

OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



VOLUME 27 – JUNE 2026 UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE

2026 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 262 (75% to goal)
Hat Sets - 293 (73% to goal)
Books - 307 (61% to goal)
Senior Blankets - 56 (1.12% to goal)
Cash Donations: \$150

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 & Jim N
- Don & Susie M
- Kathy B
- Jean S
- Julie & Keith C
- Ann L
- Mindy M
- Lesley F

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 September 2026

Three Quarters to the Finish Line

It's hard to believe we are only four months away from our annual trip north! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are making great progress toward our goals. Operation Elves HQ continues to fill quickly, with 54 boxes packed and counting – but we're not done yet!

Welcome, Newest Elves

We are incredibly grateful for the supporters who contribute year after year, and we're always excited to welcome new members to our community. A special thank you to Melissa & Michael M. and Ann L. for joining our efforts and supporting Operation Elves through their generous donations.

Extraordinary Shoppers

A special shout-out goes to my parents (Jim & Bev), who spent much of January through March hunting for great bargains on hats and mittens. Thanks to their dedication and eye for a deal, we were able to stock up on bags full of winter items at amazing prices – helping us support even more children and elderly individuals this year.

Adding a New Item

Thanks to some smart shopping by several contributors, we're excited to add slippers to our donation list for seniors. If you happen to come across a good deal on men's or women's slippers, we would love to include more of these comfort items in our deliveries.

Thank You to All Our Contributors

Operation Elves would not be possible without each, and every one of you. Your continued generosity helps us fill our trailer with gifts and essentials for individuals in need. In our next issue, we'll also share ways to support the homeless community here in Tennessee for those who would like to help locally as well.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and continued support. Every donation truly makes a difference.



SPOTLIGHT – DANA DURHAM

This month's spotlight shines on **Dana Durham**. Many of you may recognize Dana as the talented knitter behind the beautiful hats donated to our children – and occasionally to seniors as well. Her creations are not only warm and practical, but truly beautiful. Anyone lucky enough to receive one is proud to wear it! (See above)

One of the best parts of our spotlight feature is getting to know the caring people behind the generosity. Dana has been a dedicated contributor simply because she believes in helping others, and we are grateful to share a little more about her story.

Dana has a special connection to the region we support. She and her late husband lived in Maine beginning in 2003 before she moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 2012 for a teaching position. Dana taught high school French and English before retiring in 2018 and settling in the Stoneridge community in Inverness, Florida.

Creativity has always been part of Dana's life. She began knitting as a teenager and has also enjoyed needlework and embroidery over the years. Today, she describes herself as "a quilter by day and knitter by night." Based on the beautiful hats she creates, we can only imagine how stunning her quilts must be!

Dana exclusively knits hats for Operation Elf because giving back is personal to her. Growing up as one of five daughters raised by a single mother, she remembers firsthand how much donated support meant to her family during difficult times. Those experiences inspired her desire to help others today.

Dana is also a proud mother of two, stepmother of three, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of six.

As a survivor of two different cancers, Dana lives by the motto of appreciating time and using it wisely and well.

We are truly grateful to have Dana as part of the Operation Elf community and thank her for sharing both her talents and her heart with us.



"My motto is to be kind, compassionate and generous"