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# Christmas 2016 Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors

Dear Janice,

Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors® Christmas 2016 was a wonderful success because of all the outstanding support that was received. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity, time, compassion, and financial investments to our courageous Wounded Warriors and their families this year!

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 giving has changed lives and made a difference!

There are never enough of the right words to convey how very grateful we are to all of you who made Christmas 2016, through our programs, the best year ever!

**Thank you!!**

*In This Issue ...*

## CHRISTMAS WISH PROGRAM



**441 Individual Wounded Warrior  
Family members served**

## CHRISTMAS STOCKING PROGRAM



**550 Warriors received  
our Huge Christmas Stockings**

## OPERATION TOY DROP



**Over 3000 toys given  
to Soldier's children**

## **Christmas** Wish **Adopt** a **Wounded** Warrior **Family** Program

We had 94 individuals and businesses adopt a Wounded Warrior family this year, including a few from out of state. We have so many people to thank who adopted as a generous sacrifice. **Thank You!!**

\* Anne for sending thousands of dollars to help families struggling this Christmas!

\* A business in Arizona who has adopted a Soldier who was in the Infantry and had moved to Arizona with his family from WA state!

- \* A business in Northern CA who adopted a Marine family in Southern CA, who said it was the best Christmas their family had ever had
- \* Ryan, prior Army who lives in MA and adopts with us every year. He lets us decide what family in what state could use some Christmas cheer! A family in Kentucky received his generous support this Christmas. Another member of Ryan's family adopted with us for the first time and she too received a family in Kentucky that needed a blessed Christmas!
- \* At the last minute a wonderful person in NY asked to adopt a wounded warrior family in NY. We were able to match them up and Christmas was very special at just the right time!

## **FDNY Engine 84/Ladder 34**

**Wounded Warrior Christmas Project Donors (who I call Brigade of Angel Warriors) a huge FD special account of "500" led and started by Firefighter Wives, who are also Nurses: Valerie, Allison, and Ro. These are amazing and generous ladies who organize everything for the NY families they adopted.**

For the past 4 years, this outstanding and generous group of Heroes, who put their lives on the line, take time to adopt Wounded Warrior families in NY state. They travel all over, in their overloaded sleighs, through snow and ice, to deliver the much anticipated gifts.

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."

## **Wounded Soldier Josias**



Josias with Firefighters Bill Meade and Jared Wutz





Josias with Firefighter Bill Meade and his wife Kathleen

**Wounded Soldier Santana family**



Wounded Soldier Santana family had their gifts delivered by sleigh with recently Retired Firefighter, Jimmy and Daughter Meaghan to give them a very special Christmas!

Meaghan was able to get a special wish from the Soldier's list fulfilled. Tickets to a Nick's basketball game and their name in Lights!!

A Firehouse contact, with the help of 2 local companies, Seely and Durland Insurance and A Sparkling View NJ Window Cleaning, coordinated with MSG (Madison Square Garden) to make this happen!

A very special time! Thank You Val, Meaghan, and Jimmy!



## Knights of Columbus

Every Year Knights of Columbus Councils give so much for all of our Christmas programs.

This year, a special **Thank You** to:

- Knights of Columbus Assembly 1630 (2 families)



- Knights of Columbus Council 6686 in Bothell, WA
- Knights of Columbus Council 9833
- Our Lady of the Americas Knights of Columbus Assembly 3123
- Woodinville Knights of Columbus

For adopting so many of our courageous wounded warrior families.



Pictures from one wounded warrior family adopted by Knights of Blessed Teresa - Grand Knight Roddy. Happy smiles all around in the pictures.

**Thank you** all so much for making Christmas extra special!





### **Puget Sound Energy (PSE)**

Puget Sound Energy has adopted wounded warrior families with our program for years, since the very beginning with Brenda leading the way. Brenda and her team adopted a special family, where the Soldier was a single Mom, going through a very traumatic illness. This Soldier had to go to the hospital unexpectedly. Brenda actually went to the hospital and sat with her for hours, until her family arrived and could receive the gifts Brenda and her team had for this family. When Heartbeat needed extra help financially for more Warriors needing to be adopted, the PSE group jumped in, all hands on deck. They do this every year with great compassion.

**Thank you** PSE Angels!

- PSE (Alyssa's group)
- PSE (Mark's group)
- PSE (Niece's group)
- PSE Financial (Brenda's group - 3 families)



### **Lennar Homes of Seattle**

Lennar Homes of Seattle in Federal Way joined our Christmas team this year in a big way! They jumped right in for our Christmas Stocking program, but also with our Christmas Wish program by adopting 2 large families.

Not only did they provide Christmas gifts, goodies, and meals but they also helped with some needed house repairs which was a very welcomed gift! **Thank you** William, Susan, Jim, Bill and everyone at Lennar Homes for being so generous!



### **MPH Holding LLC**

MPH Holdings LLC has adopted with Heartbeat for many years and has always gone over the top in their support. This year the family they adopted needed brakes for their car which the Wounded Warrior family could not afford. Below is an email from Shelby at MPH Holding LLC. We are so grateful for the extra mile MPH Holdings LLC went for this wounded family. **Thank you** !!

*"We are happy to have been matched with this family. Reading through their wish list, it really seems like they have a lot of tough stuff going on so we are happy to be able to help where we can. We have purchased a number of items for each kiddo, and will be purchasing gas and grocery cards for the family as well. In addition to this, they asked for a tune up to their family car, and then more specifically requested brakes and rotors. We were able to contact a local dealership (Titus-Will in Parkland) and they agreed to provide a voucher for these services at no charge!"*

Heartbeat is grateful to **Titus-Will in Parkland** for their Christmas blessing to this wounded family. **Thank you** !



**Thank you** to the generous businesses, groups, and churches that have adopted with us for years or for the first time. Thank you for a blessed Christmas.

**Thank you** to **ALL** of the individuals who gave of their time and financial resources to make this Christmas so very special and a wonderful memory for the Wounded Warrior families to keep forever!

- ADW Acosta
- Alice Kelly Circle at Kent First Baptist Church
- Alutiiq, LLC
- Clear Water Services LLC
- Evergreen Security (2 families)
- Knights of Columbus Assembly 1630 (2 families)
- Knights of Columbus Council 6686 in Bothell, WA
- Knights of Columbus Council 9833
- MPH Holdings LLC
- New Product Introduction (NPI), part of Microsoft Hardware Manufacturing and Supply Chain (3 families)
- Northlake Montessori
- Our Lady of the Americas Knights of Columbus Assembly 3123
- PSE (Alyssa's group)
- PSE (Mark's group)
- PSE (Niece's group)
- PSE Financial (Brenda's - 3 families)
- Seattle Division Lennar Homes (2 families)
- Seattle Fire Dept Station 18
- T-scan
- VFW Auxiliary
- Woodinville Knights of Columbus
- Cornerstone Home Lending in AZ
- FDNY Engine 84/ladder 34 (4 families)

## 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 **550 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.

***The stockings were hung by the chimney with care WAIT WHAT???***

***We haven't filled them yet!! Ok let's start again.***

Our goal was 550 filled to the brim  
With everyone's help we made it and grinned.

Knights of Columbus Bothell provided the space  
Another event to remember was taking place  
With stress balls from Pro Alliance to fit in the toe  
And gift cards from Knights of Columbus, we didn't run low  
Donations from Liberty Orchard of yummy treats  
And bars from Costco were both hard to beat  
We had lots of candy from Dr. Jason Bourne  
Ear Buds from ATT Veteran's group that are easily worn  
Popcorn aplenty from Boy Scout troop 466  
Back scratchers from First Western Properties, it was an easy fit  
We had more goodies to put in the stockings from puzzle books to gloves  
The elves were kept hopping  
Lennar Homes, a group of elves that work down south, filled 100 stockings all by themselves.

We must thank Trudy for the beautiful quilt that she made  
And Knight of Columbus Dan who sold raffle tickets to appreciative fans  
The \$\$\$ we made supported the stocking program  
For all the goodies and gadgets to make each sock grand!

While the elves worked hard to get the job done  
Mr. and Mrs. Santa counted the stockings for fun  
The Knight's generous crew spent all morning cooking  
A brunch for the elves that was really good looking. (and tasty!!)

Wounded Warrior Ryan with his service dog Sunny  
Told us how great the new K9 program was running.

The sleighs were then filled with stockings galore  
And there were lots of smiles waving good-bye from the door.

We have so many to thank and so little time  
Please everyone know that your donations were generous and kind



*This year stockings were given to the National Guard, the 17th Infantry, the Wounded Transition Battalion (WTB) and Scuba Warriors. Christmas is about giving. Our warriors know that they are appreciated and not forgotten. We cannot thank our generous donors enough. Without you, this program could not happen.*

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL LISTED BELOW**

**Knights of Columbus Bothell Council 6686, Knights of Columbus Federal Way Council's 7528 & 7908, Knights of Columbus Redmond Council 8102, Knights of Columbus Kirkland Council's 11408 & 7642, Knights of Columbus Duvall Council 11906 Lennar Homes, ATT Veterans Group, Liberty Orchards, First Western Properties, Pro Alliance, Dr. Jason Bourne, **Project Linus (maker of our BEAUTIFUL STOCKINGS)**, Kohl's Lacey, Costco employees Issaquah, Boy Scout troop 466 with help from KaLen Nicolino, Donna's Baker's Angels, Heather Moyer's Book group and friends, Taco Time, Bethany Church.**

*We can't thank you enough for helping spread the cheer.*

*We hope we can do this again next year!!*

***Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!***























## Operation Toy Drop

**OPERATION TOY DROP 2016**  
**THIS YEAR WAS OVER THE TOP FABULOUS!!**

**"WOW, WONDER OF WONDERS"**

This year once again Mr. & Mrs. Tony "Santa Claus" Robinson along with Battalion Chief Kevin Crossen, the Des Moines and Federal Way communities through South King County Fire & Rescue went all out. With the help of David Meyers in coordination with Battalion Chief Crossen, many trips were made to pick up donated toys to be stored in the Robinson's Toyland (garage).

When the elves pulled up in their sleighs (it was actually snowing lightly to get everyone in the mood), the garage was **FULL**. Not only were there **3000 toys** BUT there were **15 BRAND NEW BIKES with helmets!**

The Elves got busy loading up the sleighs, bikes first, and when they were filled to the brim over 10 SUVs and pickups headed to JBLM. Marlene Edwards of the ATT Veterans Group joined us with her sleigh full of toys as well. So, all totaled, we had 11 sleighs jam packed with Christmas fun. **WOW!**



Arriving at the base, we were met by CSM Larry Breland of the 17th Infantry (Buffalo Soldiers). He led the procession of sleighs thru the gates and over the hills to the Toyland Center where the elves, with the help of soldiers from the 17th Infantry, went to work unloading everything.

When the toys, bikes, warm winter coats and PJS (donated to us by the Knights of Columbus Bothell (jacket picture) were set out the only word heard was **WOW!** CMS Breland had no idea we would be bringing so much. In a note to Heartbeat he said,

*"I can't thank you enough for what your organization has done for the Buffalo Soldiers and their families over the holiday season."*

All of us at Heartbeat, along with Mr. & Mrs. Tony "Santa Claus" Robinson and all of the Firefighters from SKCF & R, cannot thank all of the warriors and their families enough for their service and sacrifice. They deserve the very best we can give them. It was an honor and a privilege to provide toys, bikes and coats to make their Christmas merry.

Special thanks to everyone who participated. Heartbeat could not do what we do without the help and support of our community.

***Merry Christmas Everyone***









A special thank you to Helen Smythe, Heartbeat volunteer Project/Event Manager and Head Elf for the Stocking Program and Operation Toy Drop. And 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 2016 with all the names and numbers and for generously adopting wounded warrior families this Christmas! Thank you all!

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"

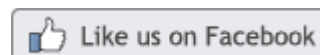
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*"Stand Now. Stand Together, Stand for What is Right!"*

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