

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



**VOLUME 21 – DECEMBER 2024
UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE**

2024 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 337 (112% to goal)
Hat Sets - 372 (124% to goal)
Books - 425 (142% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$367

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:

- Beverly N
- Jean S
- Lesley S
- Donna D
- Teresa K
- Annmarie B
- Linda E
- Mindy M

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 out to our website to see more pictures and back the issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will be in February 2025

Spotlight: 2024 Recap

As I write this newsletter, I am humbled to realize we are already in the middle of December. It has been a busy and exciting year; full of accomplishments and adventures. As we close out 2024, I'd like to recap one of our most memorable events of the year: **our October delivery trip.**

Exceeding Expectations

We are thrilled to share that we exceeded our gift count goals in all three basic categories—blankets, hat sets, and books! This is a wonderful accomplishment, made possible by the generosity and dedication of our community. Your contributions have truly made a difference in the lives of those in need, and we couldn't be more grateful.

In addition to our basic gift categories, we collected numerous special items for both children and the elderly. A detailed list of everything delivered to the Farmington Elks can be found on the next page.

Meet Our Honorary Elves

This year, several "honorary" elves deserve a special shoutout!

• Our Youngest Elf: Leyland

Our granddaughter Leyland (and, yes, I'm biased—but isn't she the cutest?) played a vital role in assembling the last 16 toiletry bags for the elderly. Her impressive organizational skills were on full display—check out the photo on the next page!

• Connie and Brian: The Movers Extraordinaire

Throughout the year, I box up items and "hide" them wherever space allows in our home. When late September rolled around, we called on Connie and Brian to help us load the trailer. They graciously agreed and moved 75 boxes from the second floor to the trailer. We can't thank them enough! Although Connie's time-lapse video made the process look easy, it was no small feat. (Here's hoping they'll still consider visiting Tennessee in the fall next year—ha!)

(continue on next page)



• Farmington Elks Volunteers: The Unloading Crew

On Tuesday morning, a group of Farmington Elks volunteers—Anissa, Randy, Darryl, Aaron, and Lorraine—made unloading the trailer a breeze. In under 15 minutes, all 84 boxes (we picked up a couple from our NY elves along the way) were safely stored in the new Operation Santa headquarters. The new shed looks

• Sheri: The Creative Elf Behind the Scenes

A special shoutout goes to Sheri, who does so much important work “behind the scenes.” If you’ve seen our Operation Elves logo, Sheri designed it. If you’ve contributed in the last couple of years and received a “welcome gift” or a “thank you gift,” that was Sheri’s doing as well! She has generously donated her time and talents to help us make each of our contributors feel special. And just wait until you see this year’s thank-you gift—it’s coming shortly!

Welcome, New Elves!

Finally, we’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new elves—Leslie F, Leslie S, and Jennifer. We’re excited to have you join us and hope you’ll continue to support our efforts to make Christmas special for those in need.



2024 Operation Elves Delivery Counts

	Totals		Totals
Children (1-18)			
Blankets	337	Cosmetic bags	47
Hat Sets	372	Winter jackets	10
Books	425	Ear buds	10
Tents, sleeping Bags	7	journals, craft sets	15
Seniors		Babies	
Blankets	46	Blanet sets	10
socks	151	Toddler hat sets	21
Toiletry bags	44	Burp cloth sets	11

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up this incredible year, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and resources. Together, we’ve made a difference and brightened the holidays for so many. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

