



Stockings for Soldiers — Delaware, Inc

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Hello, Friends

Last December, our deployed troops received almost 9,000 holiday stockings filled with goodies and smiles and hugs from our Stockings for Soldiers Elves. We mailed 1,500 boxes, containing over 42,000 pounds of goodies. We mailed 2,500 fleece blankets and 500 knitted hats. All at a cost of \$27,000, we could not have accomplished this task without the help and financial support of all of our friends from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, California, Idaho, Michigan, Virginia, Florida and every state in between. **Everyone helped us ...** Our Volunteers sewed stockings, wrote greeting cards and sent us goodies to stuff in the stockings. Students from many, many school learned the rewards of volunteering and succeeding at “making a difference” in the lives of our brave troops serving in Harm’s Way.

Thank You to our friends at Patterson Schwartz.



Our wonderful friends at Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate graciously allowed us to use their vacant office space for our project. A special Thank You to Dick Christopher and Jeff Olmstead for being so kind and generous to allow our Stocking Store to have such a great home for the past five years. The owners of Branmar Plaza, Louis Capano & Sons, have kindly given us permission to use that same office space for this year’s upcoming Stocking Project. We appreciate their kindness so very much. Thank You to these two wonderful members of our business community for allowing our “Stocking Store” to work in such wonderful surroundings in Branmar Plaza.

Thank You to Louis Capano & Sons.

We are thrilled to have made a new friend at **Clearview Regional High School** in New Jersey this past year: Ms. Bella Baita, a 10th Grade Student. After learning of our project through her teacher, Ms. Carol Maggioncalda, Bella collected **5,000 pairs of socks** from her friends, classmates and staff at several schools. **Wow..** Bella has saved our project so much time and money by donating all those socks for our troops **Great Job Bella!**





Thank You to all the great Members of our area Rotary Clubs.

Here are just a few:

Thank You to the **Brandywine Naamans Rotary Club** for their very generous donation of \$2,000 and for all their tremendous support all these years. Pictured Here: Joe Biloan, President and John Mager, who has also volunteered to be the Assistant Treasurer for Stockings For Soldiers.

Thank You to the members of the **West Chester Rotaract Club** who held a Beef & Beer Fund Raiser for our Project. They raised almost a \$1,000 for our troops and donated lots of Goodies that were presented to Lyn Gill. Pictured on the right.



Thank You to all the members of the **Elkton Rotary Club** who have supported our great project with their generous donation of \$1,000.



Thank You to all the members of the **Caesar Rodney Rotary Club** who have made many donations for our troops and have “loaned” us many of their members who work closely with us. We especially appreciate Bill McLachlan, on the left, who has served as our Computer Consultant for several years. In addition to all the terrific members of their great Club, we are especially grateful to Mike Janis and his printing company. Mike has printed thousands of our little notes, that we call “Blessings” so that we included one in each of 9,000 stockings.

Thank You to the **Brandywine-Hundred Rotary Club** for their great support and to member, Rick Jensen who has a very popular radio show on WDEL 1150 AM. He brings his show to our Stocking Store for a live broadcast which is always so much fun and successful when his listeners bring donated items for our troops.

Thank You to Trump Casinos and to the Morgan Family.

One of the many items included in our stockings is a pack of playing cards. This has been possible because of the generosity of the Trump Taj, Trump Plaza and Trump Mariana Hotels and Casinos. Thank You to Jim and Cathy Morgan, who have made numerous trips to Atlantic City bringing us case after case of playing cards. Last year, the Trump Casinos gave us over 8,000 packs of cards and some dice, too.

Thank You to Hockessin Friends of Library & Avon Grove Lions Club for paperback books

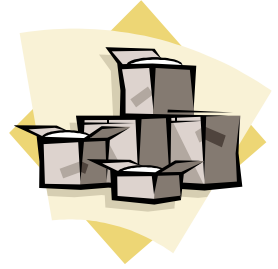
We are so very grateful for the thousands and thousands of paperback books that they have donated for our troops. They are wonderful friends of our Project.

Thank You to West Point.Org and Jack Price

This year, we proudly became affiliated with www.WestPoint.org. This has allowed us to be able to receive financial donations online through this fine organization. We are very honored to be a part of the West Point family and Thank them very much for including us. Because of this new affiliation, we have received financial donations from all around the Country for our troops.

Another big THANK YOU to Jim Morgan and Frank Schinchirimini

Jim Morgan has been involved with our Project since the first year. Jim works for Acme Markets and rather than have apple boxes crushed for recycling, he takes them home and delivers them to our stocking store. The Project would not run as smoothly without Jim and his apple boxes. Over the years, he has brought us thousands and thousands of apple boxes. **Thank You, Jim and Acme Markets.**



Thank You to Frank Schinchirimini and his associates at Smurfit-Stone for generously donating hundreds of brand new, Hot-Off-The Press boxes, both large and small. These boxes are used for mailing fleece blankets, single stockings, Extra Goodies and great for setting up our works areas.

Thank You Frank and Smurfit-Stone.

Thank You to Our Wonderful Friends at Castle Bag Company



Last year, we were so grateful to receive **5,000** plastic ziplock bags from our special friends at Castle Bag Company here in Wilmington, Delaware. These bags are so important to our project for several reasons. First, they are used to hold and transport our filled stockings and all the items next to the stockings. (see photo later) Second, they are used as an air-tight, water-proof, bug-proof and sand-proof container for food or special items that need to be kept dry, safe and clean. **THANK YOU** to such great friends as Mr. Harry Russell and Ms. Chris Ditzler at Castle Bag for their wonderful generosity.

Maris Grove Residents Work With Us For Our Troops.

We have a special group of **Elder Elves** living at Maris Grove in Pennsylvania. Under the direction of our Team Leader, Ms. Fannie Kessler, pictured here with her granddaughter, Caryn, these Elder Elves sew stockings, collect goodies, write greeting cards, knit hats and make financial contributions. It is so wonderful to know that this group of senior citizens is so active and caring and work so hard for our troops with us.



Thank You to the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council.

We have been so lucky to have the fabulous participation of hundreds of members of the Girl Scout community. From the younger Brownies to the older Cadets, the Scouts and their leaders have made tons of Snowman Soup, sewn and decorated stockings, collected items, helped us to stuff the stockings and have written cards and letters to our troops. We appreciate their participation and couldn't have started the Project without their great assistance. We also enjoy all the assistance from members of the Boy Scout community.

A Wonderful Thank You to our Special Friends at Polartec LLC.

We are so very grateful to our most generous friends from Polartec LLC in Lawrence, MA who have donated many, many rolls of their beautiful polar fleece. We then cut them into “small” blankets and our troops get an extra bit of warmth. Here is an email from one of our troops who really appreciated the blankets.



Dear "Little Fleece Blanket" senders, Thank you for the great "little fleece blanket". It has turned "very cold" here in Afghanistan and my "little fleece blanket" is keeping me very warm! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for remembering and supporting the troops serving in harms way!!!

SSG Timothy B. Task Force Destiny 101 Combat Aviation Brigade Medical Operations NCOIC

Thank You, Wonderful Polartec Friends.

www.StockingsForSoldiers.org

Have you all seen all the updates to our website?

Thank You to our wonderful **webmaster, Jon Stewart**, for his creativity. Our website looks Great...

Please take a moment to read the **Thank You's** that we have received from our troops and see all the people affiliated with this great Project at our **PHOTOS** link. We have our sewing patterns for the stockings, sewing instructions, knitting instructions for hats for our troops and the “recipe” for Snowman Soup.

Official Sewing Patterns are available on our website.

Our Official Stocking Pattern will be the same one that we used last year. The finished size of our stockings should be **15” high** and the width of the boot should be **9” wide**.

On the website, we have put photos of each stage of sewing the stockings. We think that these new photos will help to answer any sewing questions. The photos really look great. Thank you to all our wonderful sewing volunteers, who live near and far, who work so hard to sew all the stockings for us. We couldn't do anything without the wonderful donations of all the beautiful stockings that we have received for our troops. To date, our fabulous volunteers have sewn and donated almost **27,000** stockings during the past seven years for our community Project to support our troops.

That's Amazing ... THANK YOU, dear Sewing Volunteers, for all the wonderful stockings that we have received each year.



Thank You to Ms. Lyn Gill for creating our new logo.

We are so lucky to have such a talented person like Lyn working with us each year. Lyn is the Chairperson of Every Committee :-)) and we thank goodness for her talents and her patience.

She is a very special friend and a great asset for the Project.





Thank You to Mr. Mark Sciara for creating something so beautiful.

Mr. Mark Sciara is a talented and wonderfully kind Art teacher at P.S. du-Pont Middle School here in Wilmington, Delaware. We are all so very grateful for this beautiful original artwork that has so much meaning for all of us who support the Military. Mr. Sciara's gift was sent to a wounded young soldier in Walter Reed Medical Center. Thank You, Mr. Sciara, for this very thoughtful gift.

Thank You to John and Donna Bell and Students for creating some beautiful music for our troops.



A very special heartfelt Thank You to John and Donna Bell, wonderful teachers at P.S. DuPont Middle School in Wilmington. John is the Choral Director and Donna is the Band Director. They both, along with their fabulous students, created a very special Christmas CD full of beautiful music and beautiful voices for our troops. Thank You, John and Donna and all the students at P.S. for such a memorable and thoughtful gift for almost 9,000 of our troops.



Here are a few special Letters of Gratitude from our Troops.
(For all of our letters, please go to our website link: Thank You from our troops.)



Hello Judy,

My name is Private J. Hanson, and I'm with the 1/8th ID out here in Iraq. I am very grateful that you sent me the stocking. I have not gotten a single gift since I have been out here and this is just one that shows that there are people out there that care and support all of us troops. May I be the first to say thanks from all of the soldiers out here in Iraq and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year too.

PV2. J. Hanson US Army

Thank you all for sending Christmas Stockings to the Soldiers. My husband, M. Chambers of the Texas Army National Guard 36th ID currently serving in Iraq received one of your lovely stocking was deeply touched. This is our first time as a family to be separated for the Christmas Holiday. Our 4 year old daughter was so happy to hear that her daddy had a stocking and that Santa knows where Iraq is and he will not be skipped. Thank you so much for putting a smile on the faces of our soldiers in Iraq and all over the world this Christmas Season. It means so much to our little family to know that our troops are not forgotten during this special time of the year. Thank you for making the holiday special even when family is so far away.
God Bless and Merry Christmas,

Robin and Allyson Chambers

Judy Travis,

I just wanted to write and say Thank You. You and your "elves" have helped to make Christmas a bit more tolerable when we are so far away from home. The small things help to bring normality to an abnormal situation and remind us of the things that we love so dear. Knowing that we have people like you all that care so much about soldiers so far from home is such an amazing blessing. Christmas will be that much more special this year when our efforts to make it memorable are increased exponentially. The morale of the soldiers has gone through the roof as their eyes lit with joy over things like slim jims, hair cream, and office supplies because it really is the small things that make the biggest difference. I wish there was a greater way to say Thank You because what you all have done has touched so many that it will stay in my heart forever.

Thank you,
SPC Kelly L. 36 ID Deputy Division Chaplain Assistant Iraq

We are Getting ready to Start our 8th Year of Sending “a touch of home” to our Troops.

Monday October 10th, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. we will open the doors of our “Stocking Store” in Branmar Plaza, the same location as in previous years. We will begin work on sewing and decorating thousands of Christmas stockings. Over the next eight weeks, we will be personalizing each stocking with the recipient’s name, stuffing them with goodies starting mid-November, boxing them and shipping them to troops in the remotest regions of Iraq and Afghanistan. We will complete this Project around December 2nd.

How you can help:

Here are some of the ways you can contribute to the success of this year’s **Stockings For Soldiers** Project:

- Start sewing stockings now . . . many of our volunteers have been sewing and stockpiling stockings since early January. The stocking pattern is available at our website: www.StockingsForSoldiers.org. Be sure and use colorful cotton fabric and plain white, red or green **felt** for the cuff. **Our Goal is - more than last year. :-)**
- Start knitting wool caps. These are valued by our soldiers in the frigid mountainous regions of Afghanistan. The Knitting Instructions are available at our website.
- Purchase and donate fabric for stockings. Even if you do not sew, you can donate fabric to those who do sew but don’t have the funds to buy extra material. You can also cut out the stockings with our patterns.
- Collect gently used music CD’s, paperback books (no romance novels, please) and gently used DVD movies (no VHS video tapes please).
- Ask your dentist to contribute toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss. You can expedite this by volunteering to bring the donated items to the Stocking Store anytime after October 10th.
- Please make packets of “Snowman Soup” for our troops. (Hot cocoa in a ziplock bag.) See our link for the “Recipe.” This is a great project for young volunteers to do with their families.
- Arrange for your school, church, synagogue, scout troop, service club and workplace to sponsor a contest to see who can collect the MOST crew socks or lip balm or Ramen Soup, etc.
- Arrange for your school, church, synagogue, scout troop, service club and workplace to sponsor a collection drive for items that we put into the stockings. All the details about the project and a list of supplies is available by clicking on “Project Flyer” at our website.
- Arrange for your school, church, synagogue, scout troop, service club and workplace to write greeting cards and letters of support to our troops.
- Finally, please **join us (and ask your friends to join us)** by coming to the Stocking Store any evening during working hours to help us to make the Holidays brighter for our deployed troops.
- We will be working in the Stocking Store starting October 10th on Mondays through Thursdays, from **6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.** Stop by once, stop by twice or as often as you want . . . and stay as long as you want, but be forewarned: the joy and satisfaction you’ll receive from being a **Stockings for Soldiers** “Elf” is addictive . . . you’ll keep coming back for more!
- Please HOLD on delivery of any donations until we open on October 10th, 2011.



Go to <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=8568242727>

Please go to our Facebook site, **Stockings for Soldiers - Delaware, Inc** and become a Fan.



Go to www.Twitter.Com and join us at **Stockings For Soldiers**

Why do so many people donate so much of their time for this wonderful Project?

Tell us your story for the next issue of our Newsletter.



This is a typical smiling soldier & one of our special Stockings.

All these GOODIES fit inside one of our Stockings. Each Stocking is mailed in one of the special ziplock plastic bags that have been donated by The Castle Bag Company.



Here is our **Wish List** for donated items to be sent to our troops:

Christmas candy, gum, fruit roll-ups & gushers, Cracker Jacks, Beef Slim Jims, pretzels, lemonade & flavored drink mixes, individual flavored teas, hot drink mixes, large bags of coffee, Ramen soup, small cans of tuna, lasagna, Beefaroni, commercially packaged Trail Mix, nuts, cookies, (Sorry, no home-baked items) chips, canned fruit, any small size of anything to eat. Pocket games & puzzles, DVD movies, music CD's, current magazines, Beanie Babies, AT&T phone cards, paperback books (no romance novels please), dominoes, disposable cameras, lip balm, foot powder, small sizes of toiletries & lotions, crew socks, hand & foot warmers, fly swatters & *a Holiday Greeting Card with your messages of Support & Friendship*. If you include your return address, (email or snail) you might hear back from the Soldier, Sailor, Airman/woman or Marine who receives your card. (No soap products, please.)

Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed so we can mail all our boxes to our troops. Last year, we sent **1,500 boxes**. Check with your employer to see if they participate with the Matching Grant program. Our 501.c.3 Tax ID is # 27-0604668.

Please mail donations to:
Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware, Inc.
1911 Foulk Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Thank You, Everyone, for helping us to support
our brave men and women in the military.**

THANK YOU!

See You All Soon.