



Dear 2013 "**Stockings For Soldiers**" Friends:

**Whoo Hoo!! YEAY!!!! We Did It ... THANK YOU** to everyone who worked to help us to send over **12,000 stockings** to our deployed troops.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "**Stockings For Soldiers**" community project has been successfully completed and we are so very grateful to all of our generous volunteers and members of the community who participated with us.

We filled two post office tractor trailers and sent our **1500** 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.

**This year**, our **1,000 +** volunteer elves worked very hard and sent **12,000** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,500** boxes that weighed over **48,000 pounds**. Our fabulous volunteers came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Idaho, California, Colorado, and people from all over America joined with us. In addition, we sent **1,200 polar fleece blankets** and over **500 knitted hats** for our troops. We also sent over **12,000 personal greeting cards** and **several hundred letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools. And again, John and Donna Bell, from P.S. DuPont Middle School made the sweetest musical Christmas DVD for our troops

This year, we were so glad to be able to send over **1,000 lbs.** of stockings and Goodies for our **K9 Soldiers** and their handlers. Thank You to Ron Aiello, President of the US War Dogs Association, Lynne Young and Rory Graham for their great assistance in gathering donations for our efforts. We can never forget our canine heroes.

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 **1,000+** 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. **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 **Twelve 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 III, Jennifer Leonard, Rep. Debbie Hudson, 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, Caesar Rodney, Hockessin-Greenville, Brandywine Hundred, 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 12,000 packets of Snowman Soup that the Scouts helped to make for our troops.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to over 1,000+ 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:

**Lyn Gill – Wonderful Elf Extraordinaire,**

Ingrid Berlien	Jennie Burke	Bonnie Costas	Crowder Family	Kathy Hankins
Derek Hart	Paul Kessler	Denise Lazar	Annette Long	Dan Meier
Nancy Meier	Cassie Millar	Lori Miller	Cathy Morgan	Jim Morgan
Will Petrilla	Mary Rimmell	Barbara S.	Dianne Seidel	Bruce Shumway
Kathie Simmons	Karen Sieber	Anita Sterling	Jim Sterling	Peg Stewart
Jon Stewart	Judy Tarlov	Arthur Travis	Betsy Wenny	Doug Wenny
Eleanor Wilson	Jean Woods	Carol Wootten	Pam Yarborough	Sam Youse
Diane Zutz-Cummings				



**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Deborah Vandiver of RSVP and the State Office of Volunteerism who nominated our special project that became one of the winners of the State of Delaware’s **2013 Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Award** Winners. It was such a great honor to be recognized by the Governor and his Committee.

<http://www.volunteerdelaaware.org/HOC cmscontent?CMSId=a0UA000000eXz9QMAS>

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/sov/rsvpnc.html>

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **12,000** home sewn stockings.
- We received over **500** home knitted hats.
- We received over **12,000** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **800** letters of support for the troops from school children.
- We received over **25,000** packets of Cappuccino French Vanilla from CGI Marketing.
- We received over **12,000** packets of “Snowman’s Soup” (hot cocoa).
- We received over **12,000** decks of playing cards from the Trump Hotels in Atlantic City, NJ.
- We received over **12,000** Ziploc bags to mail our stockings from The Castle Bag Company.
- We received over **10,000** lip balms from Chapstick/Pfizer Corp.
- We received over **10,000** toothbrushes from Andrew Turco with so much help from Select Amenities and Vince McIntosh
- We received over **2,000** lbs. of Halloween candy from Dr. Ron Briglia, Dr. Greg Fink & 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 **5,000** pairs of socks from the students from Clearview High School in Mullica Hills, NJ and the Mullica Hills Women's Club of New Jersey.
- We received over **1,500** copies of letters that we send to our troops from Ben-Dom Printing Co.
- We received over **12,000** copies of printed materials for our stockings from Rotarian Mike Janis of Reprographics Center Inc.
- We received over **12,000** 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 **10** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our **1,200** 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 **48,000** 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 **1000 +** 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 Schinchirimi and the Smurfit-Stone/RockTenn Company for their **500** boxes.
- We processed our **1,500** boxes on-line in 3 days, Special Thanks to Sam Youse and Caesar Rodney Rotarian Bill McLachlan and Anita Sterling.
- Special Thanks to our wonderful friends at **RSVP** throughout the entire State of Delaware for their many, many, many wonderful contributions and donations.
- Special Thanks to Bank of America for all their wonderful contributions and donations.
- Special Thanks to the Cigna Corp. for all their wonderful contributions and donations.
- Special Thanks to Mike Behringer and Vaughn Dove from the US Postal Service for helping us to easily mail our boxes by using their tractor trailers.
- Special Thanks to Paul K., the Crowder Family 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>



A special **THANK YOU** to Second Lady, Dr. Jill Biden and Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, who were so very kind to join us in helping us to send our unique stockings to our troops. It was such a special honor to have you both work with us. (Also pictured: Lyn Gill and Marine Corp. Neil Shea)





Please go to "Thank You Troops" page to see photos & letter from our troops.



Two of our special K9 Soldiers enjoying their own stockings in Afghanistan.

*Have a Blessed  
Merry Christmas  
& a belated  
Happy Hanukah  
& please Remember our Troops  
in your thoughts & prayers.*



It has been so fabulous for me to coordinate this wonderful project and to work with so many exceptionally 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.

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

*Judy*

Judy Travis



Project Founder & Coordinator

**STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS - Delaware, Inc.**

[www.StockingsForSoldiers.org](http://www.StockingsForSoldiers.org)

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**A special ALERT for our wonderful sewing volunteers:**

A special **THANK YOU** to all our sewing volunteers. Please be sure to sew stockings for us for next year. We will be sending support to our troops as long as they are deployed in Service to America. **Yes** – please plan to take advantage of those after Christmas fabric sales and please remember to make the **finished stockings 15" high by 9" wide.** THANKS so much.



**Thank You All** 😊

