

2 0 1 1 S P R I N G I S S U E

U.S. Coast Guard Family & Friends

HOLIDAY STOCKINGS *for Homeless Children*

HOLIDAY STOCKING, P.O. BOX 6392, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-0392



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✧ *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To The Forum* ✧

By Sue Kimpton

So goes the title of the 1966 farce musical comedy that chronicles the slave Pseudolus and his efforts to capture the attention of the “girl next door” for his master in exchange for his freedom. Although entertaining, the plight of Pseudolus runs parallel to the plight of all humans – that is, we all long for the certainty of control, some sense of order, to our individual destinies.

Similarly, a funny thing happened to me as I wandered through the crowd of volunteers at the stocking event in December. I watched as they diligently stuffed, boxed and delivered handmade stockings to those homeless children in our community who, like Pseudolus, have so little control over their own circumstances. The “funny” thing I experienced was light. It was only “funny” in a head-scratching kind of way; it revealed itself slowly and at times, surprisingly in the glee of a

three-year old, in the laughter between old friends, or in the teen who came to “participate”, and left humbled. I watched as the light weaved in and through the depths of our human existence; warm, comforting and true.

Ray and Jorie know about the light. They lit up the room with their battery-powered Holiday necklaces and reindeer ears. Delving further, I found a deeper light in two young women with an abundance of spirit to spare. One is a foster child who understands the need to belong, to feel heard, to know the power of caring. The other said, “It’s truly remarkable to see people help other people.” They both spoke the language of healing and hope.

Down the way, Jeannie Payne said, “We wanted hands-on experience for our three girls”. The girls said they “want to help the sad children”. They positively glowed with enthusiasm.

“Our Mission...”

of the U.S. Coast Guard Family & Friends Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children is to provide and deliver handmade Holiday Stockings filled with new gifts and useful essentials to the Puget Sound Area homeless children ages birth to 17 years living in and out of shelters.”



There are two Girl Scout Troops here today, one from Bellevue; another from Edmonds/Mountlake Terrace. Their energy is contagious. When asked what they feel, they eagerly said “It’s fun”; “I like helping people”; “... we get to donate stuff...and see what we’d be going through if we were homeless”. Some of the girls dedicate a portion of cookie sales to buy stocking toys.

Marcus and his friend Gabby are here, manning a shelter for the “Street Kids”. Marcus, a Boy Scout, has worked with Tent City. He says, “ ... It gives me a feeling of warmth inside. It’s sad, I can’t imagine being homeless.” Gabby said, “You touch someone else and it touches the next person – like paying it forward. It’s very inspiring.”

A “funny” thing happens when people come together with open hearts. Warmth. Inspiration. Touching someone, paying it forward.

Shine on, Marcus and Gabby. Shine on.

To Our Wonderful Donors,

I would like to thank all of you for your donation in either time, talent, in-kind or monetarily to help Holiday Stockings bring a little cheer to homeless children. With the support of foundations, local businesses and 600 volunteers, we were able to provide 3,451 stockings to over 90 shelters in the Puget Sound Region in 2010. Although we’d love to list all of you generous donors, that list is simply too long. Please know that your help made a tremendous difference in the lives of homeless children.

Since 2007, the number of homeless youth has more than doubled and the number of stockings we have distributed has gone up by over 900 stockings. Despite this, we’ve continued to give gifts that meet the needs of these homeless children and teens.

The following is just a sampling of the impact that your gifts have made:

- *Dental supplies, clean socks, warm gloves and hat, hair combs, etc... were provided to children in need.*
- *Books, flash cards and writing supplies were provided that gave homeless kids useful and age-appropriate items to help satisfy their educational needs.*
- *Homeless children are given a feeling that someone cares, which is crucial given their stressful and unsettled environment.*

Your support makes a difference. A small toy during the holiday season helps to lift the spirits of these children, and reminds them that others are interested in their well-being. We appreciate that you’ve chosen Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children as one of your favored charities.

Sincerely,

Bobette Scheid, President

Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children



Thank You Sew Much

Can you sew? Knit? Crochet? Then we need YOU! Stockings and bibs are waiting to be sewn; hats are waiting to be crocheted and knitted. Please contact Pearl Grantham at (425) 641-8677 or pearl@holidaystockings.org. Thousands of homeless children will be grateful for your time and talent

The Art of Giving

Looking for that “perfect” thing to honor someone special? Donating to HSHC may just be the ticket. Whether a birthday, wedding, holiday or gift in memoriam, Holiday Stockings will gratefully send an acknowledgment letter to the appropriate recipient(s) in your name. Just \$20 will fill one stocking.

When donating, please state the full name and address of the honoree and enclose a check to: CG Holiday Stockings, P.O. Box 6392, Bellevue, WA. 98008.

Questions? Contact Marianne Parsons at marianne@holidaystockings.org or (425) 957-0469.

**“That best portion of a good man’s life; his little, nameless,
unremembered acts of kindness and love.”**

William Wordsworth

For more information, please contact Marianne Parsons, Treasurer at Marianne@holidaystockings.org. Thank you!

Charlotte’s Web

Charlotte, Charlene, Cheryl or Charlie – we’re not picky. We just need a web designer that has some interest in re-working our website. If you have designs on that, or you are a student interested in showing off your web skills, or are interested in formatting our newsletter in tandem with our editor, please contact Bobette Scheid at bobette@holidaystockings.org, or (206) 232-9854.

"E" is Very, Very, Extra-ordinary

We love all our EXTRAORDINARY donors, and want to say "grazie:", "merci", "gracias", and... well... just "thanks sometimes does not seem to be enough.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED \$250 AND OVER DURING THE TIME PERIOD OF , MARCH 1, 2010 - JANUARY 31, 2011.
DRUM ROLL, PLEASE ...

Delegene and Cordellia Phillips
PAC LAB Employees
C.A. & M.A. Sales
Ken Sparks & Beth Cook
M.L. & Carolyn Edwards
Robert & Ruth Porter
*Tami Michaellette
*Parsons Associates
Debi Garber& Ladies of Compassion Weekend
Debi Ayres
*Susie Thompson
*Janet King
*Michael Newman
*Dayna Barr
*Kathy & Adeles Flowers
*Phaly Sir
*Sharlina Dahl
*Carl & Mary Jane Swedberg
Jeff & Donna Peck
*Ron & Young Stulz
*St. Louise Catholic Church
James & Susan Kinghorn
Jeff & Sally Garrett
Derek & Karol Jamison
Tom & Jennifer Scott
*Cheryl McIntosh
Puget Sound Reg. Group Early Ford V-8 Club
Tom & Mary Ann Liebert
CMCS Corvette Club of Seattle
*SCI Dignity Memorial Employees
*Faith Community Church Members
*Sharon McGinnis & Friends
*Patti Johnson at 3rd Place Books
*Command Striker Group 3 Families
*Naval Hospital Oakleaf Club & KOSA
*Kerry Thompson
*Preceptor Alpha Members
*Marji & Tisha Westwood
*PAC LAB Employees& Sakya Monastery
*John & Donna Christensen
*Eldo & Wendy DeLong

Bill & Melinda Gates Found. Matching
*Savage Color
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Suquamish Indian Tribe
Qwest Foundation Employee Matching
Ernest M. & Audrey R. Turner Foundation
*Fred Meyer Stores
*Comer & Hanby
*Spa Scotta
Bellevue Christian Church
*Evergreen Reps, Angela G. Hansen
*Suquamish Clearwater Casino
*Albert Lee Appliances
*Nordstrom Credit Union
*Gilchrist & Soames
*Westin, Seattle
*Snoqualamie Casino
*Apple Store U Village
*Starbucks, Sodo
*Jason Rothkowitz

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE DENTIST'S TOO:

Dr. David Arndt DDS
Dr. Scott Babin DDS
Dr. Debra Cederbaum DDS
Dr. Elizabeth Chiull DDS
Dr. Dennis Falcone DDS
Dr. Kelly Fisher DDS
Dr. Robert Gelb DDS
Drs. Donald & Paul Lederman DDS
Dr. William McDonald DDS
Dr. Dzon Ngyuen DDS
Dr. Norman Nishikawa DDS
Dr. Cheryl Rice DDS
Dr. Jeffrey Schur DDS
Drs. Christopher and William Shewey DDS
Dr. Rodney Wentworth DDS
Dr. Pamela Young DDS
Washington Dental Association

Coming Soon- Volunteer Registration

Open registration begins September 1, 2011 for this year's event. A limited number of volunteers are needed for sorting toys on Friday, December 9, 2011 from 1-6 p.m. and for the stuffing event on Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Shelter Captains must arrive 1 hour before on Saturday to get your station ready.

The **registration deadline is December 2, 2011**. Base security requires all volunteer names be submitted by this date; any non US Citizen volunteer with passport must register by November 11 for security verification. All vehicles must have proof of insurance and registration and ALL persons over the age of 18 must have photo ID. **Volunteers must be registered by name and meet insurance, registration, and ID requirements to be allowed on the site.**

Register with Bobette Scheid, bobette@holidaystockings.org or (206) 232-9854 and specify the Friday and/or Saturday event. As space fills quickly, we recommend groups sign up early and add group member names up until the deadline.

Scout and youth group volunteer registration is limited. We request a 1:3 adult/child ratio for all children under age 18.

Thank you

Improve the Lives of Homeless Children

This month we held a board meeting to explore the future of the Holiday Stocking program. In the process of looking into the future we looked at what we are doing to contribute to society now, in the present. There were stories of how board members met people who were previously homeless and had benefited from the program. Their praise was effusive and almost inexplicable in light of the mundane nature of contents of the stockings we give each year. There were also stories about how excited volunteers get when they find the perfect gift and just know how much the children who have lost everything and are living in a shelter or on the street will appreciate it. But the real mission of Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children was expressed eloquently in a story shared by Mary Ann Liebert.

Mary Ann, along with other board members visited a shelter for street kids in the Seattle area recently to better understand the recipient of our efforts, the homeless child. A truckload of 12-14 year old girls had recently arrived at the shelter after being rescued from a human trafficking operation, which would have forced the young girls into prostitution. You heard correctly, this occurred was in the Seattle area. With empathy for these young girls going through this unimaginably horrific experience, Mary Ann was struck by how the girls gravitated towards normal activities; applying fingernail polish to each other gave them a respite from their appalling situation. They needed to do something that connected them to their peers who had the luxury of taking care of their fingernails. They needed to know that they were not so different from others and there was hope that life would be better.

This is what we do at Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children, we give necessities and niceties that connect them with normal, connect them with the rest of the human race, with their peers and with hope for the future. This may seem like a tall order for the eclectic contents of our homemade stockings, but for a child without a home, without parents in some cases, it can be a lifeline.

What we do is important!



DONATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE WEEK OF DEC. 8TH

Toy and Gifts Wish List

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THESE HOMELESS CHILDREN.
YOUR DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.
GIFTS MUST BE NEW, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED, AND SAFE FOR CHILDREN.**

**FOR PICK UP OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
BOBETTE SCHEID AT 206-232-9854, PEARL GRANTHAM AT 425-641-8577 OR
MARIANNE PARSONS AT 425-957-0469
HOLIDAY STOCKINGS P.O. BOX 6392, BELLEVUE, WA 98008**

For Infants & Toddlers:

Socks
Diapers, or
Pull-Ups for 25 lb. child
Bath toys, small
Fat crayons & coloring books
Stuffed toy for under 2 yrs.
Rattle

For Elementary School Age:

Boy & Girl socks
Child toothbrushes, wrapped
Travel size toothpaste
Small brushes & combs
Small craft kits
Bendable characters

Game cards, Uno, Go Fish, ect.
Pocket size books

For Teen Age Youth:

Adult size socks
Toothbrushes, wrapped
Travel size toothpaste
Small brushes, combs for girls
Hacky Sack ball
Small flashlight
Lunch box healthy snack foods
Travel alarm clocks
Batteries (AA & AAA)
Carabiner keychain
Laynard
Breath mints

For Street Youths:

Adult size socks
Hand or Foot warmers
Purse size hand sanitizes
Disposable razors, wrapped
Travel size games
Lunch box healthy snack foods,
fruit leathers, trail mix, nuts,
cheese & crackers, granola bars,
tuna packets, ect. (no plastic
containers)
\$5.00 food coupons
Phone cards
Flash Drives

Now Here's An Idea...

Are you a group or organization that is looking for a fun, easy-to-do charitable project with big rewards? Well, how about setting up an on-site donation box where your group can contribute stocking stuffers for HSHC?

Check out this list and pick an item that strikes the fancy of your group (such as socks, tooth brushes, or a good pocket size book, coloring book, or activity book) and focus your efforts on collecting that item. You'll be amazed had how easy it is when you are collecting a single item. You'll also feel warm and fuzzy, and unless you are ticklish, who doesn't like that?

Questions? Ideas? Contact Bobette Scheid at bobette@holidaystockings.org
or (206) 232-9854.

