

# OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Children in Need



## Spotlight *Operation Elf Contributor -Mindy Mays*

This month's Elf spotlight is **Mindy Mays** whom I had the good fortune to meet via a sewing class at Hobby Lobby. And I knew in that first class that Mindy would help me become a better seamstress and help me expand my creative know-how.

It was evident right away that Mindy's gift was teaching. And she has shared her talents over the years with students of all ages. She enjoys helping young students learn the joy of creating and learning to sew. And she equally likes helping adults expand their talents and try new projects. When the pandemic hit and we could no longer meet at Hobby Lobby - she opened her "sewing room" to a few students so we could continue to work our craft.

Mindy is an extremely talented seamstress and very creative. Unlike me, she doesn't get overwhelmed or afraid to try something new - so when her grandchildren ask to create something, Mindy's response is "let's do it".

It is the same energy and passion to help others that got her connected with Operation Elves. It started with Mindy giving me a bag full of fleece that I could use to make scarves. And then last year, Mindy asked what she could create for Operation Elves. As you can see from the picture above, she created stuffed animals ( I especially LOVE the owls) and purses for little girls. And wait until you see what she is creating for this year - the coolest hats that will so excite and keep warm the children who are served through Operation Elves.

I asked Mindy why it was important to her to be a part of Operation Elves and her response gets right to the heart of what giving is all about. Mindy said: "I love sewing for people. It gives me great joy to do something for someone else, even if they never know it was me. The thought of these children being happy and excited to receive these gifts warms my heart". The words of a true giver.

Mindy, we are excited to have you as an elf and look forward to seeing all the wonderful, warm, and fun hats you are creating for this year's donation drive!

## Volume 7 - April 2022

Updates for this issue

### 2022 gift goals

Blankets - 240 (50% to goal)  
Hat Sets - 180 (48% to goal)  
Books - 160 (26% to goal)

### 2022 current gift count

Blankets - 119  
Hat Sets - 87  
Young Adult Books: 41

## How Can You Get Involved

You can reach me (melissa stack) at:

- [melissa.operationelves@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.operationelves@gmail.com)
- [jusmel@comcast.net](mailto:jusmel@comcast.net)
- [venmo:@melissa-stack-3](https://venmo.com/melissa-stack-3)
- 615-631-4920

To learn how you can help make a difference for a child at Christmas!

Let me know if you would like to add anyone to our newsletter distribution.

The next issue will be in June.

## Special Thanks

Here we would like to get a big shout-out to individuals who have contributed to this year's goal in the past two months! Special thank you to:

- Beverly N
- Barbara O
- Jean S
- Shannon R
- Regina T
- Staff @ Joann's
- Paula F





### 2022 WORKING ON THIS YEAR'S GOALS

April marks the halfway point for gathering items for this year's Operation Elves drive. We have been blessed with a couple of donations that make a significant difference in helping the children of Farmington County Maine. A surprise donation of over 35 hats from Teresa B - a new elf has helped us really get a jump on hat sets. Teresa does beautiful work (see picture above). Jeannie S continues to be a long-term elf who is a big contributor to hat and scarf sets. And Regina T (who will be the next newsletters spotlight) has not only shown me a few new crochet stitches but has also contributed a significant number of beautiful sets. And welcome to the staff of Joann Fabrics of Tullahoma TN who has also donated a number of bright fun hats to add to our collection.

We are almost halfway to our goal on blankets as well. A special thanks goes to my mom, Beverly, who continues to drop off a dozen or so fleece blankets at my house every couple of weeks. And a special thanks to Paula F for donating a beautiful quilted blanket that is sure to make a little girl very happy and warm this winter (see picture below). And while I was in Florida, I had time to work on fleece blankets and a couple of crocheted blankets. As you can see from the picture below, our cat - Cassie - really likes the blankets too!

And help doesn't always come from just our creative types. A special thanks to Lisa and Shannon for their shopping skills and for finding wonderful blankets. And to Ted and Barbara whose generosity will help us buy books for kids of all ages. As always, I want to say a special thank you to all of you as you are making a significant difference in the lives of children and a community in need.

**"It warms my heart to know that I can create something that will bring happiness and joy to children in need"**



Mindy Mays





# OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



## Spotlight Operation Elf Contributor -Regina Taute

This month's Elf spotlight is **Regina Taute**. I originally met Regina in a job interview when she came to work at the same company I did. What struck me the first time I met her and continues to do so, is her creativity. She truly is one of the most creative people I know. She is also fearless when it comes to learning new things and being a teacher. Regina taught herself to crochet (with the help of a *Crocheting for Dummies* book) and now is teaching me some new stitches. And while I am a more difficult student when it comes to my Cricut (I am definitely a slow learner!) – she continues to be patient and it is clear that she loves to share what she knows with others. And she is generous! Last year as we were getting ready to make our delivery up North – Regina handed me a bag full of hat sets and blankets that allowed us to exceed our goals and help more children. And Regina does all of this while also being a mother to two active boys, working a full-time job, and co-hosting a regular podcast.

I asked Regina about her history of creative pursuits and discovered she started as a painter and pottery maker in high school. The pottery she still makes, when she can find the time, and I understand there is a “Regina Gallery” at her mom’s house. Today, her passion includes using her Cricut as much as possible and she particularly loves making wooden signs and other gifts.

Regina is always looking for ways to share her creative energy with others. As the pandemic started and masks were hard to come by, Regina started sewing and making masks for those who needed them. She made over 800 masks before they became an item we could all buy.

Regina’s creative passion coupled with her desire to help others has been a tremendous benefit to Operation Elves. Regina has spent many nights crocheting beautiful, warm hat sets and blankets for children that help keep them warm in the winter months. We are very grateful for her willingness and the talents she graciously gives to our cause.

## Volume 8 - June 2022

### Updates for this issue

### 2022 gift goals

Blankets - 240 (68% to goal)  
Hat Sets - 180 (98% to goal)  
Books - 160 (64% to goal)

### 2022 current gift count

Blankets - 162  
Hat Sets - 176  
Books: 103

## How Can You Get Involved

You can reach me (melissa stack) at:

- [jusmel@comcast.net](mailto:jusmel@comcast.net)
- [www.operationelvescommunity.org](http://www.operationelvescommunity.org)
- [venmo:@melissa-stack-3](https://venmo.com/melissa-stack-3)
- 615-631-4920

To learn how you can help make a difference!

Let me know if you would like to add anyone to our newsletter distribution. The next issue will be in August.

## Special Thanks

Here we would like to give a big shout-out to individuals who have contributed to this year's goal in the past two months! A special thank you to:

- Lisa G.
- Mindy M
- Regina T
- Beverly N
- Linda E





## INTRODUCING OUR OWN WEBSITE!

As the saying goes “when life hands you lemons make lemonade”. Well that is how we are able to announce we have created our own website! A couple of weeks ago I hurt back and had to spend a few days on the couch – literally not moving. And for those who know me well, you know I am a hard one to pin down and get me to relax and not do anything. So while sitting on the couch getting antsy, I decided I might as well see if I could create a website for the community. Creating the website, allows us to store older newsletter issues so new “elves” can read them if they would like. But it also does much more.

I am extremely surprised and happy with our first version of a website. It creates another way for us to come together and grow as a community. Here are some of the cool features:

**Join the community** – allowing new members to join our community online

**Newsletter** – making it easy to share past spotlights and info with the community

**Donations Gallery** – increase the number of pictures we can share

**Donations** – ability to make a donation online

**About Us** – find out more about how we are focusing our charity efforts to help those in need

I am not a web designer so the new website is a learning experience. In light of that, we encourage you to go out and look at the website. Let us know if you find errors or things that don’t work and also any ideas you have for making it better.

Adding the website, is definitely a way to bring us together more as a community. I look forward to hearing your comments and hope you will share it with other potential “elves”. To get to the website go to: [www.operationelvescommunity.org](http://www.operationelvescommunity.org)

**"I love making things with a person in mind. As I create, I add in a little prayer for the receiver"**



Regina Taute

## Mom with a loaded cart



## Mindy's handiwork

