

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



VOLUME 28 – SEPTEMBER 2026 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2026 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 352 (100% to goal)
Hat Sets - 376 (94% to goal)
Books - 498 (99% to goal)
Senior Blankets - 56 (1.12% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$650

SPECIAL THANKS

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

A special thank you to:

- Beverly N
- Kathy B
- Jean S
- Mindy M
- Michelle P
- Joy A.
- Connie & Brian
- 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 to our website to see more pictures and back issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will December 2026

COUNTDOWN TO 2026 DELIVERY

It's hard to believe we are already heading into the fourth quarter of the year! And with the changing of the seasons comes something we look forward to all year – getting ready to head North to deliver everything the Operation Elves community has collected.

And what a year it has been!

Thanks to the incredible generosity, smart shopping, handiwork and support of so many, **we are ahead of schedule** in meeting the commitments we made to the Elks. In fact, this is the earliest we have ever been this close to completing all of our goals!

We're Almost There!

Our list of remaining needs is surprisingly short. We still need a few pairs of socks, five more ditty bags for the elderly and just two more books!

This year, we also expanded our giving to include socks for the kids and slippers for the elderly. We are a little low on both, so these will be our primary focus during the next five weeks.

If you would like to help us finish strong, please reach out. Every donation – large or small – gets us one step closer.

And Just Like That...2027 Begins!

A couple of years ago, we decided that once we reached our goals for the current year, it was time to start working on the next one.

There is always something humbling about seeing **Elves HQ empty** out after a year of collecting and realizing we are about to start all over again.

So, I am happy to say...

We have officially started collecting blankets for 2027!

Remember, Operation Elves accepts donations any time of year. There really is no "off season" for an Elf!

(over)



COUNTDOWN (CONT.)

Next Stop: Delivery!

Soon, Bill will jump in and begin working his magic on the logistics of packing the trailer. I think we may have more items packed into fewer boxes this year, but we won't know for sure until we complete our final tally.

Then it will be time to map our route and plan all the stops we'll make along the way. Tentatively, we expect to head North in **mid-October**.

That means our next newsletter will be one of my favorites — the 2026 Delivery Trip!

Thank You, Elves

Every year, as I set our goals, I find myself wondering: "How are we going to do this?"

And every year, I get my answer.

Our longtime supporters step up again. New contributors find us and decide they want to be part of what we are doing. People shop, sew, crochet, collect, donate, pack and help in ways big and small. And every year, I am humbled by it.

I know I say it continuously, but it deserves to be said again:

Thank you.

Thank you for giving. Thank you for helping. And most importantly, thank you for caring. Your generosity truly does make a difference in the lives of so many people — and we could never do this without you.

Five weeks to go. Let's finish 2026 strong!

grateful
♡