

DHSS Now Collecting Donated Items to Benefit Stockings for Soldiers

NEW CASTLE (Oct. 4, 2019) – The State Office of Volunteerism (SOV) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) are partnering with Stockings for Soldiers on a public donation campaign to collect items during October and November to send to members of the military serving overseas during the holidays.

This marks the 16th consecutive year that Stockings for Soldiers, a Delaware nonprofit, has collected items for members of the military, organized volunteers to pack the donated items in Christmas stockings and then send the stockings to members of the military in time for the holidays. Last year, Judy Travis, the project founder and coordinator, said volunteers filled more than 10,000 homemade and personalized Christmas stockings, with more than 45,000 pounds of item.

Travis joined DHSS Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker, Division of State Service Centers Deputy Director Cynthia Manlove and others for the kickoff of the donation campaign at DHSS' Herman Holloway Campus near New Castle.

"We're really excited to celebrate the 16th year of Stockings for Soldiers and to be able to help with securing the items, putting out collection bins and providing volunteers to help," Secretary Walker said. "We look forward to helping in any way we can to make sure another 10,000 troops get stockings this year."

"Over the past 15 years, we've sent over 100,000 stockings," said Travis, whose son served in Iraq in 2003. "We've touched a lot of hearts in that time. And although a lot of them say

they don't even know where Delaware is, they say they are grateful for the people who do this for them."

In support of this effort, DHSS is collecting items such as travel-sized toiletries, small candies, gum, DVDs, small cans of tuna or other non-perishables, ramen noodles, lip balms, socks, razors and more for the stockings. [For a complete list of needed items, please visit StockingsForSoldiers' website.](#) Other ways to donate include financial contributions to cover the cost of postage, letters of appreciation to a soldier or the stockings themselves. The patterns for the stockings are available at the website, too.

Donations are now being accepted at locations organized by the State Office of Volunteerism and starting Oct. 7 at Stockings for Soldiers, Brandywine Town Center, 5131 Brandywine Parkway (between Kirklands and the Guitar Center.

Look for collection barrels at these locations:

Buildings on DHSS' Herman Holloway Campus, 1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle (on U.S. 13 near I-295):

Main Administration Building, Charles Debnam Building and Springer Building. Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; collection runs through Nov. 28.

Public libraries in New Castle County (all through Nov. 28):

- Bear Library, 101 Governors Place, Bear (10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; closed Fridays)
- Hockessin Library, 1023 Valley Road, Hockessin (10 a.m.-9

p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; closed Thursdays)

- Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave., Newark (10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, and Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; closed Thursdays)

And these additional locations through Nov. 11:

- Millville Town Hall, 36404 Road 351, Millville (9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday)

- Georgetown Public Library, 123 W Pine St., Georgetown (10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday)

- Milford Public Library, 11 SE Front St., Milford (9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday)

- Fabulous Salon, 900 Dupont Highway, Milford