

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah & HAPPY NEW YEAR * 2018



Dear 2017 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

We're so delighted to say - we have just completed our 14th 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** ... Please excuse the delay in getting this information out to everyone, but here is the great summary of all that we have done together.

Our 14th Annual "Stockings For Soldiers" community project has sent over 10,000 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 **1,350** 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, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Qatar, Djibouti, Abu Dhabi, GTMO in Cuba, South Korea and parts unknown.

Our Official Stats:

1,000 + volunteer elves - sent over **10,000** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings packed in **1,350** boxes that weighed over **46,000 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, Nebraska, North Carolina, Colorado, Nebraska, Tennessee, Kansas, Washington, West Virginia, Connecticut, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Georgia, Vermont, Arizona and great people from ALL over America joined with us. In addition, we sent **2,000 small polar fleece blankets** and over **500 knitted hats** for our troops. We also sent over **10,000 personal greeting cards** and **several hundreds of letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools. In addition, we donated over **2,000** of our stockings to several Veteran Hospitals so our Vets could have a festive Christmas celebration this year.

We were, once again, so glad to be able to send almost **1,300 lbs.** of stockings and Goodies in **30 Boxes** for our **K9 Soldiers** and their handlers in **6** 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 Wilmington City Police, Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police and some local shelters. We can never forget our canine heroes. **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. **As I hear back from our troops, I will send out their notes which are intended for all of us. Please look for them on our website.** 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 were so happy to receive our Goodies. Because of our combined efforts, we were able to touch the hearts of over **Ten 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 from all of you. **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 their 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, Brian Kohut, 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.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful members of the RC Dupont American Legion Post # 18 of Claymont. These special friends made sure that our "Packing Dept." ran smoothly and efficiently. They were the ones in the big room, receiving the stockings and packing up all the boxes. They were invaluable in helping our stockings to get into the right boxes with their enthusiasm, helpfulness and hard work. A special **THANK YOU** also goes to **Dawn Peet**, who helps us each year to contact the deployed National Guard troops from all over the US to be included in our project.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful Volunteer Delaware 50+ organization (formerly RSVP). This wonderful group of folks in all 3 Delaware counties set up drop off locations for our project. The many, many volunteers made so many tremendous donations, it was such an important part of project. In addition, we had so many wonderful Sussex Country residents who worked so hard for our troops. Special **THANKS** to Marianne & Carl Sheran for spearheading so many collection drives, Jane Starr and the Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach and Maureen Walker and the Millville-By-The-Sea Community for all their fabulous donations as well as so many new friends who helped us so much.

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 – Our Very Wonderful Expert Logistical Elf Extraordinaire,

Donna Baldino	Jennie Burke	Bonnie Costas	Lorree Crowder	Crowder Family
Mary Darby	Lorraine Fecondo	Fury Fecondo	Sandy Fecondo	Lauren Handlin
Kathy Hankins	Derek Hart	Mona Konig	Denise Lazar	Annette Long
Rachel Maher	Cassie Millar	Lori Miller	Cathy Morgan	Mary Rimmell
Barbara S.	Bruce Shumway	Karen Sieber	Kathie Simmons	Alvern Staus
Anita Sterling	Jim Sterling	Jon Stewart	Peg Stewart	Arthur Travis
Maria Walueff	Jean Woods	Carol Wootten	Pam Yarborough	Sam Youse
Linda, Laura & Maureen Zieber		Diane Zutz-Cummings		

Welcome to our new 2018 Team Leaders:

Lori Ableman	Holly Bechard	Lindsay Bechard	Helen Cutler	Janice Hamilton
Dave Hodgson	Donna Pelletier	Patti Samuelson	Marianne Sheran	Carl Sheran

The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **15,000** 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 **800** letters of support for the troops from school children.
- We received over **10,000** lip balms from Chapstick/Pfizer Corp
- 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 **15** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our **2,000** 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 Benco Dental, Carla Rawheiser and Progressive Dental, Patterson Dental Supplies, Oral Healthcare of DE, and many, many Dental offices.
- We received great assistance from our printing community. Special Thanks to Kathie Simmons, Dawn Doherty, Kevin Dempsey of Sprint Quality Printing Inc., Lorraine Fecondo and Steve Donze of Brandywine Drumlabels.
- We received over **10,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library, Avon Grove Lions Club, Kennett Square Resale Book Shop, All Around Books, many friends in Lewes, DE, Foxfield Residents and many others
- We received over **7,300** Star Packs for some of our troops from The Fecondo family, Annette Long, 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 **3,000** 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 with 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 Lauren, Krista and Bernadette.
- 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 Gorin, Linda, Danielle, Sheri, Susan Fox and all their great Assistant Elves for their invaluable assistance.
- We received over **46,000** 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 from all over the U.S..
- Special Thanks to Mark Stentz and the **Trash Tech** Company for letting us use their great Recycling container during the project. We filled it so many times. It was essential to our project.
- 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 Thanks to Paul Cummings and the Del Monte Company for their great apple boxes. Special Thanks also to Frank Schinchirimini and the WestRock Company for their great **800** boxes. Special Thanks to the Hess Company for donating 600 boxes and for the great folks at **United Electric Company** for delivering the Hess boxes to us. Such great friends!!!
- Special Thanks to **Bank of America** for all their wonderful contributions and donations. Especially to Barbara J. Oliphant, Damodar, Anand and Janeen Yeager and their great **BOA** associates for donating **3,300** packets of Snowman Soup. **So great!!!**
- Special Thanks to so many students who wrote such sweet and thoughtful **letters to our troops**. So many students helped but a special Thank you to the students and staff of Lancashire Elementary and our great friend Susie Murdock for her leadership.

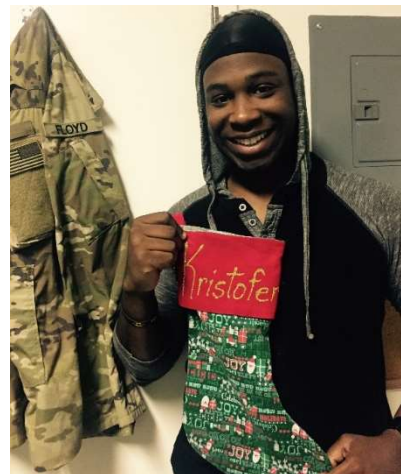
- We processed our **1,350** boxes on-line in 3 days, Very Special Thanks to Sam Youse and his great I.T. Team including Denise Lazar, Jon Stewart and Anita Sterling.
- Special Thanks to Al Walls and his great Team from the **US Postal Service** for helping us to easily mail our boxes by using their tractor trailers parked at our Stocking Store.
- Special Thanks to Lorree, Ed, Tom, Rowan University's Automotive Engineers and their volunteers 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.
- 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 Thanks to all the volunteers who came over each night to lend a hand. We couldn't accomplish all we did without everyone's great help. We can't say THANK YOU enough. ❤️

Thank You to WDEL's "Pathways to Service" and to Ceil and Roxane for inviting me to be a guest on their radio show on Radio Station WDEL. Thank you also to Jim Edwards for his 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 Kevin Wade of **WGMD** 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:

Thank you so much for my stocking and bag of goodies!
 I can't remember the last time I had one!
 You made Christmas extremely special to me.
 I'm away from family and friends during the holidays again
 and as much as I was a sad to not be with them,
 your gifts were awesome to receive!
 Thank you!! Merry Christmas and happy New Year!



Judy,

Thank you so much for the stockings. We all are so thankful for the thoughtful care packages we received from your organization. My name is Raven V. I am 23 years old and currently deployed with my military Working Dog Max, he's 7 years old and a German Shepard. I attached some pictures of us :)

Again thank you so much. Raven

FRIENDS: Be sure to look for all our troop photos & their notes to us at our website soon.

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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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 **Reduce the number** of stockings sent to us because we have so many stockings leftover to be used next year.

Please note: **We would like to receive the stockings from Oct. 8th to Oct. 31st 2018.** We hope you all will remember to follow our request to make the **finished stockings 15” high by 9” wide**, using the same **cotton only** fabric on both sides and using only **plain felt for the cuff**, so they can fit into a 2 gallon zip lock 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.**



Two Special photos we received last year



Please remember to keep our Troops in your thoughts & prayers.

THANK YOU, Everyone!!!

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