

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



Spotlight: 2024 Operation Santa 2024 Distribution Highlights

In our last newsletter, we shared the details of our trip to Maine to deliver all the wonderful goodies collected for this year's Operation Santa event. Now, we're excited to bring you the highlights from this year's distribution!

First, let's give a big round of applause to the incredible individuals in the photo above who dedicated over four weeks—starting even before Thanksgiving—to ensure all requests were processed and delivered before Christmas. According to Chief Santa's Elf, Aaron Allumbaugh, "this was our best year ever," and they successfully completed all requests by December 13th.

By the Numbers:

- 20% increase in applications compared to last year
- 868 children served
- 114 seniors helped
- 463 applications received and processed
- Two Conex boxes filled and emptied at least 3X times—that's a lot of gifts!

When speaking with Aaron and Anissa, they reassured us that every single one of our donations were used to fulfill requests for children and seniors. It truly takes a village of generous individuals and businesses to make this possible.

Recognizing the Effort

I am continually humbled by the dedication and generosity of those who make Operation Santa a success. Often, these efforts go unnoticed by a wider audience, but this year, that changed for the Farmington Elks. They were featured in a news article and a television segment, shining a light on the hard work and dedication of this amazing group. Hopefully, this recognition will help even more people learn about the organization and the good work they do.

If you'd like to see the video, check it out here: https://www.wabi.tv/operation_santa.

For all who contributed to Operation Elves, this video is proof that your donations ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this holiday season so special!

VOLUME 22 – FEBRUARY 2025 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2025 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 98 (28% to goal)
Hat Sets - 58 (17% to goal)
Books - 79 (18% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$525

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
- Teresa K
- Barbara O

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 issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will June 2025

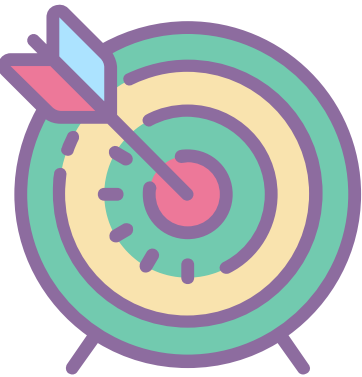


Recap of the financial value of our donations:

	2023	2024	% Change
Product Value	\$12,711	\$16,100	27%
Monetary Donations*	\$9,589	\$7,103	-35%
* Individual contributions & BTD			

Donations Given Y-T-D (blankets, hat Sets, & books) :

Since 2019 - 2024	Total Donated
Blankets	1,261
Hat sets (children)	1,183
Books	1,003



Looking Ahead - 2025

Work has already begun for 2025. Thanks to a very generous donation, we have already put together over 25 toiletry bags for the elderly and made or bought over 90 blankets.

Our goals for 2025 are:

Blankets - 350
 Hat sets - 350
 Books - 475

We know that these are ambitious goals but we are hopeful that we will increase our community and reach our targets.

In addition to the items we already collect, we are adding one more. In debriefing with Aaron and Anissa, I learned that there is a need for hat sets for the elderly. So this year, we are adding this item. So if you are crafty, we could use your help. And if you are a bargain shopper, keep your eyes out for sales on winter items.

As always, we are thankful for the continued help and support of this community. I know if we each do a little, we will all help a lot of individuals in need.

