

# Holiday Stockings

Coast Guard Family & Friends Holiday  
Stockings for Homeless Children

P.O. Box 6392, Bellevue, WA 98008

February, 2008



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

"The mission of the U.S. Coast Guard Family Association and community Friends is to provide and deliver handmade Holiday Stockings filled with new gifts and useful essentials to Puget Sound Area homeless children ages birth to 17 years living in shelters"

### Board of Directors:

Jan Maxson  
Chairperson  
Jan@holidaystockings.org

Bobette Scheid  
President  
Bobette@holidaystockings.org

Wendy DeLong  
Secretary

Marianne Parsons  
Treasurer  
Marianne@holidaystockings.org

Pearl Grantham  
Donations  
Pearl@holidaystockings.org

Mary Ann Liebert  
Street Youth  
Maryann@holidaystockings.org

Jan deCarteret  
Lyn Lindstrom

### Advisory Board:

Sally Garett  
Mary Jane Currier  
Wendy Flores

We have always treasured the encouragement and support offered by our Holiday Stocking volunteers. Many of you have volunteered time and resources in support of Holiday Stockings. A big thank you goes to generous donations from businesses and individuals as well as ever increasing volunteers. The Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children exceeded the service they provided in any previous year. The number of homeless children served increased in 2007 as we filled and delivered an additional 273 stockings for a total of 2,438 stockings and increased the number of shelters by 10 for a total of 70. Moreover, 413 of the stockings stuffed went to homeless street kids this year, thanks to Mary Ann Liebert. The hard work and organizing abilities of Mary Ann allowed the Holiday Stocking program to gain access to this group of children who have eluded us in the past. Additionally, we expanded the hours to

### *Start Those Machines*

Now is the time to break out those sewing machines and start sewing stockings and/or bibs. We have some festive Holiday fabrics and patterns all ready.

If interested call Pearl Grantham at 425-641-8577 or email her at pearl@holidaystockings.org.

And for those of you who crochet or knit we can now have skeins of yarn to knit some hats for boys and girls, ages 2 to 12 years.

accomplish the stuffing, increased the number of table captains and added to the number of volunteers sewing stockings, making hats, buying toys, sorting, delivering stockings to shelters, and doing odd jobs that need to be done through the year.

Since its inception in 1996, the Holiday Stocking program has delivered over 15,000 stockings stuffed with toys, toiletries, socks, and other essentials that are needed by homeless children. These stockings have been delivered to children spanning an area from Everett to Tacoma, and from North Bend to Bremerton. The mission of this program, although primarily supported by the Coast Guard, has brought volunteers from churches, scout troops, neighbors, friends, family and local businesses together to help bring delight to less fortunate children.

### *Emily Sandall's Memory*

Our heartfelt thanks also go out to Mr. Robert Edwards, whose donation to our street youth program was made in memory of Emily Sandall. Emily was 25 and died in a hiking accident in Yosemite National Park on November 8, 2006. Her devotion to working with street children in Mexico and Nepal, along with her service with the Voyager Outward Bound program led Mr. Edwards to remember her in this way. Thank you, Mr. Edwards.



**"2008"  
Sorting and  
Stuffing Dates:  
Dec. 12th  
Dec. 13th**



**A Big Thank You to our  
Businesses.....**

Apple Store, Costco,  
Comer & Hanby Inc.,  
Curves in Leschi, and  
Shoreline, Employees  
Community, Fund of  
the Boeing Company,  
Foster's Wine Estate in  
Napa, Fred Meyer  
Stores, Horizons  
Foundation, Laurie's  
Village Salon in Seattle,  
Magnolia Ace  
Hardware, Microsoft  
Matching Gifts  
Program, Moving Space  
in Seattle, Perkins Coie,  
Puget Sound  
Accounting+ Inc.,  
Qwest Foundation,  
Skyway Luggage, SCI /  
Dignity Memorial, The  
Box Maker, The Moyer  
Foundation, Turner  
Foundation, Two Men  
And A Truck,  
Walgreens, Wal\*Mart  
Store in Renton,  
Washington Dental  
Services and Westin  
Hotels

## ***A Holiday Stocking, Defined***

If you are reading this newsletter, you are somehow connected to this organization and have touched the life of a homeless child. Each and every one of us has our own personal reason for our involvement, and the plight of these children have moved each of us to contribute in our own way. So what does motivate our generous volunteers who, year after year, arrive at the Coast Guard station to stuff stockings and bring a little bit of sunshine into the lives of those who are less fortunate, and often desperate?

We wondered, and so we asked.

The answers we received were heart warming, not in a Norman Rockwell kind of way, but in a grounded real-world way, a way that told us that our volunteers get it. They get the fact that we are so blessed to have not only the material things we possess, but more importantly stable relationships that enrich and extend through our lives. They know that a holiday stocking, while perhaps a nicety for the average American child, will bring unremitting joy to a homeless child that is lacking in those material possessions and stable relationships that we so often take for granted. Our volunteers get it.

Take Briana, for example. Briana is 12 years old and 2007 was her second year of volunteering. When asked why she did it, she said "I really like picking out toys for kids. It is a selfless act. It's fun to guess what I think they'd like". Her parents found out about the organization two years ago when they moved here, and now it's a family tradition. There's what's heartwarming – a twelve year old using, understanding, and living by the words, "selfless act". She gets it.

Then there's Natalie Jones from Girl Scout Troop #465 in Edmonds. Natalie said, "I really like and enjoy it. We have 9 people here from our troop and we want to come down again and again".

Jen is the wife of a Coast Guard Officer and she has 3 children, ages 5, 12 and 13. She said that her kids "absolutely love it, and are excited the night before they come, just like

Christmas Eve. It is emotionally and spiritually fulfilling, and nurtures the soul."

Rowena Sevilla-Aldana is also a Coast Guard wife, and her husband is a Commander at the base. She works at the Starbucks Support Center and donated boxes of hot Starbucks coffee and hot tea water for the cause. She said, "This is overwhelming – I'm so glad to be of help. Starbucks will definitely contribute again next year to such a worthy cause".

Denise Darnell was told about the organization via her sister, and this is also her second year of volunteering. She has three children and says "This is great for the kids because they feel like they're helping other kids rather than just making a donation".

The Boy Scouts were also well represented in the crowd. David Altena from Shoreline is an Eagle Scout and commented on how "well organized this is and it's a good cause". Dixie Service learned about Holiday Stockings through a co-worker's Boy Scout Troop and was here with her son, Gavin, 5. She commented that he was "having fun and loves the snack table."

Sharon from Mountlake Terrace summed up the feelings of the group succinctly with the statement, "I just feel good about doing it".

So, what is a Holiday Stocking for a homeless child, really? Can it be defined by its contents? Does an eraser, a pair of socks, a comb, some candy and a few toys describe what a stocking means to a homeless child?

The answer lies in the sentiments of our volunteers. A Holiday Stocking is a symbol of hope, of love and of caring for someone we don't even know, may never meet, and will likely never be able to fully identify with due to vast differences in our circumstances. It is a representation of the wonderful gift of giving unconditionally from the heart.

Our volunteers get it.



## Taking It To The Streets

It's cold outside. No one knows this better than the 800 to 1,000 children, adolescents and young adults that frequent the streets of King County each night. Whether sleeping in cars, abandoned buildings, under bridges or on a sidewalk, these young people are risking their lives, their health and their very well being; many turn to crime, are incarcerated, or become dependent upon welfare services. So why would they choose this life of misery when, as popular belief would have it, they are "runaways" with homes and families to return to, and they only need to "cooperate" and become more "responsible" citizens?

The fact is, most of our street youth are victims of abuse, neglect, and other circumstances that are beyond their control. Most want help to get off the streets and surprisingly, less than 10% are runaways. These young people are often "homeless" because the streets are safer than their own home.

So how do we help? This year, through our partnership with Youth Care/Orion Center, South King County Youth Shelter, Peace For the Streets by Kids From the Streets, Working Zone, University District Service Providers Alliance and Cocoon House, we provided 413 street youth with

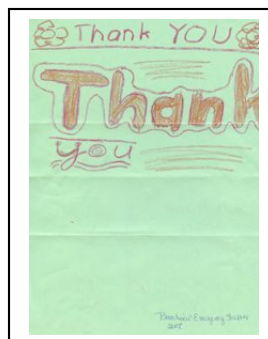
Christmas gifts to help ease their plight and let them know that someone cares. Those gifts included warm socks, hand warmers, gloves, caps, scarves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, water bottles, and healthy snacks, decks of cards and journals and pens, among other small acts of kindness. Have we really made a difference? Cameron from the University District Youth Center thinks we have. He said, "The handmade stockings you provided will make for a much more enjoyable Holiday season for our youth". The Cocoon House said, "We are very grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness". But how, we wonder, do the youth themselves feel? Have we really helped to make their life on the street a little brighter? Our answer came from Megan at the University District Youth Center. She told of how she saw a young person "take 20 minutes to carefully package each item from the stocking into their overloaded backpack. The attention to detail to make it all fit carefully was really beautiful".

If you want to make a difference, contact [maryann@holidaystockings.org](mailto:maryann@holidaystockings.org). We've already begun working on soliciting and buying gifts for 2008 – please join us!

## Matchmaker, Matchmaker Make Me a Match!

Ever wonder if there's an Easy Button for helping your favorite charity? Thankfully, there is! Contact your employer's Human Resource or Donation Office and ask if they will provide a dollar for dollar match for your personal donation of time or money to the Holiday Stocking program. Microsoft, Boeing, Qwest and Safeco are currently providing matching funds to our organization – chances are, your employer may, too. We are an approved 501c3 nonprofit charity and will supply any and all supporting documentation needed by your company.

For more information, please contact Marianne Parsons, Treasurer at [Marianne@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Marianne@holidaystockings.org). Thank you!





## Thank you to all of our generous donors

We are grateful to the many individuals who have supported us for many years and all the organizations, churches, foundations and businesses. Please accept our apologies if your name is missing from this list.

Benes Aldana, Cecil & June Allison, Angelis Family, Karen Aquino, Dave & Tina Arndt, Dr Kenneth Bates, Brian & Bobbie Battaglia, Capt & Mrs Jeff Belmondo, Ruth Berendt, Paul & Betty Binder, Vicki Bingea, Scott & Jessica Bishop, Sheri Blanchard, Bonnie Blair, Bleich Family, Bleitz Funeral Home, Maurice Booth, Karyn Borcich, Dan & Lee Bourn, Elsa Bowman, Lucy Fryday-Bowyer, Boy Scout Troop 853 & Neil McCurdy, Boy Scout Troop 1211, Joanne Brandt, Mrs. Ruby Brantner, Norma Brengelmann, RADM & Mrs. Herbert Bridge, Tina Brock, Dana Brodie, Don & Elaine Brown, Burien SDA Youth & Dennis Tefts, Bill & Sharon Burke, Linda Burt, Steve & Angela Butterworth, Douglas & Sandra Campbell, Michael & Judy Cavett, Mariah Chen, John & Donna Christensen, T.L. & Rebecca Clark, Patty Clusserath, Carolyn Conn, Kristin Connolly, RADR Kevin & Kris Cook, Peter Cook, Ray & Iris Copin, Kim Coulter, Alice Crawford, Cub Scout Pack 300 & Corine Puyaansuu, Cub Scout Pack 305 & Mike Heck, John & Lacey Curley, Mary Jane Currier, , Tom & Alice Dailey, Pamela Dalsasso, Thomas & Nancy Danaher, Larry Dare, Steve & Denise Darnell, Char Dasch, Jenny Daves, David & Bronwyn Deckert, William & Britt-Marie DeForest, Ed & Ruby Delach, Dorothy Delgado, Deloitte Consulting Associates & Brent Dance, Joseph & Patricia Desimone, Julie Devine, Kathy Dietz, Tom & Judy Dixon, Sue Dubuc, Harry & Zoe Ann Dudley, Robert & Phyllis Duin, Klina Dupuy, Bob Edwards, John Egbert, Neva Ely, Wendy England, Cathy Englehart, Members of the Faith Community Church, Dr Dennis Falcone, Lisa Fedfrspiel, Melanie Felton, Dennis & Beth Fidler, Members of First Lutheran Church, Jan Formisano, Ken & Cynthia Forslund, Franz Family, Brenda & Kayla Frieboes, Cheryl Funk, Frannie Galley, Garrel Family, RADM Jeff & Sally Garrett, Mark & Ann Gibson, Girl Scout Troop 467 & Kara Heck & Lori Treb, Girl Scout Troop 181 & 1923, Girl Scout Troop 1718, Glostn Associates & Milinda Wong, Dr George Goll, CW & Cissy Gray, David & Barbara Green, Jeannette Green, Sandi Green, Breanne Grubbs, Kenneth & Cynthia Guy, Myrna Hackney, Delores Hagstrom, Diane Halvorson, Jerry Hamel, Candy Hamel, Susan Hand, Kim Hansen, Dana Harmon, Harmony House & Kim Nichols, John & Angela Harrison, Susan Hauck, Billie Herr, Rose & Caleigh Hesselbrock, Jay & Judy Hiester, Josiah Hill, Holy Rosary School's, Hope Club Olympic View Middle School, Mr & Mrs Dale Huff, Heather Hughes, Derek & Karol Jamison, Roy Jensen, Paul & Kim Johnne, Joyce Johson, Karen Johnson, Mr & Mrs Dick Jones, Jeanine & Antoine Jones, Angela & Fancine Jordan, Judith & Monica Jordan, Itiza, Charles Patricia Kato, Wistar Kay, Helen Kelly, Gina Key, Magnolia Key Bank, Timothy & Kris Kennedy, BJ Killingsworth, Damien King & Family, Diane King, James & Susan Kinghorn, Michael & Marci Kleinberg, Sharon Kume, Karen Kummerfeldt, Art & Pam Ladley, E. H. Lapinski, VADR Charles & Katharine Larkin, Martin Larson, Laurie's Village Salon, Julia Lebert, Sally Ledbetter, Leisure Care & Catie Burr, April Leigh, Marianne & Leslie Leslie, Kathy Lichtenberg, Tom & Mary Ann Liebert, Paul Liebert, Lindstrom Builders & Steven Lindstrom, Lois & Suzanne Lockhart, Mike Lodge, Magnolia Community Center, Matt Mackillop, Judy Marczewski, Mark's Hallmark Store, Tomas & Turie Martineau, Dr Donna Massoth, William & Annette Mayer, Jennifer McCarthy, Jack & Marianne McClane, Neil & Ann McCurdy, Sharon McGinnis, Cheryl McIntosh, Robin McMurchie, Dana McNamara, William & Ginger Merrill, Maddie Metcalf, Dani Mierz, Judith Miller, Milissa Miller, Eric & Diane Mischke, Dr Kent Moberly, Mike & Julie Moore, John Moriarty, Sarah Morin, Mrs. Gayle Morrison, Mrs. Terry Morrison, Mrs. Cindy Mueller, Anthony & Vera Munko, LCDR Michael Munnerlyn & Family, Terry & Ginny Murphy, Katherine Myers, Stephanie Nelson, Claudia Niles, Dixie Norgren, Laura Olin, Kathleen Page, Monica Parikh, Diana Park, John & Margaret Parker, Parson's Association Int'l, Jeannie Payne, Jeff & Donna Peck, Rita Peck, Iris Peterson, Randall & Mercedes Peterson, Teri Peterson, Bev Peterson, Richard & Susan Peyser, Cheryl Phillips, Craig & Laurie Philips, Delgene & Cordelia Phillips, Jane Phillips, Merle & Libby Pope, Robert & Ruth Porter, Jean Powers, Betty Prapasirikul, JoAnne Prusa, Puget Sound Accounting Inc. & Dyann Provenzano, QFC & Randy Bennett, Marie Raker, Chester & Barbara Richmond, Robert & Rebecca Riekse, Sandra Robillard, Wilma Robison, Tim & Helen Rodgers, Lt. Monique Roebuck, Mary Rollins-Lund, C.A. & Michelle Sales, Kathy Sanders, Richard & Diane Sardeson, Joseph & Katie Scheid, Jean Schiffman, Chella Schmidt, Tracy Schneewind, David & Michallea Schuelke, Thomas & Jennifer Scott, Carma Seabloom, Seattle Church of Christ & Edwin Martin, Dixie Service, Karen Sherman, Glenn Showalter, Bernard & Edith Silbert, Michelle Simon, Sherry Sims, Sisters of Providence & Sr Patricia, Glen & Louise Skipton, Nancy Skullerud, Patricia Sloan, Minnie Smith, Dori & Marbett Salon Divas, John & Kay Spading, Ken & Beth Sparks, Ed & Laura Spayd, John & Patricia Spence, Lisa Steele, Carol Stewart, VADR James & Norma Stewart, Ron & Nancy Stulz, Val Styrlund, Jane Sullivan, Dixie Swedstedt, Joe & A.M. Tamalonis, Jullian Tart, Dennis Tefts, Audrey Terry, Stephanie Thaut, Blake & Julie Thoensen, Pearl Thornton, E.M. Toth, Paulette Vanderlip, Andrew Vanskike, RADR Paul & Marjorie Versaw, David & Donna Visneski, Rona Visser, Lynn Von Schlieder, Donna Wagner, Shelley Watson, WA Correctional Center for Women & Sisters of Charity & Lynne Newark, Brian Weaver, David & Winnie Webb, Greg Weil, Marie Werbel, Dawn & Jahmela Wickert, West Woodland Elementary School & Jenny Daves, Marion White, Jim Whyte, Mary Wickert, Robert & Pamela Wicklund, MaryWolfe-Pope, Melinda Wong, Sandra Wood, Tiffany Wright, Susan Yule, and Luci Zoloth.