

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



VOLUME 26 – FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2026 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 152 (43% to goal)
Hat Sets - 193 (48% to goal)
Books - 170 (21% to goal)
Senior Blankets - 13 (26% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$150

SPECIAL THANKS

A big shout-out to individuals who have contributed to this year's goal in the past two months.

A special thank you to:

- Barbara O
- Melissa M
- Mindy M
- Beverly N
- Ted D
- Don & Susie M
- Kathy B
- Jean S

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED

You can reach me (Melissa Stack) at:

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

Let me know if you would like to add anyone to our newsletter distribution. Go to our website to see more pictures and back issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will June 2026

Another Year Ends – A New One Begins

2025 Operation Santa Recap

It's hard to believe Christmas was already two months ago! 2025 finished strong, and 2026 is off to the same great start. As is our tradition, this newsletter shares how your donations supported Operation Santa and what we're focusing on for 2026.

2025 Operation Santa Highlights

- 505 applicants (families) received
- 1107 individual received a gift from Operation Santa (Greater Farrington & Franklin County)
- 200 more individuals received assistance over 2024
- 50 at-home seniors plus 62 nursing home seniors served
- 187 children outside of the Elks area received Christmas gifts thanks to the Elks stepping in to help
- All of our donations were given out
- Operation Elves sponsored one additional family consisting of a boy age 7 and a girl age 5 (they received extra/customized gifts)

In talking with Aaron and Anissa, who spearhead this initiative, 2025 was a tremendous success. Volunteer numbers continue to grow, organization has improved (all gifts were delivered within six weeks), and more people in need were served.

They remain incredibly grateful for Operation Elves' contributions – and if you ever wonder whether your efforts matter, they absolutely do.

This month's newsletter also includes a chart from Danielle Flaherty (WMCA) to provide perspective on poverty and basic needs in within the US and Maine specifically.

(over)



2025 Operation Elves Donation Snapshot

| Children (1-18) | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------------------|----|
| Blankets | 361 | Cosmetic bags | 50 |
| Hat Sets | 386 | journals, craft sets | 6 |
| Books | 505 | Stuffed animals | 12 |
| Seniors | | Babies | |
| Blankets | 45 | Blanet sets | 5 |
| socks | 111 | Toddler hat sets | 29 |
| Toiletry bags | 42 | Burp cloth sets | 10 |
| Hat sets | 52 | | |

Additional Notes

- In 2025, we added senior hat sets – a high-demand item, especially for seniors living independently.
- We track donations two ways: item counts and estimated product value (what the items would cost retail).

Total 2025 product value: \$17,159

- Children: \$15,032
- Seniors: \$2,127

Looking Ahead – 2026

As you can see from the gift counts, we are already working towards our 2026 goals. Because fleece remains harder to find (supply challenges continue), the children's blanket goals will stay the same. With senior needs growing, senior hats are now an official goal.

2026 Goals

Blankets – 350
 Hat sets – 400
 Books – 500
 Senior hat sets – 50

We're always looking for new contributors – **please help spread the word.** Contributions come in many forms: monetary donations, handmade items, or purchased gifts. Every contribution makes a difference.

Thank You

Thank you for making 2025 such a meaningful year. Your generosity helps our community care for individuals truly in need.

Operation Elves plays a critical role in Operation Santa's success, and I'm deeply grateful to be part of such a caring and generous group.