

January 21, 2009

Dear Beanie Angels of America,

The uncertain weather is not only confusing all of us this year but also frustrating my garden. My fruit trees are prematurely blooming and bulbs are making buds. As the sun comes high during the day the temperature goes up to make us believe we are in summer and as the sun goes down the temperature comes down to freezing and let us know it is still winter.

Although it seems uncertainty is what nature is giving us but I know one certain and sure thing for today right now. That is **WE Operation Beanies for Service member (OBFS) collected and shipped over 50,000 beanies to our troops and VA hospitals during last 4 years.**

Our organization grew up to over 1,000 beanie angels in 32 states.

I remembered how I started and how it grew to this numbers. Although I am having hard time acknowledging our accomplishment myself but it is true. It is hard to comprehend just throwing numbers at you but when we shipped 10,000 beanies on December 19, 2006 we took pictures with 80 boxes lined up in front of our headquarter. Please look at one of the pictures below and multiple this amount by 5 times. It will give you the Idea of 50,000 beanies.



Each box contains 125 mixed beanies, a letter explaining who is OBFS and why we are doing this. Ann Thomas and Barbara Dye make sure to sort and mix beanies for each box and place a letter and seal. Each box look exactly the same all the time.

Our artist Lloyd Jones created a poster with Logo and message saying “Another hand made beanies from OBFS” and we tape this beside the address label.

Sometimes we have military pick up at our Huntington Beach headquarter. Here is one by Cpl. Palmer of Camp Pendleton picked up 4,000 beanies from OBFS on February 10,2006.



2-10-2006 **Cpl.Palmer** and 11 **beanie angels**

Sometimes we beanie angels get tired and needed good helping hands from Boy Scout Troop 568 in Huntington beach with scout master Gregory Adnams. They did the jobs flawlessly with ease and smile that made all of us very proud.



Boy Scout Troop 568 HB with Gregory Adnams 6-30-2007
We delivered to the address in Iraq that was given through our volunteers.



Miki and Operation Beanies for service Members

I would like to take this time to say thank you for the support you are giving to the uniformed service members who are spending time away from their loved ones. Our transition team consists of Marines, Sailor, Homeland Defense Agents and DynCorp personnel. We were all very pleasantly surprised when we received your package. We have selected beanies for wear and will be using them when the weather gets colder. I have attached a photo of our team wearing the beanies we have selected.

Please forward this picture and our thanks to all of your volunteers. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciate and bring warm thoughts of home to our team while we are here.

1st Lt Jedra, John
POETT Husaybah

On November 2008, Our beanie angel # CA-01-102 Lee Yadrick made an arrangement for her son Coast guard Logistics Officer Dave Yadrick to pick up and distribute beanies.



And you know now this is how we shipped some of our 50,000 beanies to our troops. I would like you to be very proud of our accomplishment. Some of you think making beanies are cinch and do not think the value of beanies as I describe as ***“Unspoilable Home made Cookies”***. Needless to say these cookies are washable as well and made in the USA. Our troops are accepting all of our beanies with open arm and enjoy having our beanies in all over the world. Our beanies brings them lots of smiles and they feel our appreciation and love at the same time. I can also tell you from their notes that we must feel and know their appreciation of our efforts and that should bring us a sense of accomplishments and smiles.

My goal for this year is to collect and ship 20,000 beanies to our troops. This is a tall order but if you can see my touch, please walk beside me and try to achieve it with me. Again, I thank you all for trusting and supporting my goal and I accept all you can give me to achieve this goal of OBFS.

So long for now, please take care of yourself and be happy for all of us angles.

Miki Sessler (Founder OBFS)