

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



Spotlight: 2025 Recap

It almost feels like a lifetime ago since we packed up the trailer and took our annual trip to New England! This year's adventure was full of heart, surprises, and a whole lot of logistics.

In early October, we loaded all 89 boxes and headed North, making a quick stop in New York. Here we picked up four more boxes, which brought us to a total of 93 boxes for 2025. And the trailer was packed almost to the brim! We even had a new magnetic sign this year (thank you, Sheri!), which helped us spread the word along the way.

When we arrived in Farmington, ME, we were welcomed by eight incredibly dedicated Elks volunteers who wasted no time jumping in. In just 15 minutes, the entire trailer was unloaded and everything sorted into the correct staging areas for Operation Santa distribution. It's always amazing; what takes us a full year to create can be unpacked by this incredible group in moments. Their efficiency and kindness never cease to amaze me.

With so many families feeling the effects of layoffs, rising costs, and general uncertainty, your generosity means more than ever. The Elks expressed their gratitude over and over again, and I want you to know just how deeply they appreciate everything you've made possible this year.

After more than 3,600 miles on the road, Bill and I returned to Tennessee and—believe it or not—have already started gathering items for 2026. The work never stops, but it's work filled with purpose and heart.

VOLUME 25 – DECEMBER 2025 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2025 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 361 (103% to goal)
Hat Sets - 386 (110% to goal)
Books - 505 (106% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$1,905

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:

- Susie & Don M
- Kathy B
- Caroline S
- Donna D
- Jerry & Janet J
- Linda E
- Annmarie & Sam B

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED

You can reach me (Melissa Stack) at:

- jusmel@comcast.net
- www.operationelvescommunity.org
- venmo:@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 February 2026



Honorary Mention:

A mission like ours thrives because of so many committed, generous people. I'm grateful for each and every one of you!

Additionally, I would like to highlight a couple of individuals who truly deserve a special shout-out this year.

Sheri – Our Graphic Design Wizard

Every idea I dream up, Sheri finds a way to bring to life. From designing our magnetic sign to creating custom items and helping choose the right products, she pours her creativity into everything she touches. This year she also used her machine-quilting talents to craft a stunning handmade blanket that will keep a child warm and make them feel deeply cared for. Sheri, thank you for being such an essential part of our team and for sharing your gifts so generously.

Bill – Driver, Loader, Lifesaver

Early in the year, we realized we were running out of storage space after moving to the lake house. Bill immediately came up with a solution: buy a dedicated shed for the Operation Elves boxes. I truly don't know where we would have stored 89 boxes without it! Bill also masterminds the trailer loading (how he fits everything in is still a mystery to me!) and then drives the full 3,600-mile journey each year. Bill, thank you for supporting this vision in every way possible!

Farmington Elks Volunteers

Every year, this group shows up with huge hearts and ready hands. They don't just unload a trailer; they pour love and energy into making sure every child and senior feels remembered during the holidays. Their organization improves year after year, and we're so lucky to partner with such a caring community. In 2026, my hope is that we can support a community in Tennessee or New York in a similar way.

Welcome New Elves!

The continued support of those who contribute year after year is critical to our continued success. As we grow, we will be able to help even more individuals in need. We are thrilled to welcome: Jonathan W, George N, Patty K, and Caroline S. We are happy to have you in our community.

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up 2025 and move into the holiday season, I want to wish each of you a warm, joyful, and merry Christmas. Thank you for helping us bring comfort and happiness to children and seniors in need. Your generosity is truly making a difference!

Here's to a peaceful holiday season and a bright beginning to 2026.