

Dear 2012 “Stockings For Soldiers” Friends:

We Did It ... With Your Assistance ... THANK YOU to everyone who worked to help us to, again, send over 10,000 stockings to our deployed troops in Afghanistan.

Our 9th Annual “Stockings For Soldiers” community project has been successfully completed and we are so very grateful to all of our generous volunteers and Team Leaders.

We filled two huge post office tractor trailers and sent our **1325** boxes off to our brave and courageous troops in 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. 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 **10,000** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,550** boxes that weighed over **40,000 pounds**. Our fabulous volunteers came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Idaho, California, Colorado and from all over America joined with us.

I am so proud and pleased and thrilled to tell you that **this year**, we surprised ourselves again with the ability to match last year’s totals. **So many more** volunteers stopped by to give us a hand that enabled us to send, once again, over **10,000 stockings in 1,325 boxes**. (We put **more** stockings into each box and actually sent fewer boxes that weighed less, so our postage bill was less. YEAY...) We also **made 2,500 polar fleece blankets** and over **750 knitted hats** for our troops.

In addition, we sent some big boxes of dog biscuits for several **K-9** units. We can’t forget about our canine heroes. We also sent over **10,000 personal greeting cards** and **several hundred letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools. And again, our friends at P.S. DuPont Middle School made the sweetest DVD for our troops.

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 our **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 **Ten 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 so very much to the generous owners of Branmar Plaza: **Louis Capano & Company**. They have graciously allowed us to use the empty storefront occupied by **Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate**. Again, we want to thank our wonderful friends at **Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate** for donating their furniture so we would be able to have tables to work on. Our deep appreciation goes to Louis Capano, Jennifer Leonard, Jeff Olmstead and Dick Christopher 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 10 and Area 20. 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), Caesar Rodney, Hockessin-Greenville, Christiana, Newark-Mornings, Wilmington, West Chester, PA and the West Chester Rotaract 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. We are so very grateful for the over 10,000 packets of Snowman Soup that the Scouts helped to make for our troops.

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 – Wonderful Elf Extraordinaire,

Ingrid Berlien - Jennie Burke - Bonnie Costas - Scott Crosby – Lorree Crowder - Dawn Dilenno - Kathy Hankins – Derek Hart - Ann Hein - Paul Kessler - Denise Lazar - Bill McLachlan - Annette Long – Dan Meier - Nancy Meier - Cassie Millar - Lori Miller - Cathy Morgan - Jim Morgan - Amy Mousley – Nick Paoletti - Will Petrilla - Mary Rimmell - Barbara S. - Dianne Seidel - Bruce Shumway - Kathie Simmons - Karen Sieber - Anita Sterling - Jim Sterling - Peg Stewart - Jon Stewart - Judy Tarlov - Sharice Thayer - Arthur Travis - Betsy Wenny - Doug Wenny - Eleanor Wilson - Jean Woods - Carol Wootten - Pam Yarborough - Sam Youse - Diane & Ryan Zutz-Cummings

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **12,000** home sewn stockings.
- We received over **750** home knitted hats.
- We received over **10,000** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **800** letters of support for the troops from school children.
- We received over **10,000** packets of “Snowman's Soup” (hot cocoa).
- We received over **10,000** decks of playing cards from the Trump Hotels in Atlantic City, NJ.
- We received over **10,000** Ziploc bags to mail our stockings from The Castle Bag Company.
- We received over **2,000** lbs. of Halloween candy from Dr. Greg Fink, Dr. Jake Milunsky, Drs. Greeley & Nista, Dr. Ron Briglia, Limestone Dental Associates & many other wonderful local dentists and from all the local Walgreen Stores.
- We received over **1,000** toothbrushes from Patterson Dental Supplies.
- We received over **10,000** lip balms from Chapstick/Pfizer Corp.
- We received over **6,000** lip balms from Bulk Apothecary Corp.
- We received over **5,000** lip balms from Burt's Bees Corp.
- We received over **5,000** pairs of socks from the students from Clearview High School in Mullica Hills, NJ and surrounding areas.
- We received over **1,500** copies of letters that we send to our troops from Ben-Dom Printing Co.
- We received over **10,000** copies of printed materials for our stockings from Rotarian Mike Janis of Reprographics Center Inc.
- We received over **10,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library, Avon Grove Lions Club, friends in Lewes, Delaware, Foxfield Residents and many others.
- We received over **1,200** DVD's created by John & Donna Bell & their students from PS DuPont Middle School in Wilmington, Delaware. Congratulations to the Band & Choral students for making such a very special DVD for our troops.
- We received over **22** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our **2,500** small blankets from our great friends at Polartec, LLC. of Lawrence, MA
- We received **tons** of donated items and extra funds from all the students and staff from the Washington Township Schools in Sewell, NJ.
- We received over **38,000** 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 **1,200** empty apple boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks to Jim Morgan and the Acme Company. Special Thanks also to Frank Schinchirimini and the Smurfit-Stone/RockTenn Company for donating over **500** boxes.
- We processed our **1,325** boxes on-line in 3 days, Special Thanks to Sam Youse and Caesar Rodney Rotarian Bill McLachlan.
- Special Thanks to Mike Behringer 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 Paul, Nick and Tom for helping to organize and load the Post Office trucks.
- Special Thanks to all the volunteers who closed up the boxes and carried them to the waiting trucks.
- A special Thank You to John Mager, our wonderful accountant who helps us to maintain our 501.c.3 nonprofit Delaware corporation status.

Thank You to WDEL's Rick Jensen for broadcasting his great radio show from our Stocking Store. We had so much fun and met many of his generous listeners. **THANK YOU** Rick and WDEL for this great kindness that benefits our troops.

Thank You to 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>

It has been so fabulous for me to coordinate this wonderful project and to work with so many exceptional great folks. **Thank You** to all our volunteers who have helped us to send some special Hugs and Smiles to our troops in Afghanistan. **Thank You**, everyone, for all your continued support.

Our "big" email, with photos & letter from our troops, will be sent out in a few weeks.



A special **Thank You** to Dr. Jill Biden who stopped by to join us in stuffing some of our 10,000 stockings for our troops. We were so honored to have you join us.

A special **THANK YOU** to Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, who was so very kind to join us in getting ready to send our special stockings to our troops. Thank You, Gov. Markell. It was such a special honor to have you work with us.



Thank You to Delaware's Attorney General Beau Biden who stopped by to join us and to tape our segment of Bus 52. We greatly appreciate your kindness.

Thank You to the great folks from Bus52 who came to visit and to make a video about our project for their wonderful series on www.Bus52.com. We were honored to have you join us for the day.



Have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukah.

With much appreciation and gratitude and see you all next year,

Judy

Judy Travis



Project Founder & Coordinator
STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS - Delaware, Inc.

www.StockingsForSoldiers.org

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A special * ALERT * for our wonderful volunteers:

We will be changing some of the items on our website and changing some of the posted information. Please look for these changes in the next several months. A special **THANK YOU** to all our sewing volunteers. We are so very grateful, from the bottom of our hearts, for receiving all the beautiful stockings that were sent to us. We love you all. **Yes** – please plan to take advantage of those after Christmas sales, we'll be doing our project next year, for sure.

THANK YOU, ALL :-)

