

## THE BEANIE NEWSFLASH

May, 2008

By Irma Proulx

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**1342 Beanies received**

**3 New Beanie Angels**

**3877 Beanies Shipped to Iraq**

**100 Beanies distributed at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA to graduating Marines**

Beanie Angels come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and ages. In the last issue you met Elisa Kappeler, age 85, and this month I'd like to tell you about some students, ages 12 – 14 in Big Bear Lake, California.

These boys and girls are part of the Big Bear Middle School Youth Act Program sponsored by the Rotary Club. They busily knitted about 50 beanies in January and then collected \$36.40 for the postage to send them to Iraq. Making beanies is their “winter” project. During the summer they sewed “cool ties” for the soldiers in Iraq. Alan and Diane Clark along with Vicki Lehtonen started sending hats to the troops when her son-in-law, a captain in the Army, was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and she got firsthand knowledge of what our soldiers need. Even her husband, Chuck Lehtonen, got in the act and has knitted some beanies. Alan Clark, a Rotarian, helped organize the project and soon they were off and knitting!

Knitting beanies for our soldiers is a wonderful way for youngsters to learn the value of giving and to appreciate the sacrifice of our soldiers. Thank you Meghan Marshall, Dylon Lopez, Pearl Craig, Joseph McGowen, Brianna Gascoigne, Sara Seaman, Vanessa Avilez, Monique Stark, DeVon Frederick, Erica Mardona, Samantha Swanson, Jodi Cline, Yadira Casillas, Randy Young, Jonathan Wardon, Jordie Beach, Dru Chilcoat, Alan and Diane Clark, and Vicki and Chuck Lehtonen for your dedication!



