

Dear 2009 “Stockings For Soldiers” Friends:

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

Our 6th Annual “**Stockings For Soldiers**” community project has been successfully completed and we are so very grateful to all of our generous volunteers.

From December 2nd to December 4th, we filled three post office tractor trailers and sent our **1125** 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 **5,400** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,150** boxes that weighed **30,000 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 thrilled and pleased and proud to tell you that **this year**, we even surprised ourselves with the amount of Goodies that some of our special troops will receive: Over **750** great volunteers helped us to mail out **1,125 boxes** packed with **6,600 homemade, personalized Christmas Stockings** that were filled with over **36,000 pounds of Christmas Goodies**. We also made **800 polar fleece blankets** and **500 knitted hats** for our troops.

Included in these figures are **125 large boxes** (approx. 800 stockings) that will go to several Chaplains in Afghanistan who will give out our stockings to those who otherwise would not have received anything for Christmas. In addition, we sent **6,600 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 **750+** 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 over **six 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 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, Brandywine Hundred, Wilmington West, and Newark.

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 750+ 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, MaryAlice Budd, Bonnie Costas, Dawn & Nick Dilenno, Barbara Gilbert, Becca Gulino, Kathy Hankins, Derek Hart, Ann & Rick Hein, Fannie Kessler, Paul Kessler, Denise Lazar, Bill McLachlan, Nancy & Dan Meier, Terry Meyers, Lori Miller, Patti Mishaw, Cathy & Jim Morgan, Betsy Morocco, Amy Mousley, Sandy & Bob Pembleton, Mary Remmell, Barbara & Frank Schinchirimini, Dianne Seidel, Karen Sieber, Bruce Shumway, Peg & Jon & Kevin Stewart, Judy Tarlov, Arthur Travis, Betsy & Doug Wenny, Eleanor Wilson, Mary Alice Wilson, Carol Wootten and Pam & Rick Yarborough.

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **6,600** home sewn stockings.
- We received over **500** home knitted hats.
- We received over **6,600** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **800** letters of support for the troops.
- We received over **7,000** packets of "Snowman's Soup" (hot cocoa).
- We received over **6,600** 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 **1,500** 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 **5,000** toothbrushes from Mr. Vince McIntosh and Select Amenities, Ltd.
- We received over **5,000** tubes of toothpaste from Ms. Sherry Schaeffer.
- We received over **4,000** great squishy balls from Bev Massey and Unique Industries, Inc.
- We received over **1,000** pairs of socks from the Knights of Columbus.
- We received over **1,500** copies of letters that we send to our troops from Ben-Dom Printing Co.
- We received over **5,000** copies of printed materials for our stockings from Mike Janis of Reprographics Center Inc.
- We received over **6,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library and the Avon Grove Lions Club.
- We received over **600** DVD's from John & Donna Bell & students from PS Dupont Middle School.
- We received over **600** CD's of original Martial Mix music from Taurus & Vaggeli.
- We received over **10** large bolts of polar fleece to make our blankets from Polartec, LLC.
- We received **tons** of donated items and funds from the Washington Township Schools in NJ.
- We received over **36,000** 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 **750** volunteers who came to help us at our "Stocking Store."
- We received over **\$500** from selling raffle tickets for the beautiful patriotic quilt made by Ms. Diane Seidel, won by our own Ingrid Berlien, who then donated it to one of our military Moms. Special Thanks to Diane & Ingrid.
- We received over **1,125** empty boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks to Jim Morgan, Acme Stores, Frank Schinchirimini and Smurfit-Stone.
- We processed our **1,125** boxes on-line in 2 days, Special Thanks to 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 practically loading the entire 3rd truck by themselves.
- Special Thanks to all the volunteers who closed up the boxes and carried them to the waiting trucks. Volunteers included representatives from the Delaware Army Guard and the New Jersey Air Guard, who are getting ready to be deployed.
- A special Thank You to the special new citizens of the USA, living in Virginia, who donated funds from their paychecks for our troops.
- A very special Thank You to Jon Stewart, our Superb WebMaster.

[Thank You to Radio Station WDEL](#) and 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 and to Rick Jensen, who gave up his lunch money for the troops. A special Thank You to Mr. Mark Garfinkel, who donated \$500 for Rick's Businessman's Challenge.

[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>

[A special ALERT for our wonderful sewing friends:](#)

We are in the process of **changing the sewing patterns** for our stockings. Please wait to see the new size, which will be posted on our web site in a few weeks.

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

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukah.

With much appreciation and gratitude,

Judy

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

Visit Our Great New Website: www.StockingsForSoldiers.org

A very special **THANK YOU** to Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States, who was so kind and gracious to stop by to help us stuff some stockings for our troops. Thank you, Dr. Biden. It was an honor to have you work with us.



Dr. Jill Biden and Judy Travis, Coordinator, Stockings for Soldiers

THANK YOU, ALL :-)