

# OPERATION ELVES COMMUNITY

Giving to Those in Need



**VOLUME 21 – DECEMBER 2024  
UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE**

## **2024 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS**

Blankets - 337 (112% to goal)  
Hat Sets - 372 (124% to goal)  
Books - 425 (142% to goal)  
Cash Donations: \$367

## **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
- Lesley S
- Donna D
- Teresa K
- Annmarie B
- Linda E
- Mindy M

## **HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED**

You can reach me (Melissa Stack) at:

- [jusmel@comcast.net](mailto:jusmel@comcast.net)
- [www.operationelvescommunity.org](http://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 the issues of the newsletter.

The next issue will be in February 2025

## **Spotlight: 2024 Recap**

As I write this newsletter, I am humbled to realize we are already in the middle of December. It has been a busy and exciting year; full of accomplishments and adventures. As we close out 2024, I'd like to recap one of our most memorable events of the year: **our October delivery trip.**

## **Exceeding Expectations**

We are thrilled to share that we exceeded our gift count goals in all three basic categories—blankets, hat sets, and books! This is a wonderful accomplishment, made possible by the generosity and dedication of our community. Your contributions have truly made a difference in the lives of those in need, and we couldn't be more grateful.

In addition to our basic gift categories, we collected numerous special items for both children and the elderly. A detailed list of everything delivered to the Farmington Elks can be found on the next page.

## **Meet Our Honorary Elves**

This year, several "honorary" elves deserve a special shoutout!

### **• Our Youngest Elf: Leyland**

Our granddaughter Leyland (and, yes, I'm biased—but isn't she the cutest?) played a vital role in assembling the last 16 toiletry bags for the elderly. Her impressive organizational skills were on full display—check out the photo on the next page!

### **• Connie and Brian: The Movers Extraordinaire**

Throughout the year, I box up items and "hide" them wherever space allows in our home. When late September rolled around, we called on Connie and Brian to help us load the trailer. They graciously agreed and moved 75 boxes from the second floor to the trailer. We can't thank them enough! Although Connie's time-lapse video made the process look easy, it was no small feat. (Here's hoping they'll still consider visiting Tennessee in the fall next year—ha!)

(continue on next page)



**Farmington Elks Volunteers: The Unloading Crew**

On Tuesday morning, a group of Farmington Elks volunteers—Anissa, Randy, Darryl, Aaron, and Lorraine—made unloading the trailer a breeze. In under 15 minutes, all 84 boxes (we picked up a couple from our NY elves along the way) were safely stored in the new Operation Santa headquarters. The new shed looks

**Sheri: The Creative Elf Behind the Scenes**

A special shoutout goes to Sheri, who does so much important work “behind the scenes.” If you’ve seen our Operation Elves logo, Sheri designed it. If you’ve contributed in the last couple of years and received a “welcome gift” or a “thank you gift,” that was Sheri’s doing as well! She has generously donated her time and talents to help us make each of our contributors feel special. And just wait until you see this year’s thank-you gift—it’s coming shortly!

**Welcome, New Elves!**

Finally, we’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new elves—Leslie F, Leslie S, and Jennifer. We’re excited to have you join us and hope you’ll continue to support our efforts to make Christmas special for those in need.



**2024 Operation Elves Delivery Counts**

	Totals		Totals
<b>Children (1-18)</b>			
Blankets	337	Cosmetic bags	47
Hat Sets	372	Winter jackets	10
Books	425	Ear buds	10
Tents, sleeping Bags	7	journals, craft sets	15
<b>Seniors</b>		<b>Babies</b>	
Blankets	46	Blanet sets	10
socks	151	Toddler hat sets	21
Toiletry bags	44	Burp cloth sets	11



**Looking Ahead**

As we wrap up this incredible year, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and resources. Together, we’ve made a difference and brightened the holidays for so many. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful holiday season!



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## Spotlight: 2024 Operation Santa 2024 Distribution Highlights

In our last newsletter, we shared the details of our trip to Maine to deliver all the wonderful goodies collected for this year's Operation Santa event. Now, we're excited to bring you the highlights from this year's distribution!

First, let's give a big round of applause to the incredible individuals in the photo above who dedicated over four weeks—starting even before Thanksgiving—to ensure all requests were processed and delivered before Christmas. According to Chief Santa's Elf, Aaron Allumbaugh, "this was our best year ever," and they successfully completed all requests by December 13th.

### By the Numbers:

- 20% increase in applications compared to last year
- 868 children served
- 114 seniors helped
- 463 applications received and processed
- Two Conex boxes filled and emptied at least 3X times—that's a lot of gifts!

When speaking with Aaron and Anissa, they reassured us that every single one of our donations were used to fulfill requests for children and seniors. It truly takes a village of generous individuals and businesses to make this possible.

### Recognizing the Effort

I am continually humbled by the dedication and generosity of those who make Operation Santa a success. Often, these efforts go unnoticed by a wider audience, but this year, that changed for the Farmington Elks. They were featured in a news article and a television segment, shining a light on the hard work and dedication of this amazing group. Hopefully, this recognition will help even more people learn about the organization and the good work they do.

If you'd like to see the video, check it out here: [https://www.wabi.tv/operation\\_santa](https://www.wabi.tv/operation_santa).

For all who contributed to Operation Elves, this video is proof that your donations ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this holiday season so special!

**VOLUME 22 – FEBRUARY 2025  
UPDATES FOR THIS ISSUE**

## 2025 OPERATION SANTA GIFT COUNTS

Blankets - 98 (28% to goal)  
Hat Sets - 58 (17% to goal)  
Books - 79 (18% to goal)  
Cash Donations: \$525

## 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
- Teresa K
- Barbara O

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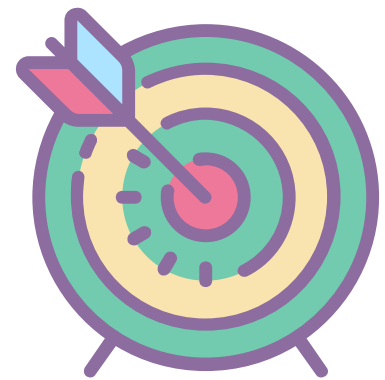
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The next issue will June 2025



### Recap of the financial value of our donations:

	2023	2024	% Change
<b>Product Value</b>	\$12,711	\$16,100	27%
<b>Monetary Donations*</b>	\$9,589	\$7,103	-35%
* Individual contributions & BTD			



### Donations Given Y-T-D (blankets, hat Sets, & books) :

Since 2019 - 2024	Total Donated
Blankets	1,261
Hat sets (children)	1,183
Books	1,003

### Looking Ahead - 2025

Work has already begun for 2025. Thanks to a very generous donation, we have already put together over 25 toiletry bags for the elderly and made or bought over 90 blankets.

### Our goals for 2025 are:

- Blankets - 350
- Hat sets - 350
- Books - 475

We know that these are ambitious goals but we are hopeful that we will increase our community and reach our targets.

In addition to the items we already collect, we are adding one more. In debriefing with Aaron and Anissa, I learned that there is a need for hat sets for the elderly. So this year, we are adding this item. So if you are crafty, we could use your help. And if you are a bargain shopper, keep your eyes out for sales on winter items.

As always, we are thankful for the continued help and support of this community. I know if we each do a little, we will all help a lot of individuals in need.

