlien | Rosanne Brown | Tom Brown |
| MaryAlice Budd | Jennie Burke | Bonnie Costas | Dawn Dilenno | Kathy Hankins |
| Derek Hart | Ann Hein | Fannie Kessler | Paul Kessler | Meg Kinsler |
| Denise Lazar | Bill McLachlan | Dan Meier | Nancy Meier | Terry Meyers |
| Lori Miller | Patti Mishaw | Cathy Morgan | Jim Morgan | Betsy Morocco |
| Amy Mousley | Nick Paoletti | Bob Pembleton | Sandy Pembleton | Mary Rimmell |
| Barbara S. | Kathy Schnepf | Dianne Seidel | Bruce Shumway | Karen Sieber |
| Peg Stewart | Jon Stewart | Maureen Stone | Judy Tarlov | Sharice Thayer |
| Arthur Travis | Betsy Wenny | Doug Wenny | Eleanor Wilson | Carol Wooten |
| Pam Yarborough | Sam Youse | | | |

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **8,911** home sewn stockings.
- We received over **500** home knitted hats.
- We received over **8,911** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **800** letters of support for the troops.
- We received over **8,911** packets of "Snowman's Soup" (hot cocoa).

- We received over **8,911** decks of playing cards from the Trump Hotels in Atlantic City, NJ.
- We received over **6,000** ziplock bags to mail our stockings from The Castle Bag Company.
- We received over **2,000** lbs of Halloween candy from the Limestone Dental Associates & many other wonderful local dentists and from the Happy Harry's/Walgreen Corp.
- We received over **1,500** toothbrushes from Mr. Vince McIntosh and Select Amenities, Ltd.
- We received over **5,000** tubes of toothpaste from Ms. Sherry Schaeffer.
- We received over **5,000** pairs of socks from Ms. Bella Baita and the students from Clearview High School in Mullica Hills, NJ and surrounding areas.
- We received over **1,500** copies of letters that we send to our troops from Ben-Dom Printing Co.
- We received over **6,000** copies of printed materials for our stockings from Mike Janis of Reprographics Center Inc.
- We received over **7,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library, Avon Grove Lions Club, friends in Lewes, Delaware, Foxfield Residents and many others.
- We received over **1,200** DVD's from John & Donna Bell & students from PS Dupont Middle School.
- We received over **16** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our blankets from Polartec, LLC. of Lawrence, MA
- We received **tons** of donated items and extra funds from all the students and staff from the Washington Township Schools in Sewell, NJ.
- We received over **42,000** pounds of Goodies from many schools, churches, synagogues, community groups, exercise groups, senior centers, Rotary Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and many new friends.
- We enjoyed working with over **500** volunteers who came to help us at our "Stocking Store."
- We received over **\$600** from selling raffle tickets for the beautiful patchwork quilt made by Ms. Diane Seidel, won by our own Sam Youse. Special Thanks to Diane for her wonderful talents.
- We received over **1,200** empty boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks to Jim Morgan and the Acme Company. Special Thanks also to Frank Schinchirimini and the Smurfit-Stone Company for their **500** boxes.
- We processed our **1,475** boxes on-line in 3 days, Special Thanks to Caesar Rodney Rotarian Bill McLachlan.
- Special Thanks to Dave Pudvan and Derrick Caban from the US Postal Service for helping us to easily mail our boxes by using their three tractor trailers.
- Special Thanks to the Creppon Family for helping to organize and load the Post Office trucks.
- Special Thanks to all the volunteers who closed up the boxes and carried them to the waiting trucks.
- A special Thank You to the special new citizens of the USA, living in Virginia, who donated funds for our troops and Special Hugs for their wonderful teacher, Ms. Jan Nell Bryant for matching their contributions. WOW.
- A special Thank You to John Mager, our wonderful accountant who helped us to become a 501.c.3 non profit Delaware corporation.
- A special Thank You to Ned Lamont and Jon Stewart for arranging for a great gift for our Stockings For Soldiers project.

[Thank You to Radio Station WDEL](#) and Rick Jensen and President and CEO, Pete Booker, for broadcasting their show from our "Stocking Store." The publicity gave us much visibility in our community. Thanks also to the many WDEL listeners who stopped by to make a financial contribution.

[Thank You to Ms. Carol Ann Weisenfeld](#) for inviting me to be a guest on her radio show, "Pathways to Service," on Radio Station WDEL. Thank you for your kindness and great assistance in helping to tell our community about the great Rotary contributions to this wonderful project.

<http://www.wdel.com/pathways.php>

Coordinating this wonderful project and working and meeting all our volunteers has been a sincere privilege for me. **Thank You**, everyone, for all your continued support. **Our "big" email from our troops will be sent out in a few weeks.**

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah.

With much appreciation and gratitude,

Judy

Judy Travis
Project Coordinator,
"Stockings for Soldiers – Delaware, Inc."
501.c.3 # 27-0604668

Visit Our Great New Website: www.StockingsForSoldiers.org

A very special **THANK YOU** to Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, who was so very kind to stop by to help us stuff some stockings and close up some boxes for our troops. Thank You, Gov. Markell. It was such a special honor to have you work with us. Thank you,



Delaware's Gov. Jack Markell and Judy Travis, Coordinator, Stockings for Soldiers

THANK YOU, ALL :-)