



Christmas 2014 Heartbeat for Wounded Warriors

Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors Christmas 2014 was a great success because of all of you that participated. We can not thank you enough for your generosity and compassion to our wounded warriors.

We have hopefully captured a lot of you who participated, for those whose stories are not in the newsletter, you are no less important! What you did by giving has changed lives and made a difference.

There are not enough words to share how grateful we are. **Thank you!!**

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Christmas Wish Adopt a Wounded Warrior Family Program

We had over 90 individuals and businesses adopt a wounded warrior family this year including a few from out of state! We had so many individuals that I want to thank as well who adopted as generous sacrifice. **Thank You!!**

We have some great and wonderful people in this great country who have given generously and each year it is magical how it all comes together by God's Grace!

- Anne for adopting a Marine family that was struggling. She actually, through donations, took care of this family for 3 months.
- We had one woman from WA that lost her brother who had been wounded. She adopted a wounded warrior family in his honor.
- We had a woman in Texas whose husband had been killed in Iraq in 2004 and she organized her community to adopt a wounded warrior family in Texas that we found for her.

Ryan who has adopted with us for 5 years now and he lives in MA. Each year, he takes a family from our program and does not care what state they are in. His brother Bob who also lives in MA adopted with us this year as well and filled the need for a family in Michigan and here in WA state.

FDNY E84/L34

Fire Dept in The Bronx contacted us to adopt 3 families in NY. They played Santa and delivered the gifts. Their wonderful and generous story is below with pictures.

They had about **100 participants**, not only from their own Firehouse, but from neighboring ones and they also had 9/11 Widows that assisted with this.

Janice said "For me, when I got their emails and knew that not only Firefighters were doing this but also the Widows, it felt like Hallowed Ground. Thank you to all of you!! God Bless you for what you do.."

One of Santa's Helpers with the group, Valerie emailed this regarding one of the families they adopted: "Had so much fun picking all new camping gear on a registry for them... and everything was purchased off their registry too. .lol... gifts keep coming!"





Allison, who is a Firefighter's wife and a nurse, had this to say: "There were tears and hugs all around when we delivered to our families. This project has brought us great joy, and we look forward to participating again next year, and in any other project where we can be of assistance."



SNOCOM 911

For the past few Years Snocom 911 has adopted families with us. They have a group that handles the critical 911 calls and are so very generous. A few comments from the person who organizes this, Lindsay Payton, they had adopted 3 families this year and one was a single female Soldier, Betty. In the three years we have done this, we hadn't been asked yet why we do it but Betty wanted to know. Lindsay put it perfectly; we deal with so much negativity on a daily basis that we wanted to create some positivity and what better way than giving back to our military men and women. Betty was overwhelmed and very grateful not for herself, but for the other families we donated to this year and in previous years.

Thank you Lindsay and everyone at Snocom!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This Christmas The Knights of Columbus, Very Reverend William J Power Assembly, Newcastle adopted a wounded warrior family pictured.

Faithful Navigator Terry Welch had this to say re the experience: "As I was sketching out the January Newsletter, it occurred to me that I should share this glorious news with the Knights that made this happen before Christmas. This is the best Knight-related feel-good Christmas project that I have been involved in."



PORT TOWNSEND ELKS CLUB

For 4 years Larry Iardella and the Port Townsend Elks Club have adopted wounded warrior families through us. This year they were over the top with what they did for their 5 families they adopted. They have a big Christmas party to invite the families to and give gifts and more gifts and more gifts!!

They also donated separately from the adoption \$1000 to Heartbeat, and they also donated a truckload of new toys that we gave to a unit on JBLM.

Thank you so much Larry and all of the Elks for being so generous!

Pictured is all the families and some from the Elks Club, Larry is in the front row and the middle with the white beard...seems fitting.



Thank you to these generous businesses, groups and churches that have adopted with us for years!

ADW Acosta

AT&T

Point It

Essex Homes Southeast Inc.

MPH Holdings, LLC

Port Townsend Elks

FDNY E84/L34

NW Utility Services

PSE (Brenda Bartell)

Forsberg & Umlauf

OPTUM

PSE (Susan Wines)

Quota International of Tacoma

SNOCOM 911

Travelers Insurance

**Knights of Columbus
Council 9833 at Mary Queen of
Peace Parish in Sammamish**

**Knights of Columbus
VERY REVEREND WILLIAM
J. POWER ASSEMBLY 1630**

Christmas Stocking Program

Our Christmas Stocking Program was a huge success this year because of some major individuals and groups. Pictures below show how much fun and the fruit of all those who labored. Thank you!!

We gave **410 Christmas stockings** to Warriors this year filled to the brim!

A huge Thank you to Project Linus of Everett led by a wonderful and compassionate and very organized leader, Diane Campbell for the beautiful stockings we use each year that are made by her volunteers.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This year because of huge donations from a collected effort of multiple Knights of Columbus Assemblies listed below, we were able to for the first time add 2 gift cards to each stocking which really increased the value. This was unheard of before and we are so very grateful..

Faithful Navigator Dan O'Brien, Sir Knight Tony Robinson and Sir Knight Mike Bohm led the way on organizing and gathering donations for the Christmas Stocking Program from other Knights of Columbus. This was a huge mission and they did it flawlessly and with outstanding results. Our stocking program this year would have been much more limited had it not been for numerous Knights of Columbus and the

Parishes that are part with them. Alone they raised close to \$15,000 in cash, items and gift cards! Thank you all!!

- Bothell Knights of Columbus 6686
- St Joseph Council 7528 Federal Way
- Our Lady of the Americas Knights of Columbus 3123 Bothell
- St Vincent de Paul Federal way
- JCM Corp for the use of their Hall for our pack out in Bothell
- St Brendan Bothell
- St Jude Knights of Columbus 8102 Redmond
- Charles F McLean Knights of Columbus 2621
- Holy Family Knights of Columbus Kirkland
- Knights of Columbus Holy Innocents Council 11906 Duvall
- Knights of Columbus Very Reverend William J. Power Assembly Newcastle
- Knights of Columbus , Council # 11408
- Washington State Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Tacoma



AT&T

Thank you to AT&T for their wonderful community donation of \$500 and all of the volunteer efforts!

For the past 3 years a young lady 23 years old, Susan Laphen, an Angel Elf from all the way in PA collects items for our Christmas stockings and ships boxes of needed items to fill our stockings. 2014 was no different with the help of her Mom, Laurie Steltz and employees from Tilley Fire Equipment Co. and Invo Healthcare Associates they filled 3 boxes and shipped them out! Thank you All!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Louisa Malatos and her family who donated and filled 40 Christmas stockings as part of "Christmas in July"

Thank you to Jesse Nemens for annually filling 15 stockings from donations she collects.

Thank you to Anne for her donation of \$1000 for stocking items.

Thank you to the following businesses and Churches that donated needed items for the Stockings:

- Costco
- Bethany Christian Assembly Everett
- Northwest Bible Church
- Bourne Orthodontics Marysville and Lake Stevens for annually donating 500 lbs of candy
- Puget Sound Orthopedics for Stress Balls
- Oberto Beef Jerky
- Boy Scouts for the popcorn which is always a hit
- Mukilteo Presbyterian Church
- Evergreen Republican Women



****To All of the Heartbeat Volunteers who made it all come together with collecting, shopping and the pack out and distribution****

- Head Elf Helen Smythe
- Bill and Donna Paulson
- Patty Bigham
- Faithful Navigator Dan O'Brien
- AT&T Volunteers who were a huge support
- Donna Padilla
- Colleen and Charlene who faithfully bring the candy each year

To everyone who helped pack the stockings, **Thank you!!**



Operation Toy Drop

Operation Toy Drop was a huge success this year because of some very key people. This year the toys increased from the past in super abundance. How did this happen? **It's Christmas!!**

Thank you to AT&T for again stepping up and donating \$500 to buy new toys to give to our courageous

warrior families.



Head Elf Helen went right to work at the different elf outlets to purchase toys and get the best deals with all of her discounts! Then off she went, sleigh a blazing to deliver the toys AT&T paid for to the Special Forces Support BN on JBLM.. happy faces all around!

Another donation came in from Larry Iardella and the Port Townsend Elks! Each year they do a huge adoption with our Christmas Wish program. This year they not only adopted 5 families but donated **a whole truck full of toys!** Those toys went to 2nd Brigade on JBLM.. More Happy faces!

Each Year for the past 5 years the South King Fire and Rescue led by CPT Kevin Crossen, Santa Clause David Myers and Santa and Mrs Clause Tony and Carol Robinson have donated toys to Heartbeat to give to our courageous warrior kids! This year was totally over the top as Tony and Carol scrambled to get enough sleighs to pick up the toys with Santa Claus David Myers. Their sleighs raced back and forth in Federal Way to make sure the children of our warriors were not forgotten. This year their combined efforts brought in **2000-2500 new toys** that are beautiful, plus **12 new bikes!** We can not thank you enough for making this Christmas extra special for the children. I was told by the Command that the eyes of the Soldiers got bigger and bigger as they saw this whole presentation.

Our Elves with sleighs rushed to the scene of giving to pack up and take the toys to 7th ID Division on JBLM. They have 7 Brigades included. That is a lot of Warrior Families!! The toys were packed in large green bags to keep the liquid snow from damaging them. 6 large SUVs and a truck swished it's way to JBLM and delivered the bags of beautiful toys and the bikes. Thank you volunteer Elves for doing such a great job! A very merry ending to Christmas 2014 for 7th ID because of the hard work and generous giving of the South King Fire and Rescue led by CPT Kevin Crossen David Myers and Santa and Mrs Clause, Tony and Carol Robinson!! You are Angels and a Blessing for what you do for the Warrior's children!



Christmas Cruise Boat

To round off a wonderful Christmas 2014, a special invite came to Heartbeat to allow a few Wounded Warriors/families on a glorious boat cruise following the Christmas Ship in Seattle. The Warriors had the best time on this 4 hour excursion and did not want the nite to end! Thank you for a wonderful nite and a great memory for these Warriors!

Welcome to the Christmas Parade Cruise!



- WHAT:** Christmas Parade Cruise aboard the "Misty One".
- WHERE:** Emerald Landing
2157 N. Northlake Way
Seattle, WA 98103
- WHEN:** Friday, Dec. 19th

5:45 Board/Set sail at 6:00 pm
Return to dock about 10:30 pm



A special thank you to Janet Raulerson, Heartbeat volunteer Bookkeeper and Treasurer and Kendra Giersch, Heartbeat Communications Manager for their long hours and hard work tracking and computing Christmas 2014 with all the names and numbers and for generously adopting wounded warrior families this Christmas! Thank you both!

Sincerely,

Janice Buckley
Founder/President Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors

"At Heartbeat, we provide emergency assistance, morale building, and innovative therapeutic services for wounded warriors and their families"

www.heartbeatforwarriors.org

cell: 425-931-1047

"Stand Now. Stand Together, Stand for What is Right!"

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