



Stockings for Soldiers — Delaware, Inc

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May 2013

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Hello, Friends

Christmas 2012 was so much merrier for over **10,000** members of our military when they re-

ceived their own personalized stocking for Christmas. **THANK YOU, Everyone,** for helping us to do that. We had a great time, working for eight weeks to accomplish all that we did. We mailed over 1,325 large boxes, containing over 40,000 pounds of goodies. We made and sent 2,500 fleece blankets and over 500 knitted hats. All at a cost of \$25,000 in postage. All the Elves were quite pleased. We had many, many friends and volunteers from all over the USA; from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Maine, California, Idaho, Michigan, Virginia, Florida, Colorado, and every state in between. **Thanks go to Everyone who helped us ...** Our Volunteers sewed stockings, knitted hats, wrote greeting cards and sent us goodies to stuff in the stockings. Students from many, many school learned the great rewards of volunteering. We all learned how easy it was to donate our time and that a small gesture like that can really “make a difference” in the lives of our brave troops serving in Harm’s Way.



Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to all the wonderful sewing volunteers here in Delaware and Pennsylvania and all across America. Your generous and beautiful hand made stockings allowed us to accomplish our goals of sending “a touch of home” to our deployed troops. **THANK YOU** for sending us so many stockings. We couldn’t have done all that we do without your great assistance and your great participation.

Thank You to our friends at Louis Capano & Sons. We are very grateful to Louis Capano & Sons, the owners of Branmar Plaza Shopping Center for allowing us to work again in the “Stocking Store.” We have been so lucky to use this same storefront for the past seven years. We truly appreciate their kindness and generosity. We would also like to also thank the great folks at Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate for their continued support and generosity. A special Thank You to Jeff Olmstead and Dick Christopher for being so wonderful to us for the past seven years. Thank You to these two wonderful members of our business community for allowing our Stocking Project to have such a great home for the past nine years.

THANK YOU!



A volunteer-oriented community project like ours could not be as successful without amazingly great people who “step up” and donate their time and talents. We are very grateful to all the many, many wonderful volunteers who Made a Difference for our Troops. THANK YOU to the many schools, churches, sewing clubs, quilting bees, community centers, senior centers and Friends who have done so much for us and for our troops.

THANK YOU to all our participants who collected goodies, wrote cards, made Snowman Soup, learned how to sew stockings and came over to assist. Thank you, all, for taking the time to stop by and join with us to send some hugs to our troops.

(Pictured here from last year, are the great students from the Sewing Club of Clearview Regional Senior High School in Mullica Hill, New Jersey.)



Thank You, once again, to our Fabulous Senior Elves. Our deepest appreciation goes to our wonderful Senior Elves at Maris Grove and Cokesbury Village. Thank you to Kathy & Helene Maculaitis, Jean Holveck, Denise Rhodes and Fannie Kessler (photo on right) at Maris Grove. Thank you to Edna Hein (photo on left) and all her friends at Cokesbury Village. We thank these wonderful volunteers for spearheading their fellow residents to sew thousands of stockings, knits hats and gather tons of Goodies and financial donations for us. These lovely Senior Elves have



worked so hard to send their love and support to our troops.

Neumann University’s Men’s Ice Hockey Team, with leadership and fabulous sewing skills from Ms. Lynne Murphy and her son, Brian, created these special stockings for our troops. How wonderful to have such great stockings, made with love.



“How To Sew A Stocking” video found on our website.

Last year, we received this fabulous YouTube video to help our sewing volunteers to sew their stockings for us.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MdPg_F4Rlw

Thank You to a very thoughtful and kind volunteer and new friend who created this video just for us.

Deb P. is from Idaho and we all are so very appreciative of such a great gift that she created to help others to sew stockings according to our pattern and instructions. How clever!! We wanted to thank her again for such an amazing kindness to us. It is a fabulous gift for us to be able to use from now on to help others to sew stockings for our project.

Thank You so much, Deb.





Boxes & more boxes were needed and donated by Acme Co. & RockTenn Co.

Thank You to **Jim Morgan and Acme Company** for getting us thousands of colorful apple boxes for our Project. We are so very grateful for all his hard work and we really love the already-decorated apple boxes. Thank You to

Frank Schinchirimini and RockTenn for generously donating hundreds of brand new, Hot-Off-The-Press boxes, both large and small. All these boxes have been critical to the success of our Project.



Thank You to John & Donna Bell and all the choral and band students and staff at P.S. duPont Middle School, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Once again, a very special heartfelt **Thank You** to John and Donna Bell, two wonderful teachers at P.S. duPont Middle School here in Wilmington. John, as Choral Director, and Donna, as Band Director, and their wonderful and talented students created a very special Christmas DVD full of beautiful music and beautiful voices for our troops. Thank You, John and Donna and all the students at P.S. Dupont for sharing your musical gifts with our troops. Thank you also to the great folks at DDVD for assisting them to reproduce the 1,200 DVD's for our troops to share.

Thank You to the Trump Taj Mahal Casino and the Trump Plaza Casino.

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 Mahal and the TrumpPlaza Casinos in Atlantic City, NJ. 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 10,000 packs of playing cards for our troops.



Thank You to Hockessin Friends of Library & Avon Grove Lions Club for thousands of paperback books donated for our troops.

We are so very grateful to all the many volunteers who have donated reading materials for our troops. All our friends have made sure that each of our 10,000 stockings sent had a paperback book. Thank you to all our donors at Foxfield, Cokesbury Village, RSVP Community Centers and Community Libraries and especially to our Friends at the Hockessin Library and the Avon Grove Lions Club for their thousands and thousands of paperback books. Thank you to so many people for their donations.

Thank You to our friends in the Printing community.

Thank you to **Mike Janis at RCI Printing** and to **Carla Vicario at Ben-Dom Printing** for donating thousands of printed letters and printed cards that we send to our troops. These fine people are wonderful members of our Wilmington business community and we are so very grateful for their kindness and fabulous printing skills.

A Huge THANK YOU! from the bottom of our hearts

To the following businesses, organizations and individuals who have generously made donations for our troops to make sure that they had a Merry Christmas:

Thank You:

Abasalom Jones Senior Center
Acme Stores
American Karate Studio
Avon Grove Lions Club
Barkley Elementary
Ben-Dom Printing
Brandywine-Naamans Rotary Club
Brandywine Hundred Library
Brandywine Quilters
Brandywine School District
Bulk Apothecary
Burt's Bees, Inc.
Caesar Rodney Chapter of the DAR
Caesar Rodney Rotary Club
Carol Ann Weisenfeld, WDEL
Castle Bag Company
Chapstick, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare
Claymont DE Lions Club
Clearview Regional High School
Cokesbury Village Volunteers
Colonial Dames of America, DE
CSC Corporation
Curtis Bay Athletic Club
Curves of Norristown, PA
Delaware Military Academy
Delaware Veterans & WACS
Denise Roach
Dollar Tree, Claymont, DE
Elkton Rotary Club
Foster & Lynn Friess
Foxfield Volunteers
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council
Greeley & Nista, DDS
Greg Fink, DMD
Hockessin Athletic Club
Hockessin Friends of Library
Hockessin Greenville Rotary Club
Hodgson Vo-Tech High School
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Jean Holveck
Jim & Cathy Morgan
John Bell & Donna Bell & PS Dupont
J.P. Morgan Chase Employees
Kathy & Helene Maculaitis
Kathy & Ken Boehl
Kennett Square Resale Book Shoppe
Kirkwood Library

Limestone Dental Associates
Louis Capano & Sons
Lilly Derrickson
Lynne Murphy, Neumann Univ. Men's Ice Hockey
Marianne & Carl Sheran
Maris Grove Volunteers
Mary Ann Coates
M.O.T. Senior Center
Neumann University
New Castle Library
New Castle Senior Center
Newark Free Library
Newark Senior Center
Patterson Dental
Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate
P.E.O.
Playtex, Energizer—Personal Care Division
Polartec, LLC
Progressive Dental Arts
Radio State WDEL
Reprographic Center, Inc.
Rick Jensen, WDEL
Rock Tenn
Ronald Briglia, DMD
Rotary Club of West Chester
Rotary Club of Wilmington
R.S.V.P.
Select Amenities, LTD
Sovereign Military Order, Temple of Jerusalem, DE
State Office of Volunteerism
State Rep. Deborah Hudson
State Rep. Greg Lavelle
Stockings For Soldiers Team Leaders
Stony Brook Sew & Vac
Tatiana & Gerret Copeland
The Woman's Club of Mullica Hill, NJ
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wilmington
Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino
Trump Taj Mahal Hotel & Casino
Ultrachem, Inc.
Unique Industries, Inc.
University of Delaware Volunteers
U.S. Postal Service
Walgreen's
Washington Township Schools
West Chester Rotaract
West Hopkins School, KY

Thank You, Everyone,



for your donations.

Thank You Wonderful Team Leaders for working so hard for only eight weeks to make this project so great.

This is How To Start Your Own Stocking Project for our Troops:



Taping & reinforcing a room full of boxes, getting them ready for the filled stockings is a huge job. We sent 1,325 boxes.



Sewing and repairing the stockings is the first job we do before we can do anything else. We received over 10,000 stockings.



Personalizing the stockings with our troops' first names is done by our Glue Experts and was done 10,000 times.



We apply colorful glitter to the glue when personalizing the stockings so they look cheerful and beautiful.



We brush off the extra glitter, to be used again and put the stockings in it's own ziplock a bag.



We check the stockings & count them & check them again for any errors & then check them again.



We check the donated items for quality control to make sure that we are sending only the best items to our troops.



We folded 10,000 pairs of socks for each stocking. Our troops love a new clean pair of socks.



We sort all the Goodies into categories, getting everything ready for the stuffing phase of the project.



We stuff all the stockings at the same time and have a great time with special guests.



Each stocking is checked for quality control and sent on for packing.



We check each box for the proper number of stockings & check it again. And pack them up.



When all the boxes are filled with stockings, they are weighed & get their own customs form with postage.



All the boxes are loaded onto three post office trucks and off they go to Afghanistan. Some boxes have arrived in only five days.



Some of our Wonderful, hard-working GREAT Team Leaders from 2009 and 2010.



Thank You to our wonderful new webmaster, Sam Youse, for his great work on our new website. We are so very grateful to have such talented Team Leaders. Thank you to **all** of our fabulous I.T. Experts.



Here are a few special Letters of Gratitude from our Troops.
(For more troop emails, please go to [Thank You from our Troops](#) on our new website.)

Dear Chief Judy,

I want to first say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I received my homemade stocking yesterday and was very excited about it. I thank God for an extended family like yourself and others who took part in this wonderful gift. I could feel, smell and taste the love put into this Christmas Stocking. I hung my stocking on my door and now I have a "touch of home" that greets me at the end of each day when I reach my B-hutt (temporarily home). I can't thank you enough, but please know that I am truly grateful.

God Bless America and a Special blessing for each And everyone that touch this package.

SGT Harriet M. Supply/Admin NCO 289th VCC Afghanist



Judy,
Thank you for the stocking and everything that came with it. It's hard to express how much it means to the people out here, including me, that someone back home is thinking about us.

Also, thank you for giving me the opportunity to play Santa for an hour and pass out all the stockings to everyone. It was a lot of fun and a good break from the rest of my day.
Sincerely, Erick V. BDE Surgeon's Section 3ABCT, 3ID

Judy,

Thanks so much for the care packages...it was truly overwhelming all the support that you sent! Our **tactical explosive detection dogs really appreciated the treats as well**; that was the first time that they received anything. The humans also really appreciated the personalized stockings with all the goodies. It really boosted morale and made the guys feel a little closer to home over the holiday season. Please give my thanks to all the organizations that participated! I hope you have a great holiday and a happy new year! Take care, Kevin



(This is a Stockings For Soldiers photo—not an Afghanistan photo. Just wanted to get your attention. :-)

Hi,
I am SPC Carlos M. from the 268 CTC Company. I am stationed in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan and I just received one of your lovely care packages. I am letting you know that every soldier that received these gifts are very excited. Thank you so much for not forgetting we are here and taking your time for us. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Again thank you so much.... Regards, SPC Carlos M.

Distributing our stockings is a HUGE job.



Last year, we received this great photo of this wonderful soldier "volunteer" who helped us by organizing our stockings on the other end in Afghanistan. Thank you to all the different members of our military who did this job for their troops. It's a HUGE job and we're grateful for your "assistance." For some units, we sent as many as 40 boxes filled with 400 individually named stockings. Yikes. Someone has to organize them, and we're so happy that you all do this for us.

How you can help:

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



- Start sewing stockings now . . . many of our volunteers have started sewing and stock-piling stockings now. The stocking pattern is available at our website: www.StockingsForSoldiers.org. Be sure and use colorful cotton fabric & plain white, red, green or blue felt for the cuff. **Our Goal is one 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 14th, 2013.
- Please make packets of "Snowman Soup" for our troops. (unopened 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 Shopping 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 (location in Branmar Plaza, North Wilmington, DE to be confirmed in September) 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 14th 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 14th, 2012.



To see our 2012 Photos: Go to:

<http://Stockingsforsoldiersorg.shutterfly.com/2012stockingsforsoldiers/5>



Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StockingsForSoldiersDelaware?ref=hl>

Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware. Please "Like" us.



Go to www.Twitter.com and join **Stockings For Soldiers.**

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, granola bars, cookies, (**Sorry, no home-baked items**) chips, canned fruit, any small size of anything to eat. Pocket games & puzzles, DVD movies, music CD's, 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 paid \$25,000 to send **1,325 boxes, weighing 40,000 lbs.** Check with your employers to see if they participate with the Matching Grant program.
Our 501.c.3 Tax ID is # 27- 0604668.

Please send all items and donations to our mailing address:

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 Troops.



See you all in October 2013



THANKS