



Stockings for Soldiers — Delaware, Inc

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Project

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Even though the brave men and women of our military are in harm's way, at least **6,600** of them knew they had many new friends in Delaware and surrounding areas.



Ingrid Berlien (on the right) was the winner of the drawing for the beautiful quilt made by Dianne Seidel. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our raffle. A very special **Thank You** to Dianne for her talent and kindness in making this quilt for our project. We raised over \$500.00 in ticket sales. Ingrid was so generous to donate the quilt to two of our military families whose sons are deployed. Nancy and Dan Meier won the quilt in honor of their son, Jonathan, in Iraq. Rosanne and Tom Brown won the matching pillow in honor of their son, Matthew, in Afghanistan. Thank you, Ingrid.

6th Year Project Is A Great Success

Once again, many, many volunteers joined together and spent eight weeks putting together **6,600** Stockings filled with Goodies for our deployed troops. Our purpose was to make sure that our troops, far from their own families, knew that they were not forgotten over the Christmas Holiday. Our generous community worked together to send some “smiles and hugs” to our troops for Christmas.

The energy and spirit of our volunteers was palpable. There was excitement in the air as everyone, from all walks of life, worked side by side to send a message of support for our troops. We were very honored to have **Dr. Jill Biden**, wife of Vice President Joe Biden work with us again this year. She is pictured here with students from the Delaware Military Academy and helping us to stuff some stockings.

The Lucky Winner of the Quilt Raffle





This year, we were so grateful to receive **tons of Halloween candy** from our friends at Happy Harry's and the great folks at Limestone Dental Associates and Dr. Greg Fink. Our troops received a huge amount of candy from the dental community's "Candy BuyBack" program. These great dentists paid their patients \$1.00 per pound to "buy back" their Halloween candy. The dentists purchased the candy back and donated it all to us. Thank You for such great generosity.

Thank You also to Bill Grant, manager of the Branmar Plaza Happy Harry's/Walgreen store who coordinated several Happy Harry stores to ask for their candy donations. In addition, one of our own Team Leaders, Dawn Dilenno and son, Nick, contacted dozens of dentists in our area and they all have donated many, many toothbrushes, toothpastes and floss for our troops. A very special Thank You to Vince McIntosh of Select Amenities, Inc. for donating over 5,000 toothbrushes. Our troops really love the Halloween candy and then they really appreciate the ability to keep up their dental hygiene. **THANK YOU to our wonderful dental community and businesses.**



LOOK .. AT ALL THESE BOXES OF BOOKS.

Thank You ...

Friends of Hockessin Library & the Avon Grove Lions Club.

We received over 6,000 paperback books from these two wonderful organizations. Our troops really love to read and then to share the books they receive. We have heard from our troops how much they enjoy reading during their "down time." Thank You for the generosity of these two groups.

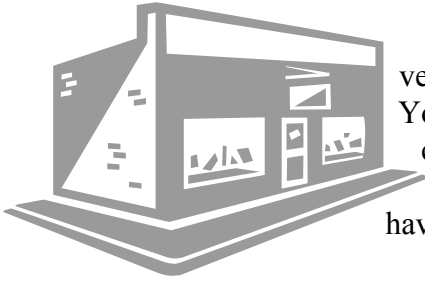
A huge THANK YOU to the Trump Casinos in Atlantic City, NJ.

Our new friends in Atlantic City offered to help our project and to "make a difference" for our troops. The management and staff of the Trump Taj Mahal Hotel, the Trump Marina Hotel and the Trump Plaza Hotel donated over 6,000 decks of their playing cards. Our troops have told us how much they really enjoy the playing cards. The generosity of the Trump Hotels has been so heartwarming. Thank You Trump Hotels. We all really appreciate your wonderful assistance.

Thank you also to Cathy and Jim Morgan for making numerous trips to Atlantic City to pick up the decks of cards. Thank you also to Jon Stewart for picking up some cases for us. In addition, we all owe a special Thank You to Jon Stewart for being our clever and creative webmaster. Jon Stewart has been so patient and we all **THANK** him for all his expertise.



THANK YOU to our friends at Patterson Schwartz.



One of the premier real estate companies in Delaware have been so very generous to our community project for several years. A special Thank You to Dick Christopher and Jeff Olmstead for allowing us to use their vacant office in Branmar Plaza in North Wilmington. Our “Stocking Store” has been such a great place to work on our project. Patterson Schwartz have been so very wonderful to us and we are so very grateful.

THANK YOU to Polartec, LLC



We are all so very appreciative to receive many rolls of luxurious polar fleece from our friends at Polartec, LLC in Lawrence, MA. For the past several years, we have cut and made over 4,000 small blankets for our troops. Our troops really appreciate a little extra warmth on a cold day. Thank you, Polartec for your generosity.



New Sewing Patterns are available.

We evaluated our existing sewing patterns and decided to slightly redesign them so that we would have a consistent pattern. Thank You to Kathy Hankins, Leonice Bartlett, Pam Yarborough and Lyn Gill for reworking the stockings and the sewing instructions. The new patterns are available on our website at www.StockingsForSoldiers.org. The new size of the stockings should be **15” high** and the width of the boot should be **9”**. 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 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 **18,000** stockings during the past six years for our community project to support our troops.

That is simply Amazing ...

THANK YOU for all the wonderful stockings that we receive each year.



THANK YOU!

We shipped 1,200 Boxes in three days.



On Friday evening, December 4th, the Post Office came to retrieve their third and final truck that we filled, top to bottom, with our boxes. **WOW!** Can you believe that with the help of many wonderful elves, we were able to send 5,900 personalized stockings and 701 blank stockings, 850 blankets, and 500 knitted hats to our troops. Special Thanks go to Jim Morgan and Frank Schinchirimini for getting us all the boxes. We sent over **36,000 lbs.** of donated Goodies with the shipping costs about **\$20,000.**

This project could not have been accomplished without the help of all the wonderful community volunteers who sewed stockings, decorated the stockings with glue and glitter, cut and folded the fleece blankets, sorted the hundreds pounds of goodies, wrote greeting cards, wrote letters to our troops, knitted hats, made Snowman Soup, stuffed the stockings and donated the funds needed to mail all our boxes. We also want to thank the volunteers who packed the boxes, closed and taped them, processed the custom forms and organized the custom forms on the boxes and carried the boxes to the truck. **THANK YOU** to Dave Pudvan and Derek Caban of the US Postal Service for allowing us to use their trucks at our Stocking Store. That made loading the trucks so convenient. **Great job** to all those wonderful people who worked tirelessly in the truck, moving and stacking the boxes.



Pictured in the truck: Angie, Jenna, Lyn, Sean, ____, Nick

Back Row: Jennie, Pam, Judy, Doug, Rosanne, Tom, Michael, Rick

Middle Row: Barbara, Eleanor, ____, Leonice, Betsy.

Kneeling: Paul and Dave.

A special big **THANK YOU** to Angie, Dave & Jenna Creppon, who practically loaded the entire third truck by themselves. How lucky for us to have such Great Volunteers. **THANKS to all our Great Truck Loaders.**



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.

Thanks to Lyn Gill for submitting stories for the First Edition of our Newsletter.



Christmas in Afghanistan 2007.

Our stockings are under the tree and our apple boxes are to the left.

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