

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



Q&A About Operation Elves

I was recently having dinner with a friend and she was asking me a number of questions about Operations Elves and that got me thinking,... others might have similar questions. Like most good causes, we evolve as we grow and figure out what works and what we could improve on. So here are some Q&As I get on a regular basis that might be of interest.

What items are you collecting?

Our 1st priority is to collect blankets, hat sets, and books for children ages 0 - 18. This is what we give an updated count of in each newsletter. If we received any monetary donations, we use the money for buying "extras" geared toward young adults. This would include items like tents, sleeping bags, earbuds, cosmetic bags for girls, etc. Additionally, we do collect/buy a variety of items that we can get a good price on, and what we get may change from year to year. This year, we have been able to get 29 winter jackets and over 39 stuffed animals.

Who is the target audience?

Currently, we give all the items we have collected to the Farmington Elks and they handle all the distribution. Their 1st priority is serving the financially challenged children in the Farmington County area of Maine. However, in that same area, there is a population of elderly who also face financial challenges. So last year, we started to donate blankets to that group as well.

When do we deliver the items collected?

We target the 1st or 2nd week in October to be ready to head North with everything we have collected. Our goal is to get the items to the Farmington Elks early enough that they can determine what they need to buy in addition to the donated items they have received. Applications go out to the county in October and need to be returned in early November. Distribution to each family starts around the Thanksgiving weekend.

What is the best way to support Operations Elves?

If you are crafty or know someone who is, we are always looking for blankets, hats, and scarves. (We would love to increase our elves' community so let us know if we can add a name to our distribution list.) If you are not crafty, you can buy these items and have them shipped to me. Or if it is easier, you can give us money and we will collect the items. All money received goes directly to obtaining items for the children and the elderly. Any additional costs like boxes, and supplies (to make some of the blankets or buy additional books, etc) come from donations from my consulting business. I started my consulting business, Beaconhill Training & Development, in part to be able to give back to those in need. So a percentage of what I bring in goes to helping Operations Elves do good work for those who need a little extra boost.

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Updates for this issue

2023 Operation Santa gift goals

Blankets - 265 (42% to goal)
Hat Sets - 200 (66% to goal)
Books - 175 (39% to goal)

2023 current gift count

Blankets - 110
Hat Sets - 123
Books: 68

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
- Keith & Shirley F
- Regina T
- Beverly N
- Kathy B
- Donna D
- 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 out to our website to see more pictures and back issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will be in June 2023.



SPOTLIGHT – ASURION HR TEAM

For those of you who are not aware, before I started my own consulting company, I worked for almost 13 years at Asurion - a technology company with headquarters in Nashville Tennessee. One of the first things that stood out when I interviewed and continued throughout my tenure with the company was the people. As an organization, it created an internal non-profit called Compassion Forward that gives financial support to employees in times of need. Compassion is a word I would use when describing many of the people I had a chance to work with every day. And many of those same individuals support the efforts of Operations Elves through their own individual contributions. So I am grateful for the experiences and the people I have met at Asurion.

Now I want to tell you about a group within Asurion that did something wonderful and helpful for Operations Elves during the 2022 Christmas season. One of the HR (Human Resources) teams were getting together for a 2-day team meeting. During that event, the leader (Jenny W.) wanted to have an activity that would be fun, give back and allow for a little friendly competition & teamwork. So she decided to task the group with seeing how many no-sew blankets they could complete in a couple of hours. And guess who was going to get all the finished blankets..... yes, Operation Elves!

This team of approximately 35 individuals put together 12 colorful, fun & warm blankets that we will be sending up North this fall! What a great way to combine teamwork, the holiday spirit, and helping others all into one activity. And I am extremely grateful that they choose to give their handiwork to Operation Elves!

Thank you, Asurion HR Team, for your contribution to this year's goal. We hope you not only had fun but also know how grateful a child will be to receive one of your blankets at Christmas this year!

Asurion HR Team



"Our team meeting was a great opportunity to come together, for the 1st time since COVID, and give back to those in need. The competition among team members added to the fun and helped us to complete all the blankets. Great way do good and connect with each other!"
Jenny W