

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

Holiday Stockings News

COAST GUARD FAMILY & FRIENDS HOLIDAY STOCKINGS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

You Are Making a Difference

No matter how much you think you are helping someone, occasionally you need to hear from the people you are helping to provide a reality check. Here are two:

From Joanna Tarr, Children's advocate, Broadview Shelter & Transitional Housing:

"We greatly appreciate the stockings, the goodies inside, and the time you spent collecting the gifts and assembling the stockings..... a mother who was at our program last year was giving a speech and showed two paper stockings that she made for herself and son last year so that they would have stockings. She said that she was overjoyed to receive an actual stocking for her son, filled with goodies and not have to use the paper one! She said that it helped make her unit a home."

From Polly Gerrish, St. Vincent de Paul Stella Maris House:

"It is disheartening for a mom to have to resort to a shelter at any time of year, but it becomes especially hard during the holidays. Your thoughtful, caring and kind gesture of giving helped the residents to know that they are not forgotten and gave them hope for a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for thinking of our homeless children, by doing so, you have brought smiles to the faces of our children and relief to our concerned Mom's. this was a Christmas they will always remember because of your kindness. I am most confident that you have made a huge difference in their lives in the years to come."

You are making a difference and research shows that affirmations and encouragement along with showing that someone cares can make all the difference in the world to children and will affect them for the rest of their lives. We truly appreciate the thoughtful contributions and over 16,000 volunteer hours to Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children. With your help in 2018 we prepared 4606 colorful stockings to 104 locations and shelters. This was an increase from last year of 263 stockings that we felt comfortable to afford because of your generosity.

But the challenge remains and we need your continued support and involvement. The homeless problem is overwhelming and it is not going away anytime soon. The state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction released data Thursday showing that more than 40,000 public school students in the state are experiencing homelessness - that's an increase of more than 1,200 over the 2015-16 count, and an increase of more than 10,000 since 2013.

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Our Mission...

A Coast Guard family and community friend's organization that provides handmade stockings filled with small basic and educational needs, with new useful essentials, gifts and toys for homeless children ages' infant through teens living in or reached through the Puget Sound shelters.

Why do we continue to come to Holiday Stockings?

I asked that of my family and the answer keeps going back to we have been brought up to give. There is a quote on my desk from a Chinese Proverb that says, *“If you continually give you will continually have.”*

I met Jan Maxson about 20 years ago at church and shortly after we got involved with Holiday Stockings. We started out by gathering donations and then moved quickly into going as a family to help stuff stockings. Then, I started bringing my club from middle school, “HOPE” club.

I remember the first year that we were Shelter Captains and we were given the domestic violence shelter in Everett. I teared up as this was where I had lived with my children for a short time. We were meant to be here, God had a plan.

We continue to volunteer every year, it has moved from the teen group into a family event as my family has grown. My daughter has come with me every year that I have gone and has grown up



Semper Paratus!

We are grateful for the men and women of the Coast Guard for their commitment to help Holiday Stockings. Rear Admiral D Throop, CAPT Brendan McPherson, CDR Jed Boba, SK1 Jonathan Remillard, SK2 Noel San Nicolas, MEC Quamie Walkes, ME1 Jeffery Phillips, Art Grady & Victor Martinez in the gym, and others who may have contributed behind the scenes.

Your effort and hard work are very much appreciated. Thank you, Coast Guard.

giving back. Her daughter Jordyn (11 years) who has come since she was one has this to say: *“I have been helping since I was one year old. I love going and stuffing the stockings because I love thinking about the kids smiles when they get to open the stockings. It’s always packed when we go to stuff the stockings, there are always long lines; that is good though because that means that there are lots of people willing to spare their own time to make children happy that Christmas.”* Riley (5 years old) says she likes picking out cute toys for the little kids.

My son just moved back to this area and his children helped last year, but this was his first year for him and his wife to attend and he had this to say, *“Although, my family has done the stocking stuffers for many years this was my first year we had the opportunity to give back and what a joy it was! From an early age my mother instilled an importance of giving back and from that early on-set I have had a soft spot for the homeless and less fortunate. Giving back in a way that is so simple yet can have such a profound impact on other’s lives is an easy decision. The most impactful part of the event is wrapping my head around the fact of how much reach an operation like this has. Although we were present for stuffing of the stockings, it is incredible to think of the number of hours that went into getting the event prepared for that moment. We were honored to help get the stockings stuffed. And, we are proud to be part of the operation.”*

We give all glory and praise to God for providing for us and giving us the means to give back. Thank you for giving our family the opportunity to participate in this event. Cheryl



Holiday Stockings Appreciates our Volunteers

All Hands On Deck!

All hands were on deck again at the Seattle Yacht Club to help the Coast Guard Family & Friends Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children program by collecting over \$13,000 in cash and in-kind gifts. Many SYC members volunteered over 150 hours to solicit gifts, sort, stuff and deliver stockings. Mary Ann Liebert, HSHC table captain for the street youth and SYC member organized the project for the club.

Thanks to everyone for brightening the holidays for the homeless children!



Three Sewers Grew to Many

Since 2008, Mary Wellauer (photo left) a retired Coast Guard spouse connected with Norma Sorger (photo right) which started with 3 sewers and connected with many sewers from Hands Touching Hearts, Buckley Community Presbyterian Grp, friends, neighbors and relatives to sew over 100 handmade items **A MONTH** for Holiday Stockings. In 2018 they sewed over 3,600 handmade items plus many in-kind gifts. THANKS for your generosity!

Information about Volunteering Dec 6 & 7

Open registration begins September 1 and ends December 1, 2019 for this year's event. You can register to volunteer to sort items on Friday, December 6th from 2:00 – 6:00pm, and/or to stuff stockings on Saturday, December 7th from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

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. Give us the approximate number attending and then you may add group member names up until the Dec. 1 deadline. We suggest a 1:3 adult/child ratio for all children under age 12.

Because this is held at a military installation base security requires all volunteer names 16 years and up to be submitted as they appear on their photo ID by Dec. 1

All vehicles must have proof of insurance and registration to enter the base. Also, all person's age 16 and up must have photo ID. Contact Bobette@holidaystockings.org for specifics.

Please consider volunteering as a shelter captain on Saturday, December 7. It requires some extra responsibilities, but it is more fun and rewarding to deliver boxes of stockings to a shelter.

Many Ways of Giving

97% of Every Dollar Goes to the Children

Gifts may be made by check (payable to “Holiday Stockings”) and mailed to: PO Box 6392, Bellevue WA 98008. Or you can donate by credit card via PayPal, at holidaystockings.org. We also accept employee-matching gifts. Check with your company’s human resource department. For information: Bobette Scheid 206-232-9854. Each stocking costs approx. \$25 to produce and fill.



Amazon Smile Supports Holiday Stockings



It’s an easy way for you to support HS every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you will enjoy the same convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com but 0.5% of your purchase price goes to Holiday Stockings. To get started go to smile.amazon.com, register as Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children with your email address then just remember to go to Amazon Smile for all your purchases.



Hold A Fundraising Event or Collection

Organize a Fun Run/Walk, Bake Sale, or Sock Drive with scouts, school or friends. Help raise funds and awareness for homeless children. Or host a donation box at a business near you. Contact Bobette at Bobette@holidaystockings.org, 206-232-9854

Fred Meyer Rewards Program

Join with our other donors who already support Holiday Stockings by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to us. It’s easy! Just go to fredmeyer.com/communityrewards, #TH613. Link your card with the “Coast Guard Family...” in Bellevue and you should be set. Every time you use your rewards card Holiday Stockings will get a portion of your sale **at no cost to you**.

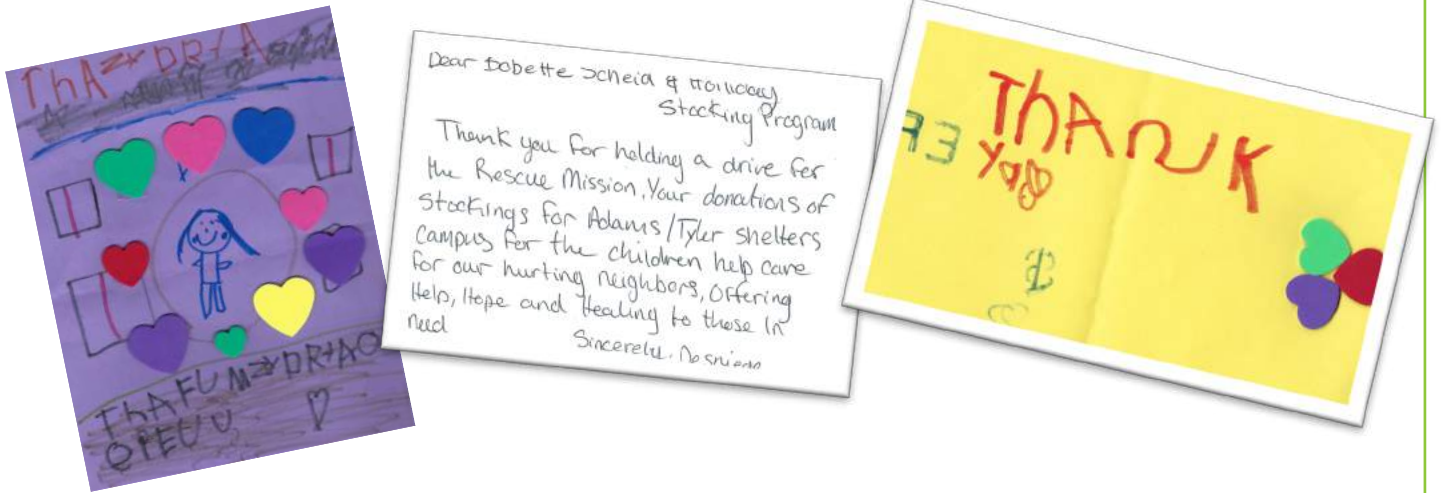


Sew, Knit, Crochet

We need stockings for 2020, hats, baby bibs, tag blankets and burp cloths. We have patterns, yarn, and fabric if needed. A pattern can be emailed, delivered, or mailed along with fabric. New patterns are being made for an infant toy and bandana.

Contact: Pearl Grantham at pearl@holidaystockings.org or 425-641-8577 or Bobette Scheid at bobette@holidaystockings.org or 206-232-9854.

Thank you from the children at ...



Tacoma Rescue Mission Tyler Square, Tacoma Adams Street Family Campus, Tacoma Salvation Army Emergency Family Housing Center, Tacoma New Phoebe House, A Seed of Life Help Ministries at six locations in Spanaway, Korean Women's Association, Tahoma Indian Center, Tacoma Family Housing Center, Spanaway Elementary School Homeless, Thompson Elementary School Homeless, YWCA Kitsap Co, Saint Vincent Bremerton, Kitsap Community Resources (4 units), Bremerton Max Hale Center, Port Angeles Serenity House & Clallam County Shelter, Bremerton The Coffee House Oasis, Into His Chambers Ministry(2 locations), DAWN's House, Kent Multi-Service Center, Kent Youth & Family Services Watson Manor, Union Gospel at seven shelters called "Mission Central", Vision House Renton, Low Income Housing Institute, True Hope Village, Georgetown Village. Cate Apartments, Othello Village, Renton Vision House, Bellevue LifeWire Tyree Scott Apartments Meadow View Apartments, Hope Link/Avondale Park and Duvall Place in Redmond, Hope-Link Place and Permanent Housing in Bellevue, Special Delivery in Woodinville, ATTAIN Transitional Housing in Kirkland, North Bend Momma's Hands, United Indians in Seattle, Mary's Place at 9 shelters in Seattle, Shoreline and White Center, Organization for Prostitution Survivors, Columbia Court, Denny Park, Hickman House Salvation Army, SeaDruNar Childcare Services, Redemption Fellowship, Wellspring Family Services, Wellspring Holiday Toy Room, Abused Deaf Women's Advocates, Solid Ground Broadview, Sacred Heart Shelter, Ardell Mitchell Goodwill, Denise Louie Education Center, Youth Care Pathways seven shelters in Seattle, Kenmore Family Shelter, Heritage Park in Kenmore, Interfaith Family Shelter in Everett, Everett Gospel Mission, YWCA 8 Shelters in Snohomish Co/Pathways for Women, Pivotal Point Transitional Housing, Shelter Housing Domestic Violence Services, Southeast Youth & Family Services, Everett Gospel Mission, Cocoon House Shelter in Everett, Friends of Youth & Street Youth, Univ. District Services Providers Alliance, Youth Care/Orion Center for street youth in Seattle, Country Doctor in Seattle, Therapeutic Health Services in Seattle , Friends of Youth, NEXUS, Peace for the Kids Street Youth and Southeast Youth & Family Services for Street Youth.

What We Need for 2019

Thank you for your interest in homeless children. Your donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. Gifts must be new, individually wrapped, and safe for children.

Donations need to be delivered by December 4th. For pick up or questions contact:

Bobette at bobette@holidaystockings.org 206-232-9854 or Pearl at pearl@holidaystockings.org

For Infants & Toddlers:

Infant washcloths
Baby rattles
Small stuffed animals, for infants
Hats for 2-3 year olds
Diapers, or Pull-Ups for 25 lb. child
Small chunky books
Bubbles (2oz)
Small bath tub toys, Rubber Duckies
Fat crayons and coloring books for toddlers
Baby thermometers

For Elementary School Age:

Boy & Girl socks
Hats & warm gloves
Child toothbrushes & travels size paste
Small brushes & combs
Chap sticks & lip-gloss
Crayons, markers or colored pencils
Sidewalk chalk, 4 per box
Like new Beanie Babies
Small craft kits
Yo-Yos
Bendable characters
Flashcards or game cards such as Uno, Hearts, Memory or Go Fish
Activity, coloring, & maze paperback books
Stickers & tattoos
Play clay
3" balls or bouncy balls
Ready-to-Read paperback books

For Teen Age Youth:

Adult size socks, girly, regular & thermal
Knit or fleece hats
Toothbrushes, individually wrapped

Travel size toothpaste
Dental floss
Small brushes & combs for girls
Pedicure/manicure sets
4"- 6" emery boards
Deodorants for men & women
Body wash & lotion in small size bottles
Clear chap sticks & lip-gloss
Nail polish
Blush, eye shadow & mascara
Small package of hair ties
Teenage bracelets
Fancy/fun writing pens & highlighters
Glue sticks
5"x7" paperback journals
Playing cards
Hacky-Sac balls
Mini footballs
Paperback game books: Sudoku, Crossword, Word Find, etc.
Small stuffed animals (Beanie Babies size)
Breathe mints & sugarless chewing gum
Travel alarm clocks
Batteries (AA & AAA)
4 – 8 GB USB flash drives/thumb drives

For Street Youths:

\$5 gift cards for groceries, and basic needs at Target, Fred Meyer, Ross, or fast food stores.
Phone cards
Bus pass
Hand & Foot warmers
Warm gloves
Thermal socks



Are you a Webmaster?

Are you familiar with Weebly or similar website applications? How about SEO to drive traffic to our site? Are you looking for a way to give back to the community?

If you answered yes to any of these questions Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children needs your services as our website is in dire need of an overhaul. Our goal is to find a template driven, easy to use at minimal cost website.

Contact Bobette at bobette@holidaystockings.org, 206-232-9854

Thank you for your generosity!

We owe a special thanks to all those who donated time, talent and money to help make Holiday Stockings an enormous success this year. Although we'd love to list all the generous donors, the list is simply too long. Listed are the donors who contributed \$250 and over from March 2018 to February 2019. Please know that your help made a tremendous difference in the lives of homeless children.

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Thanks to the dentists above and D Ardnt DDS, K Dewood DDS, K Garwood DDS, M Gile DDS, Kennedy/Mecca DDS, Opsvig DDS, Ritchins DDS, and J Sackman DDS

A BIG Thanks!

SAVAGE COLOR

YOUR GUIDE THROUGH THE PRINTING & MAILING JUNGLE

Thanks to Michael & Catherine Wilbert, and the office of Savage Color, for printing our newsletter in color and getting them ready to mail.



www.holidaystockings.org

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