



Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukah & THANKS so much.

Dear 2019 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

We had so many wonderful Assistant Elves this year. THANK YOU, to all our fabulous volunteers who helped us to have such a terrific 16th Year of sending our special stockings to our wonderful troops so they will 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, kindness, patience, sense of humor and Volunteer Spirit. We Did It Together. This was our BEST YEAR EVER!!!

Our 16th Annual "Stockings For Soldiers" community project has sent over 11,500 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 **1,545** 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, Kuwait, Djibouti, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Poland, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, GTMO in Cuba, South Korea, Japan, Bahrain, Philippines, Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, the US Texas Border and parts unknown. We sent to **60** different zip codes and supported **197** different groups who requested our stockings.

Our 2019 Official Stats:

Over 1,000 + volunteer elves - sent over **11,500** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings and our boxes weighed **51,500 pounds**. Our fabulous volunteers came from Delaware, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas and from ALL over America joined with us. In addition, we sent **2,200 small polar fleece blankets** and **10,000 Star Packs** for our troops and over **400 knitted hats** for our troops. We also sent over **10,000 personal greeting cards** and **many hundreds of letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools. In addition, we donated some of our stockings to several Military organizations so our Vets could have a festive Christmas celebration this year.

We were, once again, so glad to be able to support our **K9 Heroes** by sending **1,500 lbs.** of stockings and Goodies in **54 Boxes** for our **K9 Soldiers** and their handlers in **6** different locations. Thanks to all the wonderful donations that we received, we were again 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. **THANK YOU** to SGT Andrew C. for all his assistance.

Our Stocking 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 Eleven 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 and wonderful owners of our brand new location in the **Brandywine Town Center**. We are so very grateful to the terrific folks at **The Acadia Realty Corp** ♥ who allowed us to use their fabulous space for our project this year. **Very Special THANKS** to Ashley O., John D., Karalynn H., Debbie L., Dan C. and Sam for all their wonderful kindness to us. **Thank You** to our new neighbor, The Guitar Center, for all their great assistance. We also want to **THANK** the great folks at **The Capano Group** who gave us a wonderful home for **14 years** and without their help, we could never have grown to be such a successful community project. **THANK YOU** to Louis Capano III, Brian K. and Rep. Debbie Hudson for taking such good care of us for all those many years.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful and generous members of the **Rotary Clubs of District 7630, Area 10 and Area 20 and surrounding Rotary Clubs**. Their support has been invaluable for all these years.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful Chesapeake Bay Area **Girl Scout** and our **Boy Scout** volunteers. These terrific Leaders have been so important to us because they are teaching their Scouts the importance of volunteering. Their enthusiasm, helpfulness and hard work are so much appreciated.

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 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** goes to **Christine Kubik and in year's past, Dawn Peet**, for their years of assisting us to contact the deployed members of the military from the **National Guard** from all over the US to be included in our project. This year, we supported deployed National Guard troops from over 10 states.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful State Office of Volunteerism (SOV) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and their **Volunteer Delaware 50+** organization (formerly RSVP). This wonderful group of folks in all 3 Delaware counties set up Collection Boxes at many locations for our project. We are grateful to Ann Gorrin and her great Team in Sussex County and Dr. Walker in New Castle County for all their great assistance. They allowed so many, many donations, all up and down the State, to participate with us. So many wonderful volunteers made a tremendous amount of 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, Roberta Bass and her fabulous and generous family members, our great Millsboro friends 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 new 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." Here is our Winning Team:

Lyman Brenner	Sheia Buckley	Bonnie Costas	Lorree Crowder	Ed Crowder
Peter Dirga	Kim Donahue	Fury Fecondo	Lorraine Fecondo	Sandy Fecondo
Donna Gallagher	Derek Hart	Dave Hodgson	Judy Kaucic	Mona Konig
Denise Lazar	Annette Long	Tina Macrone	Jeanne Madaline	Lisa McCarley
Lori Miller	Cathy Morgan	Donna Pelletier	Samantha Pelletier	Dave Putscher
Jane Putscher	Barbara Schinchirimini		Marianne Sheran	Carl Sheran
Bruce Shumway	Karen Sieber	Kathie Simmons	Barbara Spall	Jon Stewart
Peg Stewart	Arthur Travis	Tom VanDuyne	Maria Walueff	Jean Woods
Carol Wootten	Pam Yarborough	Sam Youse	Diane Zutz-Cummings	
Paul Cummings				

A Big Welcome to our new 2020 Team Leaders: **Mark Koczak - Emma Staib -**

2019 - The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **15,000** beautifully home sewn stockings.
- We received over **400** 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 **15,000** packets of "Snowman's Soup" (hot cocoa).
- We received over **10,000** decks of playing cards from **Caesar's Casino** in Atlantic City, NJ.
- We received over **10,000** Ziploc bags to mail our stockings from The **Castle Bag Company**.
- We received over **10** large bolts of magnificent polar fleece to make our **2,200** small blankets from our great friends at **Polartec, LLC.** of Lawrence, MA
- We received over **2,000** pairs of socks from the great Bombas Company.
- 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 Alpine and Raffeto, Dr. Ben Parenti and Donna Gallagher** and many, many Dental offices.
- We received great assistance from our printing community. Special Thanks to Kathie Simmons, Dawn Doherty, Steve Donze of Brandywine Drumlabels 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, All Around Books, many friends in Lewes, DE, Foxfield Residents and many others
- We received over **10,000** Star Packs for some of our troops from Annette Long, Lorraine Fecondo & Tina Macrone & family. 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. Constance Greeley & many other wonderful local dentists.
- We received **500** beautiful homemade stockings from our great friends at Cokesbury Village with the wonderful leadership of Edna Hein, Ginni Rothrock, Marian S. and Jane Kipp.
- 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 Krista, Lauren, & 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 Gorrin and all their great Assistant Elves for their invaluable assistance.

- We received over **51,000** 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..
- We enjoyed working with over **1,000 +** volunteers who came by to help us at our new “Stocking Store.”
- Special Thanks to Paul Cummings and the **Del Monte Company** for bringing us **1,500** empty Apple boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks to Frannie and the **WestRock Company** for always bringing us their great Corn Flakes boxes. Such great friends!!
- Special Thanks to the wonderful members of the **American Legion Post 18** who took care of the Packing of the stockings into the boxes every night. Thank You Lyman, Peter, Lisa, Jane, Jack, Tom, Mark and all their team.
- Special Thanks to **Bank of America** for all their wonderful contributions and donations. Especially to Barbara J. Oliphant, Damodar, Anand, Janeen Yeager and Lance Layton and their great **BOA** associates for donating over **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 **1,545** boxes on-line in 3 days, Very Special Thanks to Sam Youse and his great I.T. Team including Ed Crowder, MaryBeth Youse, Donna Pelletier and great volunteers.
- Super Special Thanks to **Mr. Fred Smith, President of FedEx** and his wonderful Team of Heather and Hillary for sending us a **FedEx** truck to carry our 1,545 boxes to Chicago. We ran into a postage problem if we mailed our boxes from Delaware, so we send our boxes directly to the APO post office in Chicago. We are so very grateful for their kindness and great assistance. THANKS to our **FedEx** driver. THANKS also to Tyler, Brenda, Ellen and Quinton at the **Post Office** in Chicago who took excellent care of our boxes when they arrived.
- THANK YOU to our Delaware Post Office friends, Vaughn, Jamie, Al, Gib and their great Team for helping us for all the years that we worked together.
- THANK YOU to Jim and Anita Sterling for their very generous donation of a new Laser printer. Yeay!!
- THANK YOU to the great folks at **Endicia.com** who took such great care of us and helped with our Custom Form procedures. Thanks to David W. and Alan B. We’re very grateful.
- Special Thanks to Lorree, Ed, Jason, Rachel, Dalton, Rowan University’s Automotive Engineers and their volunteers for helping to organize and load the FedEx truck and to those friends who closed 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. Special Thanks to our long time Team Leader, Cathy Morgan, who does such a great job as our fabulous 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. ❤️

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

Good morning Judy Travis,

I wanted to reach out and express my gratitude for you and all of those who helped put together the Christmas Stockings for my soldiers. Every soldier was ecstatic to receive a personal stocking which had their name on it. For many soldiers, **this was the only gift they received, and it meant so much to them**. Please share with all of those involved in this wonderful organization you have, that we appreciate all that you do to support us overseas. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and may God continue to bless you all!

Very Respectfully, Charles B., CPT, AV, HHC Commander, 1-10 ARB

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Ms. Judy Chief Elf,

Thank you very, very much for the personalized Christmas stocking filled with treats and small gifts. It is the most thoughtful present I have received in the mail since I can remember. It warms my heart and makes me smile when I see it its bright colors my work area and to know that several groups came together to send it to a stranger they have never met, only because I am away from family and home at this time. I do not mind as it is my job, but it is a lovely surprise and so caring of you get the names of myself and the rest of my Army unit and put them on each stocking. It supports my belief that people are not too busy to care for others, and that love and friendship does exist even if the news may report others wise.

My younger brother often gets worried about these things when he watches the news but I tell him much of it is just hype and drama to get more viewers and unkind people make a lot of noise and fuss but they are small in number compared to the good out there. There is an Army of good people out there quietly doing good things every day to make things around them better, like yourself and the several groups that came together to send these gifts to us.

I want you to know it picked up my day. Also the book that was added next to the stocking was a nice touch in an electronic age.

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas. Many blessings in the New year to you, your staff at Stockings For Solders, Girl Scout Troop 1221, the Delaware Area Rotarians, The West Point Parents Club of Delaware and the Girls Scouts Chesapeake Bay Council.

Sincerely, MAJ Laura H.

Ms. Travis,

As a U.S. Army soldier stationed overseas, I received one of your Christmas Stockings for Soldiers just days before Christmas.

I am a bit older than most of my colleagues, having served long enough to have been through several previous deployments and preparing for retirement upon return from this one. With a loving wife and children who have grown accustomed to sacrifice throughout our times apart, I thought I was fully prepared for yet another Christmas away from home. When your stocking arrived with my name at the top, I was surprised to find that it brought back years of memories- from boyhood Christmases to the joy of watching my children experience the magic of the season year after year, as they've grown to become young adults. I immediately was reconnected to the holiday and all that it entails.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that what your special gift did for me was to help me to celebrate Christmas rather than to suppress it, and in doing so I rediscovered the blessings of my life, my family, my country and the Lord. For that I cannot thank you enough.

From all of us here at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, I sincerely appreciate the time, commitment and continued support from your organization. You truly do make a difference.

v/r,

CW4 Erik M., 244th ECAB, Safety Manager/GFR

A Special note from last year:

"... Any little act of kindness goes a long way and we all greatly appreciate you (all) and all of the time and effort you put into making these packages. I personally had grown up in Foster Care and I have never had a stocking before let alone one with my name on it. My appreciation to you (all) can not be explained in words. My wife had sent a package but it will not be here before Christmas. I am excited now that I have something that I can open on Christmas. Thank you..." J.G.



Judy,

Me and the guys received the box of Christmas stockings and we love the kind and sweet cards the kids made.

Here is a pic of the stockings hanging because we love and appreciate them so much. Thanks for making our Christmas special since we can't be home with our loved ones on this special day. Hilton W.

Hello.

I am the mother of Captain Kenneth J. who is currently deployed to the Middle East.

My son and his troops were the blessed recipients of your kind gifts through the Stockings for Soldiers-Delaware. I can't thank you enough for your generosity and kindness at Christmas when these men and women are away from their families during the Holidays. It touched my heart, as a mom, that my son received such love and kindness from people he doesn't know, but who still support Freedom and those who serve.

.....Here is a huge THANK YOU from me, my husband, and our son's troops serving abroad.

With sincere gratitude, Nancy J., Atlanta Georgia



Hello Again, **Stockings For Soldiers** 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
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A New deadline to receive your beautiful homemade stockings:

Your stockings are soo beautiful!!! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

A special **THANK YOU** to all our amazing sewing volunteers. **Yes** – Please be sure to sew stockings for us in 2020. PLEASE send them to us earlier.

We need to receive the stockings before Oct. 31st 2020.

Any stockings received in late November will have to be stored for the following year. 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. Please measure your old patterns. THANKS so much.

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 stocking was the only gift they received for Christmas.

**This special photo was received a few years ago.
I keep wondering, where are all the camels going???**



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



THANK YOU, Everyone!!! See you in October 2020.

Judy