



HELLO to all our Stockings For Soldiers Friends,

Dear 2020 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

Please excuse the delay in getting our Year End Report to you all. Despite all the confusion over the Covid restrictions, our wonderful Stockings Team worked so hard to accomplish so much for our members of the military deployed all over the world. **THANK YOU**, to all our fabulous volunteers who helped us to have such a terrific 17th Year of sending our special stockings to our wonderful troops so they knew 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 year was definitely "different," but we would never let anything stop us from sending our love and hugs to our troops. This year was one of our very BEST YEARS EVER!!!**

Our 17th Annual "Stockings For Soldiers" community project was a wonderful success. Despite all the Covid restrictions, we were able to send over **6,700 special 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 over **800** 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, Romania, Bulgaria, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, South Korea, Bahrain, Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, the US Texas Border and parts unknown. We sent to **28** different zip codes and supported **67** different groups who requested our stockings.

Our 2020 Official Stats:

Over 1,000 + volunteer elves - sent us over **6,700** homemade, personalized Christmas stockings and our boxes weighed **26,000 pounds**. Our fabulous volunteers came from Delaware, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas and from ALL over America joined with us.

THANKS to all the great donations of US flags and our great Star Packs Team Leaders, we sent over **5,000 Star Packs**. We also sent over **6,700 personal greeting cards** and **many hundreds of letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools. **THANKS** to the great teachers who helped their student still send us their letters when the schools were so impacted by Covid. Unfortunately, we were **NOT** able to send our polar fleece blankets this year, but our deep appreciation always goes to the **POLARTEC** Company for always sending us their beautiful fleece for our troops. We also sent over **400 knitted hats** for our troops. As in the past, we were able to donate some of our stockings to Veteran's Hospitals so our Veterans could have a festive Christmas celebration this year.

We sent a limited amount of **K9** Goodies to the American Embassy in Baghdad. Thanks to those who helped us to do that. We can never forget our canine heroes.

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 almost **Seven 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 The **Brandywine Town Center**. We are so very grateful to the terrific folks at **The Acadia Realty Trust Corp ♥** who allowed us to use their fabulous space for our project, once again, this year. **Very Special THANKS** to Ashley O., John D., Karalynn H., and Debbie L. for all their wonderful kindness to us. **Thank You** to our new neighbor, The Guitar Center, for all their great assistance.

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 have helped us so much in so many ways. They were invaluable in helping our project to finish on time.

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 were able to, once again, support deployed National Guard troops.

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 helped us to receive so many, many donations, from the entire State of Delaware. 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 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 our Wonderful Team Leaders for making everything look so “easy.” Here is our Winning Team:

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

2020 - The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:

- We received over **10,000** 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 **5,000** lip balms from **Chapstick/Pfizer/GSK Corp**
- We received over **5,000** packets of “Snowman's Soup” (hot cocoa) from our great friends at **Bank Of America. THANK YOU**, Barbara O. and your wonderful Team.
- We received over **5,000** 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 **3,000** 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.
- Special Thanks to Kathie Simmons and Dawn Doherty for printing over **1,000** copies of our letters to our troops. Thank you also to Aztec Printing for their quick assistance this year.
- We received over **5,000** 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 **5,000** Star Packs for 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 **10,000** packs of “Millions” candies from the **Iconic Candy Co.** Special Thanks also to the **JOYVA Co., C. Howard Company, Kervan Co.** and Tommy M. of the Candyland Brokers for their great assistance and wonderful donations.
- We received over **500** beautiful homemade stockings from our great friends at Cokesbury Village with the wonderful leadership of Ginni Rothrock, Marian Sargeant 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 & 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, in total, over **26,000** 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 many of our **1,000 +** volunteers who came by to help us at our “Stocking Store.” **THANKS** for their patience while we took their temperatures and checked their Face Masks.
- Special Thanks to Paul Cummings and the **Del Monte Company** for bringing us **800** empty Apple boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. We are still using the great boxes from **Frannie** and the **West Rock Co.** Thanks so much.
- Special Thanks to the wonderful members of the **American Legion Post 18** who took care of the Packing of the stockings into the boxes. Thank You Lisa, Peter, Rick, Dax, 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, Terri, Jane, Vijay, Lance, Janeen** and their great **BOA** associates for donating over **5,000** 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 **800** boxes on-line in 3 days, Very Special Thanks to Sam Youse and his great I.T. Team including MaryBeth Youse, Donna, Pam, Denise 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 **800** 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 and Brenda at the **Post Office** in Chicago who took excellent care of our boxes when they arrived.
- We received over **500** pairs of Fabulous **LockLaces** for our troops. Awesome donation.
- **THANK YOU** to Jim and Anita Sterling for their very generous donation of our 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 Denise, Jean, Pam, Matt, Tom, Dave P. and our 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.
- Special Thanks to **Dave P.** who supervised our Daytime Donation Hours. So great of him.
- 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 Thank You to Megan Klein and all our friends at **West Point.Org** for allowing us to be part of the West Point.Org family to receive our online donations. We’re so proud to have their support.
- 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:

Ms. Travis,

Thank you so much for your time and support in putting together the Christmas stockings for us. I’m sure many people were involved in making this special touch of home happen for us. It was a great to wake up on Christmas morning and have a full stocking hanging in the room. We are so blessed to serve a country and, in a time, when our service members are well looked after. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year from your grateful friends overseas!

CPT Justin Y. 36ID Texas Army National Guard

I just wanted to write and thank you for sending the stockings to my daughter Jackie H. and her troops. She said they were thrilled and so excited to get them. It was very nice of your group to send them. You all are very much appreciated. Hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas.

God Bless,
Lisa H.

A Super Special note from a few years ago:

“... 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.

My unit received your Stockings before Christmas. They really helped a lot. We have a lot of newly married soldiers including myself, so this Christmas was not easy. These stockings were enjoyable to open. Thank you so very much
Jordan S.

This is a great note that tells us all so much about how the project touches hearts:

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

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
STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS - Delaware, Inc.
www.StockingsForSoldiers.org
501.c.3 Tax ID # 27-0604668

MAILING ADDRESS:
1911 Foulk Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

A New deadline to receive your beautiful homemade stockings:

Your stockings are sooo beautiful!!! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

A special **THANK YOU** to all our amazing sewing volunteers. **Yes** – Please be sure to sew stockings for us in **2021**. PLEASE send them to us earlier.

We need to receive the stockings before Oct. 31st 2021.

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 last year.

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



THANK YOU, Everyone!!! See you in October 2021.

Judy

To be removed from our list: Reply UNSUBSCRIBE