

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



Volume 14 - June 2023
Updates for this issue

2023 Operation Santa Gift Goals

Blankets - 265 (60% to goal)
Hat Sets - 200 (70% to goal)
Books - 175 (99% to goal)

2023 current gift count

Blankets - 160
Hat Sets - 140
Books: 173

SPOTLIGHT OPERATIONS Elf Contributor **Paula Ferguson**

In Volume 5, I did a spotlight on my very creative friend, Sheri Ferguson. In this month's newsletter, I am happy to introduce another Ferguson, Paula, Sheri's mom. Creativity is definitely a family thing here. While Paula tends to prefer being in the background, if you have donated something to the Operation Elves and received a hat or a bag that is the work of Paula.

Every time I have reached out to have something made either as a "thank you" or as part of the Diggity Dog book club (a year-long of book giving to the 2nd graders of Blue Hill Academy school in Wilton ME). It is the generosity of Sheri, and her mom that allows us to be able to give away items to either donators or children. It is Paula and her embroidery or vinyl machine that makes beautiful hats & bags. And if she isn't donating her time to make these gifts, she can be found making quilts - and last year she donated a beautiful one that I am sure made a little girl very happy and warm.

Paula is an avid golfer (so is her daughter) and when I asked her how she got started doing embroidery, she told me the funniest story, Paula had a friend whom she wanted to play golf with but the woman was debating between golf vs. buying an embroidery machine (they are definitely an "investment" purchase). So Paula went to a few stores to learn about this embroidery machine so she would have all the info she needed to talk her friend out of buying the machine. Well instead of influencing her friend, Paula become so intrigued with the machine - she ended up buying one and has been a machine embroiderer ever since. She has also embraced machine quilting and even got her daughter, Sheri, hooked on machine quilting.

While embroidering and quilting is mostly a hobby for Paula, she will occasionally do a "paid job" and she is the reason we are able to give the wonderful thank you gifts we can - because she donates her time to create each gift.

I am extremely grateful for Paula's generosity and her talent. I think we can all agree that the combined creative talents of Sheri and her mom, benefit both Operations Elves donations and gift giving. Thanks for being such a special elf, Paula, and for being a part of the group!

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:

- Asurion HR Team
- Barbara O
- Keith & Shirley F
- Teresa & Mike K
- Beverly N
- Sue & Don 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 issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will be in August 2023.



"EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA- READ ALL ABOUT IT"

As I have mentioned before, each year a miracle seems to happen and it allows us to give more than just the basics to Operation Elves. Our first goal is to provide blankets, hat sets & books. Sometimes, we get some cash donations and we use that money to buy some "extras". It looks like for the 2023 season, we will be able to provide a couple of different types of extras!

Stuffed Animals

Due to some really savvy bargain shoppers (Beverly & Shirley), we currently have 41 stuffed animals ready to go.

Winter Jackets

By chance, I was at the right place at the right time and got a great price on winter jackets. So we have 29 jackets that will keep children warm for the winter.

Young Adults Gifts

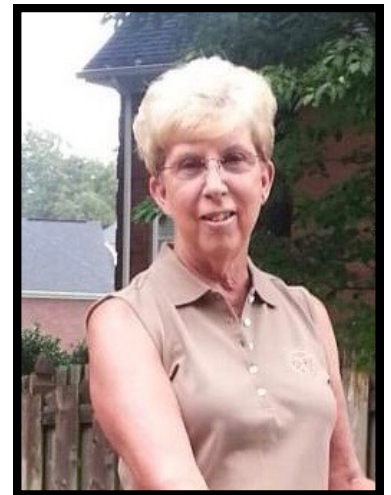
While I am the first one to say I love buying gifts for the little ones, I worry that it is the young adults who get forgotten at Christmas time especially when money is in short supply. Thanks to a couple of wonderful elves who made large donations, we will be able to buy tents, sleeping bags, earbuds & cosmetic bags & supplies for this group. With the sewing help of Mindy M, we have targeted 40 cosmetic bags to complete. As of today, we have 29 made and filled.

Elderly

Last year, we were able to make/buy blankets for the elderly in need. And the goal was to be able to do it again this year. Our goal is to have 40 blankets for this group by October 1st. Today we are at 29. I believe with a little help, we will reach this goal too. Additionally, we are adding toiletrie bags to the list for this group. Our goal is 40 and today we have 14 completed.

We are grateful for all the types of donations we get whether that is money that we use to buy "extras", a bargain hat or stuffed animal, or handmade items - it all goes to make Christmas special for those in need.

Paula Ferguson



"I love giving away the things I make"