



Dear 2014 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

With **EVERYONE's Assistance** – we have just completed our **11th Year** of sending our special stockings to our wonderful troops so they know that the Great Folks in Delaware and all over America are thinking of them. **THANKS so much, Everyone, for all your donations, contributions, hard work, good will, thoughtfulness, sense of humor and Volunteer Spirit. We Did It Together ...**

Our **11th Annual "Stockings For Soldiers"** community project has sent over **8,500 personalized stockings** to our troops. Some troops will be leaving Afghanistan and some are just getting there, but due to the Draw Down, our numbers were down from last year. Still, we're so proud to know that over **8,500** of our brave members of the military will know how much we respect and appreciate all they are doing for our Great Country.

We sent **1,200** boxes, filled with all the great Goodies that you all donated for the stockings. This year, our stockings will be going to our troops in Afghanistan, Egypt, Djibouti, Romania, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, South Korea and parts unknown.

Our Official Stats:

1,000 + volunteer elves - sent **8,500** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,200** 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 people from all over America joined with us. In addition, we sent **1,200 small polar fleece blankets** and over **500 knitted hats** for our troops. We also sent over **8,500 personal greeting cards** and **several hundred letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools for our troops

We were, once again, so glad to be able to send over **1,800 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 Regina Edmiston for their great assistance in gathering donations for this effort. 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 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 **Eight Thousand Five Hundred** 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 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, Wilmington West, 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 10,000 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,

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

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **11,000** home sewn stockings.
- We received over **500** home knitted hats.
- We received over **10,000** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **500** 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 **10,000** lip balms from Chapstick/Pfizer Corp.
- We received over **4,000** Star Packs for some of our troops from Annette Long, Rosely Robinson, from “A Hero's Welcome Delaware Chapter, and from the loving hands of our Maris Grove Ladies. These are handmade Star Packs, which include a poem and a special Star, cut from US Flags that cannot be flown anymore. The flags are then properly disposed of by the Boy Scouts.
- 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 **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 over **1,000** toothbrushes from Patterson Dental Supplies.
- We received over **1,500** copies of letters that we send to our troops from Carla & 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, Kennett Square Resale Book Shop, Avon Grove Lions Club, friends in Lewes, DE, Foxfield Residents and many others.
- We received **tons** of donated items and extra funds from all the great students and staff from the Washington Township Schools in Sewell, NJ.
- We received over **40,000** pounds of Goodies from many, 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 Schinchirimini and the Rock-Tenn Company for their **500** boxes.
- We processed our **1,200** boxes on-line in 3 days, Very Special Thanks to Sam Youse and his great I.T. Team including Bill McLachlan, Jon Stewart, Betsy Wenny and Anita Sterling.
- Special Thanks to our wonderful friends at **RSVP throughout the entire State of Delaware** for their many, many, many wonderful contributions, donations and their continued wonderful support.
- Special Thanks to Bank of America for all their wonderful contributions and donations.
- Special Thanks to Vaughn Dove and his Team from the US Postal Service for helping us to easily mail our boxes by using their tractor trailers.
- Special Thanks to Paul K., the ever wonderful Crowder Family, the great Neumann University Ice Hockey Team and Tom for helping to organize and load the Post Office truck and to those friends who closed up the boxes and carried them to the waiting truck..
- 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 Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, who was so kind to join us one evening. It was such a special honor to have him stop by to visit.
(Pictured with Gov. Markell is Mrs. Judy Faunce, one of Delaware's special Gold Star Mothers.

Here is the first email we received from one of our special soldiers:

Ms. Judy Travis,

This is CPT Eric T. from Fort Stewart, GA. I am currently deployed in Afghanistan. I just received the stocking and assorted Holiday goodies. The stocking is hanging from a hook on my wall locker and it reminds me of the stockings we always hung as kids. Thank

you for taking the time to spread some love to complete strangers, ma'am. You added a bright spot during a tough time to be away from my family. I hope your holiday season is filled with love and joy. Thank you again.

Very Respectfully,

CPT Eric T. CJTF-3 CAG Policy Team

Be sure to look for our troop photos and their notes to us at our website in a few weeks.

It has been so wonderful and such an honor for me to coordinate this great 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 deployed all over the world, proudly representing America. **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

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

A special ALERT for our wonderful sewing volunteers:

A special **THANK YOU** to all our amazing sewing volunteers. **Yes** – Please be sure to sew stockings for us for next year. We hope you all will plan to take advantage of those after Christmas fabric sales and please, please remember to make the **finished stockings 15” high by 9” wide**, so they will fit in a 2 gallon ziplock bag.

We will be sending support to our troops as long as they are deployed in Service to America. And we hope you will remember, for some of these troops, our personalized stockings will be the only gift they will receive for Christmas.



One of our favorite photos from last year is this K9 Hero with one of our stockings.



Did you all see our new **Stockings For Soldiers** T-Shirts? Thanks so much to Annette L. for creating them and making them available to our volunteers next year. Our **ELF** model is the famous, Ms. Lyn Gill





Thank You, Everyone 😊