

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



Countdown to the 2025 Donation Delivery

I can't believe we're already nearing the finish line for the 2025 Operation Elves Donation Drive! 🎄 This year has been full of surprises and challenges, but also so many blessings.

For those of us who make items by hand, Joann's closing may not have affected this year's supply, but it will certainly be a challenge in the future. Thankfully, we've been super fortunate to receive more monetary donations this year, which allowed us to purchase supplies and fill lots of cosmetic and toiletry bags.

I'm so happy to share some good news about our progress toward the 2025 targets. Our three main goals are blankets, hat sets, and books. We raised the bar this year, increasing our goals by 17%—a big stretch! Even so, I'm thrilled to report that we have already reached our goals for blankets and hat sets. 🎉 Huge thanks to everyone who helped us hit these two milestones!

As we move into the last six weeks of preparation before our trip North, our focus is now on closing the gap with books—we're aiming for 475 total. In addition, we're working on reaching our goals for toiletry bags for seniors, cosmetic bags for teenage girls, and earbuds for young adults.

If you'd like to contribute toward these items—or even help us get a head start on next year's goals—we are so grateful for every type of donation. Please feel free to reach out to me by text, email, or phone if you'd like more details.

While our delivery date isn't finalized yet, Bill and I are planning to head North in early to mid-October. For now, there's a flurry of activity here in Tennessee as we prepare. As of today, 72 boxes are already packed and waiting in the Operation Elves headquarters for trailer loading! 🚚

Stay tuned—our next newsletter will include an update on the delivery itself and our adventure to the North.

VOLUME 24 – SEPTEMBER 2025 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2025 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 350 (100% to goal)
Hat Sets - 356 (102% to goal)
Books - 434 (91% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$1,815

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
- Paula F. - Barbara O
- Sheri F. - Kathy B
- Dana D. - Mindy M
- Susie & Don M
- Jonathan W
- George N
- Connie N & Brian C
- Al H
- Regina T
- Keith & Julie C

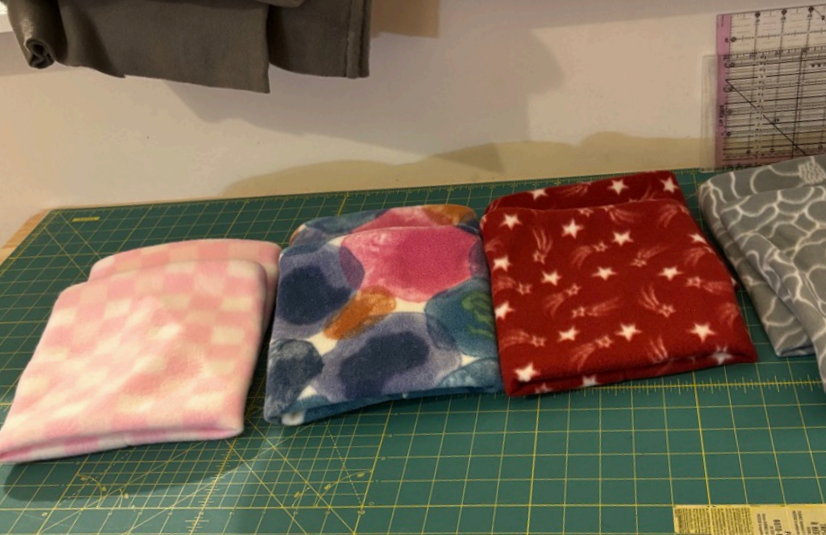
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED

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 December 2025



Spotlight - Kathy Balthazard

I often say it takes a village to make something special happen, but it also takes the love and dedication of family to turn an idea into reality. I am so blessed to have friends and family who care deeply and help Operation Elves succeed year after year.

This issue, I'm shining the spotlight on my sister-in-law, **Kathy Balthazard**. Kathy began donating in 2022 with books, and since then, she has contributed something every single year. Sometimes it's books or blankets she's purchased; but this year, Kathy picked up her crochet hooks again and created beautiful hat sets with gorgeous colors and delicate stitches.

If I had to describe Kathy, the words that come to mind are thoughtful, caring, and compassionate. And it's no surprise—Kathy spreads her generosity far beyond Operation Elves.

She's part of a group called the Charity Chicks—30 women who each contribute \$300 annually and then look for ways to bless people in need in their community. They gather monthly for fellowship and service, proving that a small group can have a big impact.

On top of that, Kathy has been an active member of her local Rotary Club for the past nine years, even serving as President and Assistant District Governor. Through Rotary, she helps strengthen her community by supporting both businesses and individuals.

When I asked Kathy why she continues to be an Elf, her answer touched my heart:

"Family comes from all kinds of places—friends, in-laws, not just the family you were born into. And family helps family."

That perfectly sums up Kathy's spirit. She lives by the pay-it-forward philosophy and always finds a way to bring joy and support to others—friends and strangers alike.

We are deeply grateful for Kathy's contributions, her compassion, and her positive energy. She is truly an Elf whose kindness helps make Operation Elves shine brighter each year. ❤️



"Everybody needs help sometime"

Kathy Balthazard