



**Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukah & THANKS so much. ♥**

Dear 2022 "Stockings For Soldiers" Friends:

**THANK YOU** to our wonderful Team Leaders and wonderful volunteers who worked so hard, together, 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 **19<sup>th</sup> Year** of sending our special stockings to our wonderful deployed troops so they would 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, smiles, sense of humor and Volunteer Spirit. **We ALL worked Together and it was fabulous.** We are so extremely grateful to the great folks at **Acadia Realty Trust Corp** who allowed us to work in such a fabulous space!! **Yeay!!!**

Our **19<sup>th</sup> Annual "Stockings For Soldiers"** community project was a wonderful success. Despite a few obstacles, we were able to send almost **9,000 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.

#### **Our 2022 Official Stats:**

**Over 1,000 +** volunteer Elves - sent over **9,000** homemade Christmas stockings and our boxes weighed **32,000 pounds**. Our fabulous volunteers came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and surrounding areas and from ALL over America, great folks joined with us. In addition, we sent over **6,000 Star Packs** for our troops and over **400 knitted hats**. We also sent over **9,000 personal greeting cards** and **many hundreds of letters of appreciation** from children from many, many schools.

We sent over **1,050** boxes, filled with all the great Goodies that you all donated for the stockings. This year, our stockings went to our troops in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Djibouti, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Poland, Lithuania, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Okinawa, the US Border at towns in Texas, California and Arizona. We also sent **12 boxes** to our **K9 soldiers** in Iraq. We can never forget our canine heroes. We sent our boxes to **42** different zip codes and supported **105** different groups who requested our stockings.

Our Stocking project was such a **Team Effort**. Each 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 **Nine Thousand** of our most precious young men and women who are bravely Serving their Country.

**Thank You** so very much to the generous and wonderful owners of our working location in 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 this year. **Very Special THANKS** to Ashley O., John D., Karalynn H., Debbie L., Dan C., Steve and their Team for all their wonderful kindness to us.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to the wonderful and generous members of the **Rotary Clubs of Delaware, Maryland and West Chester**. Their support has been invaluable all these years. Special **THANKS** to the Wilmington West, Caesar Rodney, Wilmington and Camden Wyoming Rotary Clubs. We are grateful to the Wilmington **Kiwanis Club** and the **Elks Club** in Sussex County.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to our wonderful **Girl Scout** and **Boy Scout** volunteers. Their 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 **West Point.Org** for getting us started each year to contact our West Point deployed Grads. They also handle our online donations and we are so honored to be part of their **West Point** family. 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 many 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 the Teams in New Castle and Kent Counties for all their great assistance. They allowed so many people to make so many donations, and to feel like they were participating with something special for our U.S. Service Members. 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** and **T.J. Healy** for spearheading so many collection drives. Thanks also to 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. Special **THANKS** also to **Jay** and the wonderful members of "**Charity Crossing**." They helped us so many evenings and we really appreciated their assistance.

Our sincere **THANKS** go to over **1,000+** hard working volunteers who came to our Stocking Store to donate their time, bring 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." They are so very important to the success of our project and we are so grateful for their kind hearts and dedication to our members of the Military. Here is our Winning Team:

Lyman Brenner  
Richard Browne  
Sheila Buckley  
Matt Carr  
Chandler Family  
Bonnie Costas  
Peter Dirga  
Kim Donahue  
Sandy & Fury Fecondo  
Lorraine Fecondo  
Sarah & Alec Foster  
Jenn Gaudino  
Mona Konig

Denise & Marissa Lazar  
Annette Long  
Lisa McCarley  
Lori Miller  
Cathy Morgan  
Rich & Holly Osman  
Donna Pelletier  
Samantha Pelletier  
Jane & Dave Putscher  
Barbara Schinchirimini  
Marianne & Carl Sheran  
Howard Sholl  
Bruce Shumway

Kathie Simmons  
Barbara Spall  
Anita Sterling  
Peg & Jon Stewart  
Arthur Travis  
Tom VanDuyne  
Maria Walueff  
Carol Wootten  
Pam Yarborough  
Sam Youse  
Diane Zutz-Cummings  
Paul Cummings

**A Big Welcome to our new 2022 Team Leaders: Shannon & Audrey Frazier, Rae Ann & Emma & Dylan Blankenship, Danielle Kelly, Kara Kelly and Lynn Galloway.**

**2022 - The proud accomplishments of our volunteers include:**

- We received over **9,000** beautifully home sewn stockings.
- We received over **400** beautifully hand knitted hats.
- We received over **9,000** personal greeting cards to go with each stocking.
- We received over **800+** letters of support for the troops from school children.
- We received over **6,000+** 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 **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 **9,275** pairs of socks from the great **Bombas** Company. **Wow!!**
- 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 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 Aztec Printing and Design.
- We received over **9,000** paperback books from the Friends of Hockessin Library, Avon Grove Lions Club, Kennett Square Resale Book Shop, All Around Books, A.A.U.W. and many friends in Lewes, DE, Foxfield Residents and many others.
- We received over **6,000+** Star Packs for some of our troops from Annette L., Lorraine F., Tina M. & family. We thank the Holy Rosary Boy Scout Troop 61 for the proper disposal of the U.S. flags that cannot be flown anymore. We are tremendously grateful to the **Gettysburg Flag Company** of **New York** for their donations of so many special US flags so we could make more Star Packs. See our website for more information on helping us to make our Star Packs.
- We received tons of Halloween candy **from Dr. Ron Briglia** & many other wonderful groups.
- We received **1,000** beautiful homemade stockings from our great friends at **Cokesbury Village** with the wonderful leadership of Ginni Rothrock, Marian S. and their Team.
- We received **1,000** beautiful stockings from Shirley Pierce and the great sewing team at LadyBug Quilt Guild.

- We received so many donations from the great families of Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, under the leadership of **Joanna and Jenna**. Yeay – Such Great Friends.
- We received **tons** of donated items and extra funds from all the great students and staff from so many schools. We especially appreciate those students who came over to work with us while they received credit through their Community Service programs.
- We received many **tons** of donated items from our great friends at **RSVP, Delaware Volunteers 50+** from Sussex County. Thank You to **Ann Gorrin** and all their great Assistant Elves for their invaluable assistance.
- We received over **32,000** 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 “Stocking Store.”
- Special Thanks to **Paul Cummings** and the **Del Monte Company** and **Matt Carr** and his Team for bringing us over **1,500** empty Apple boxes, which allowed us to mail our stockings. Special Thanks always to **Frannie** and the **WestRock Company** for giving us their great Corn Flakes boxes that we are still using. 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 Lisa, Peter, Lyman and Thanks to Matt, Tom, Troy and all their team.
- Special Thanks to **Bank of America** for all their wonderful contributions and donations. Especially to our Assistant Elf: Barbara J. Oliphant and Damodar, Anand Jane, Terri and Vijay and their great **BOA** associates for donating over **6,000+** packets of Snowman Soup. **So great!!! WOW...**
- Special Thanks to so many students who wrote such sweet and thoughtful **letters to our troops**. So many students helped. A special Thank you to the students and staff of **Lancashire Elementary** and our great friend, **Susie Murdock**, for her leadership. Thank You to **Sarah Foster** and her students at Forwood Elementary.
- Special Thanks to **Lock Laces** for donating their special laces for our troops.
- We processed over **1,050** boxes on-line in 3 days, Very Special Thanks to **Sam Youse** and his great I.T. Team including Anita Sterling, Pam Yarborough and great volunteers.
- **Super Special Thanks** to **Mr. Fred Smith, President of FedEx** and his wonderful Team of Heather and Hillary for sending us **three FedEx** trucks to carry our 752 boxes to Chicago and our 300 boxes to the U.S. Border. We ran into a postage problem if we mailed our boxes from Delaware, so we now 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** drivers. **THANKS** also to Brenda and her Team at the **Post Office** in Chicago who took excellent care of our boxes when they arrived.
- **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 Alan B. We're very grateful.
- Special Thanks to Tom, Matt, Will, Ben, Steve, Troy, the great US Veterans from Amazon in Middletown and all the volunteers for helping to organize and load the FedEx trucks and to those friends who closed the boxes and carried them to the waiting FedEx trucks.
- 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 special Thank You to **Ret. Gen. Frank Ianni**, who brought over his microphone and speaker so I could be heard by all our great volunteers. Special Thanks to the kind gentleman who also donated a megaphone for me. So nice!!!
- 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:  
Judy!

Thank you

I'm a Blackhawk Pilot deployed to the Middle East! I got your care package today. I'm 33 and have never had a stocking before. I'm crying. Thank you for making me feel so special!

VR,

2LT Meagan O.



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Mrs. Judy Travis,

My name is CPT Preston Q. - I am a deployed Soldier in the US Army that received one of the care packages made by your team of ELVES.

I wanted to extend a thank-you to [Girl Scout Troop 312 of New Castle, Delaware](#) from me and the Soldiers of my unit - all of whom received a package. They were kind gifts for us so far from home. I personally laughed at the joke written in my package - ***"Why does Santa go down the chimney on Christmas? Because it soots him!"*** Whoever wrote it has VERY good cursive!

Thank you again, best wishes to you and your teams, and Happy Holidays!

Preston Q.

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Judy Travis and all,

Greetings from overseas! Thank you for the thoughtfulness and cheer you have brought to many here. The messages and beauty will remain with us throughout the year. I am especially fond of the individual expressions, and warmth conveyed throughout, the care is brightly sincere. **Thank you for passing on the light.**

V/R and best,  
Elizabeth B.

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My son received this package today. This is the 2nd Christmas he'll miss in 3 years. He has a wife and a 2-year-old at home.

To know that people have not forgotten our troops, gives me faith in our country. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you again, and God Bless America!

Donald's Dad



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**This is a special note from last year:**

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

**Again, this is a Special note from several 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.*

Hello Again, **Stockings For Soldiers** FRIENDS:

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

[www.StockingsForSoldiers.org](http://www.StockingsForSoldiers.org)

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 **October 2023**.

*Judy*

Judy Travis



Project Founder & Coordinator  
**STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS - Delaware, Inc.**  
[www.StockingsForSoldiers.org](http://www.StockingsForSoldiers.org)  
501.c.3 Tax ID # 27-0604668

1911 Foulk Road  
Wilmington, DE 19810

**A New REQUEST for more 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 **2023**. Our supplies are so low, we really need your magnificent home sewn stockings. PLEASE send them to us as early as you can, after October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**We need to receive all stockings by Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Please mail ALL packages to: Stockings For Soldiers, 1911 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19810**

Any stockings received in late November will have to be stored for the following year. We hope you all will remember **to follow our requested pattern** 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**, with the tabs on the top 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.  
The “wandering camels” make us smile.



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



*THANK YOU, Everyone!!! See you in October 2023.*

*Judy*