

Dear Generous Friends:

I am extremely happy and proud to tell you all that we have just completed our fourth annual community project that we have named, "**Christmas Stockings for Soldiers.**" It has been a resounding success. We have included so many new volunteer elves this year, all joining together to send some special Holiday Cheer to our wonderful and brave Troops who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our completion date for this project was November 30th. We extended it by one week because our military contacts, who are West Point graduates, sent us so many, many names of their troops. They are the officers in the field who gave us the names of fellow Army soldiers as well as military members from Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coalition troops. They asked to please include them all in our project and we were honored to do so. For some of these troops, our stockings will be the only gift they will receive for Christmas.

Last year, our 200 volunteer elves worked very hard and sent **1735** homemade Christmas stockings packed in **355** boxes that weighed **10,000 pounds**. We had hoped to exceed those numbers this year because that would mean that more deployed troops would receive some Delaware Love and Hugs. (Volunteers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey also helped us this year.)

I am so pleased to tell you that **this year**, we more than doubled our efforts and increased our results. Over **300** people helped us to mail out **664 boxes** packed with **3200 homemade Christmas Stockings** that were filled with over **18,422 pounds of Christmas Goodies**. We also made **1,050 small polar fleece blankets** for some of our troops.

Included in these figures are **50 boxes** that were sent to a wonderful woman (a civilian employee of the military) who runs a movie theater in Iraq for our US Soldiers. She will be able to surprise many soldiers by giving out our stockings and Goodies when they stop by to see a movie during the Holidays. In addition, we sent several thousand handmade greeting cards and hundreds of letters of appreciation from children from several schools.

We all can be so proud of ourselves for bringing so many smiles to so many soldiers this Holiday Season. This wonderful and successful 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 **300+** kind and generous friends 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 my "big" email that will include our Official Thank You List and all the emails that we will receive from our troops.** 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 happy to receive our Goodies.

Bless each of you for doing so much to make a difference for our wonderful troops.

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, Jeff Olmstead and Steve Crifasi for making it possible for all our volunteers to work in such a fabulous environment. We were able to spread out and that helped to keep us organized. 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 Rotary Clubs in Wilmington 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: Naamans Club, Wilmington Club, Brandywine Hundred Club, Brandywine Club, Wilmington West Club, Caesar Rodney Club and the Hockessin-Greenville Club.

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 300+ hard working volunteers who came to our Stocking Store to donate their time, purchase Goodies for our troops, donate needed funds and bring 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 winning team was:

Lyn Gill, Karen Siebert, Sandy Pembleton, Judy Tarlov, Betsy Wenny, Pam Yarborough, Nancy Meier, Betsy Morocco, Denise Lazar, Val Selekman, Carol Wootten, Lori Miller, Cathy Morgan, Ann Hein, Patti Mishaw, Fannie Kessler, Peggy Munley, Amy Mousley, Terry Meyers, Barbara Gilbert, Bonnie Costas, MaryAlice Budd, Denise Beatty and Nancy Coslar.

Our many, many volunteers helped us and our project in many, many ways by doing many, many jobs:

Some elves sewed stockings,
Some elves glittered and glued the names of our troops on our homemade stockings,
Some elves made polar fleece blankets,
Some elves made "Snowman's Soup" (hot cocoa),
Some school-aged elves wrote several hundred letters of support for the troops,
Some elves made personal greeting cards to go with each stocking (over 3200 cards were made),
Some elves collected and donated 18,000 pounds of Goodies for the stockings,
Some elves came to our "Stocking Store" and helped us stuff **3200 stockings**,
Some elves collected and donated funds to help us pay for the postage costs and the cost of purchasing Goodies for the project,
Some elves brought us hundreds of boxes so we would be ready to pack up the stockings,
Some elves helped us pack up and tape all **664 boxes**,
Some elves hand wrote over **664** US Customs Forms, one for each box,
Some elves, dressed as the wonderful Delaware National Guard, carried all our boxes to the US post office,
Some elves at the post office in New Castle, DE, spent eight hours processing our boxes,
And some elves helped us to publicize our community project, which brought us so much great attention.

Thank You to Radio Station WDEL and to Rick Jensen and President and CEO, Pete Booker, for broadcasting their show from our "Stocking Store." Their 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. Robin Brown of the Wilmington News Journal who wrote several wonderful articles about our project and gave us so much media attention.

[Thank You to Doug Shimmell](#) from NBC 10 TV in Philadelphia who came to our "Stocking Store" and introduced our project to hundreds of thousands of viewers in the Philadelphia/Delaware market.

Please click on the link below to see some of our media coverage.

**** TV Website link for a non-video story:**

<http://www.nbc10.com/news/14699994/detail.html?dl=headlineclick#>

****TV website link from last year's project in 2006:**

<http://cbs3.com/video/?id=33551@kyw.dayport.com>

****RADIO Home webpage for Rick Jensen link:** <http://www.wdel.com/jensen.php>

It has been my sincere privilege to coordinate this wonderful project. **Thank You**, Everyone, for all your support. **Our "big" email will be sent out in a few weeks.**

Have a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

With much appreciation and gratitude,

Judy

Judy Travis

Delaware Project Coordinator

"Christmas Stockings for Soldiers"

OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Here is a photo of one of our **Happy Volunteer Elves**, US Senator Tom Carper, who worked with us to send some Holiday Cheer to our troops. Thank you, Sen. Carper.

