



Dear 2016 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

We're so delighted to say - we have just completed our 13th Year of sending our special stockings to our wonderful troops so they will now 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 13th Annual "Stockings For Soldiers" community project has sent almost **9,000 personalized stockings** to our troops. We're so proud to know that so many 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 went to our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Romania, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, South Korea and parts unknown.

Our Official Stats:

1,000 + volunteer elves - sent **9,000** 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, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Texas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Idaho, Florida, California, North Carolina, Colorado, Nebraska, Tennessee, Kansas Connecticut, South Carolina and great people from ALL over America joined with us. In addition, we sent **1,300 small polar fleece blankets** and over **500 knitted hats** for our troops. We also sent over **9,000 personal greeting cards** and **several hundreds of letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools.

We were, once again, so glad to be able to send almost **1,200 lbs.** of stockings and Goodies in **37 Boxes** for our **K9 Soldiers** and their handlers in 4 different locations. Thanks to all the wonderful donations that we received, we were able to also make some donations to our local **K9 Heroes** and their handlers here with the Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police and the Wilmington Police. We can never forget our canine heroes. We also shared the Goodies we received with several pet shelters here in Wilmington. **THANK YOU** all for your generosity for our K9 Soldiers.

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 local volunteers and our great friends who live far from here, but who have sent us their donations and contributed greatly 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 which are 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 **Nine Thousand** of our most precious young men and women who are bravely Serving their Country.

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, again, to use the empty storefront. **We couldn't conduct our great project without the friendship and support of the Capano Corp.** ♥ 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, Jennie Banco, 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, West Chester Rotary Club, Wilmington West, Hockessin-Greenville, Brandywine Hundred, Christiana, Newark-Mornings and the Rotary Club of Wilmington.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful Chesapeake Bay Area Girl Scouts and their terrific Leaders. These special friends 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	Jennie Burke	Bonnie Costas	Crowder Family	Mary Darby
Kathy Hankins	Derek Hart	Paul Kessler	Alex Kountourzis	Susie Kountourzis
Denise Lazar	Annette Long	Rachel Maher	Dan & Nancy Meier	Cassie Millar
Lori Miller	Cathy Morgan	Mary Rimmell	Barbara Schinchirimini	Dianne Seidel
Bruce Shumway	Karen Sieber	Kathie Simmons	Alvern Staus	Anita & Jim Sterling
Jon Stewart	Peg Stewart	Arthur Travis	Maria Walueff	Eleanor Wilson
Jean Woods	Carol Wootten	Pam Yarborough	Sam Youse	Linda, Laura & Maureen Zieber
Diane Zutz-Cummings				

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **12,000** beautifully home sewn stockings.
- We received over **500** beautifully hand knitted hats.
- We received over **10,000** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **600** 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 Taj Mahal & Caesar's 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 **10** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our **1,300** small blankets from our great friends at Polartec, LLC. of Lawrence, MA
- We received thousands of toothbrushes, toothpaste from our great Dental community. Special Thanks to Patterson Dental Supplies, Oral Healthcare of DE, and many, many Dental offices.
- We received great assistance from our printing community. Thank you to Thomas Lord of Minuteman Press and Kevin Dempsey of Sprint Quality Printing Inc.
- We received over **10,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library, Avon Grove Lions Club, Kennett Square Resale Book Shop, many friends in Lewes, DE, Foxfield Residents and many others
- We received over **4,000** Star Packs for some of our troops from Annette Long, Eileen McCormick, The Fecondo family and Sherry Dahl. We thank the Holy Rosary Boy Scout Troop 61 for the proper

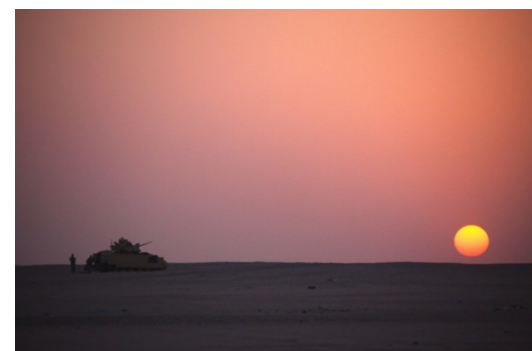
disposal of the U.S. flags that cannot be flown anymore. See our website for more information on helping us to make our Star Packs.

- We received over **4,000** lbs. of Halloween candy from Dr. Ron Briglia, Dr. Greg Fink, Dr. Constance Greeley & many other wonderful local dentists. .
- We received **1,000** beautiful homemade stockings from our great friends at Cokesbury Village and the wonderful leadership of Edna Hein.
- We received **tons** of donated items and extra funds from all the great students and staff from the Washington Township Schools in Sewell, NJ and the great leadership of Ms. Bogacki.
- We received many **tons** of donated items from our great friends at **RSVP, Delaware Volunteers 50+** from Sussex County, Kent County and New Castle County. Thank You to Ann Gorrin, Susan Fox and all their great Assistant Elves.
- We received over **40,000** pounds of Goodies from many, many schools, churches, synagogues, community groups, exercise groups, senior centers, Libraries, Rotary Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and many new friends.
- We enjoyed working with over **1,000 +** volunteers who came by to help us at our “Stocking Store.”
- We received over **1,000** empty apple boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks to our “**Box Squad**” Team Leaders and the Acme Company and their wonderful Produce Depts. Many different Acme Stores helped us. Special Thanks also to Frank Schinchirimini and the WestRock Company for their great **600** boxes.
- Special, Special Thanks to Marianne & Carl Sheran of Lewes, DE, who spearheaded & delivered the many, many donations from Sussex County from all their wonderful friends and neighbors.
- Special Thanks to **Bank of America** for all their wonderful contributions and donations. Especially to Janeen Yeager and her great **BOA** associates for donating **3,000** packets of Snowman Soup.
- 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 and Anita Sterling.
- Special Thanks to Jamie Medina, Al Walls and his great Team from the **US Postal Service** for helping us to easily mail our boxes by using their tractor trailers.
- Special Thanks to Mary, Pam, Tom, Neumann LAX Team and Rowan University’s Automotive Engineers and their friends for helping to organize and load the Post Office trucks and to those friends who closed up the boxes and carried them to the waiting truck.
- Special Thanks to great folks of the American Legion: Lyman, Peter and their great assistants and to the Auxiliary: Arnita, Lisa & Aleta and their Assistant Elves for all their hard work in the Packing the Boxes Dept. each night..
- A special Thank You to **Bumpers & Company**, John Mager and Doug Kook, our wonderful accountants who help us to maintain our 501.c.3 nonprofit Delaware corporation status. Thanks also to Cathy Morgan, our great bookkeeper.
- A very Special Thank You to LTG Larry R. Jordan, Chairman of the West Point Association of Graduates for honoring me with the designation of “Friend of West Point.” Thank You to Mark Stephenson and Tony Janairo for nominating me for this great honor.

[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 also to Jim Edwards for their great assistance in helping to tell our community all about this wonderful project. <http://www.wdel.com/pathways.php>



[Thank You to Our Radio Media Friends:](#) Thanks to Rick Jensen of **WDEL** and Rick Trader of **WNJC** for their great support and assistance.



Here are two of the first notes from our deployed troops that we just received:

Ms. Travis,

I am writing to let you know that our Battalion received the stockings you put together for us. I wanted to thank you so much for all that you have done. The Soldiers I spoke with and saw were stunned at the amount of care packages you and everyone at Stockings for Soldiers put together. It's truly amazing and we are all grateful for what you've done to make our holiday season so much better. I have had a number of soldiers ask me to thank you and everyone else at your organization as well. Thanks again! And I included a few photos below of soldiers receiving their stockings as well as a few other photos I took from this deployment. Thanks again!

Sincerely & Respectfully, 1LT Sean K.

Hello Ma'am,

I can't tell you how grateful I am for sending my unit Christmas stockings. They couldn't have come at a better time. They brought a smile to everyone's face! LOL! The Ramen soup was a big hit with my Soldier from Hawaii. The letters from the kids were so sweet and hilarious at the same time. Some want to know if there's a way to write back to them and say thank you?

My most sincere gratitude to you and your team. You are bringing joy in ways I can't fully describe. For most of my unit this is their first time deploying and being away from their families around the holidays. They can only hear from those of us that have done this a few times that it will be ok, but your gifts to them made it clear to them last night that it will be ok.

Again thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Respectfully, SFC Christopher P., 481st Detachment

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, never stop spreading joy and love.

FRIENDS: Be sure to look for all our troop photos & their notes to us at our website in a few weeks.

It has been such a wonderful 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.

They all know that it is not about candy, cookies or Beanie Babies, it's about what's in your hearts.

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
501.c.3 Tax ID # 27-0604668

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*Hope you all have a very **Merry Christmas** & **Happy Hanukah**
& please Remember to keep our Troops in your thoughts & prayers.*

A special ALERT for our wonderful sewing volunteers:

Your stockings are sooo beautiful!!! 😊 😊 😊

A special **THANK YOU** to all our amazing sewing volunteers. **Yes** – Please be sure to sew stockings for us for next year, but please, you can **Reduce the number** of stockings for us because we have so many stockings leftover to be used next year. However, **We need to receive the stockings by Oct. 31st 2017.** We hope you all will plan to take advantage of those after Christmas fabric sales and please, please remember to follow our request to make the **finished stockings 15” high by 9” wide**, using **only cotton** fabric and **felt for the cuff**, so they can fit into 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.**



Once again, I wanted to share this fabulous photo of one of our special K9 Heroes from several years back.

She loved her stocking too.

To be removed from our Mailing List, please respond with UNSUBSCRIBE



THANK YOU, Everyone!!!