

Operation Beanies for Service Members
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www.operationbeanies.org



January 31, 2011

Dear Beanie Angels of America,

The time passes like there is no today and again we are looking to review 2010. Not long ago we were talking about Y2K and worrying how our computer will do with the new century. Well, we have passed that fear 10 fold and everything looks not only good but all the different technology is showing us the fast progress every month. I never have had doubt about what will be with progress of OBFS year after year but there is one thing I have noticed that for all these 6 years that I am not really catching up with all the happenings especially letting all beanie angels to know how much I appreciate their effort to make giant progress in OBFS. With all the wonderful volunteers around this OBFS, I thought I only had to think how much we can grow to ship more beanies. I just focused that potential "How big OBFS can be?" as our mission statement indicates that our goal is to ship 1,000,000 beanies to our troops. I had been only focused on delivery side of the operation. I now know that it is time to focus on how good we beanie angels are and start mentioning who some of angels are thinking and how much love and effort they are putting for the OBFS. I am proud to tell you we will have new segment on new web site soon called "**Meet our Beanie Angels**".

Our OBFS is now into 7th year and our wings are growing and getting stronger to fly further into bright tomorrow. Thanks to all of you, we have collected and shipped over 10,000 beanies this year and this made our total count to 85,000 beanies shipped.

We have 1,200 volunteers listed and some unlisted so you can do the simple math to figure out how hard we have worked to make these beanies. Our Ann Thomas is tracking your accomplishment by entering your contribution. Also she is keeping count on Annual total shipment.

I found out in last 40 years living in this country that I am able to think and want to accomplish things as I wish and there is plenty of opportunities and people to assist you make the dream come true. I also know that all this is possible based only on your hard work and of course it all depends on if the idea you have is sound to other people.

I felt that I have the right and sound ideas about Operation Beanies and it will appeal to others which are obviously seen in the progress in past 6 years.

I called our beanies "**Unspoilable home made cookies**" for last few years but this year I added 2 more words. I will call our beanies "**Unspoilable home made cookies with Soul**"

I handle a lot of beanies every day and see all the beanies with maker's ideas, passion of colors with a lot of love. I need to clarify about our colorful beanies.

I had a phone call from **Mr. Gilmore** who takes care of collecting and shipping beanies to us from Kennewick Washington since **Mrs. Dolores Gilmore** passing in July 2010. Dolores (Angel #WA-47-001) organized over 200 beanie angels in Washington and collected over 7,000 beanies for us since June 2005. His concern at this time was that he heard someone mentioning that military will not accept colorful beanies like he is shipping us anymore. I must make this clear that our troops are happily accepting our beanies. I am not shipping part of their uniform to our troops. **Our mission is to boost our service member's wellness and morale with hand made beanies.** They are practical and yet giving them a touch of home and warm feeling. Please know that our colorful beanies are all well received for our purpose by our troops.

I received a note addressed to California Angel **L. Donnelly** on January 2011 from Major J.J. Smith in Baghdad, Iraq and it will answer this concern.

*“Dear Mrs. L. Donnelly,
I received your pretty beanie hat last spring as I arrived at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq. There were a bunch of beanies that were at the Morale, Health and Welfare Center. I picked the one you made because it was the prettiest. ☺ . I love the Brown and aqua colors. **I put it next to my bed, and it's been there for pretty much all of the 8 months I have been here in Iraq. It brings me comfort.** Thank you so much for your gift and for thinking of us over here
Sincerely,
J.J. Smith”*

So, in this issue of review 2010 I would like to report those memorable beanies and Angels. Please meet some of the Beanie Angels.



First beanie angel to reach making 1,000 beanies was **Grandma Kate Gibson** of Connecticut angel Ct-07-001 who now lives in Ohio. She marked this one as 1,000. Her original goal was to give us 1,000 but since she reached her first goal and had changed that number to 2,000 and she is very close to that number as of this writing. Regardless of her aching hands she is trying to make 2,000th.

Vera Robin Angel number WA-47-030 in Kennewick Washington made over 1,000. Now she is married and moved to Oregon but she is still kept making beanies for us. Besides making many beanies for OBFS she dose spend a lot of time volunteering for senior citizens yet her busy hands never have idle moments.

California angel CA-01-043 Mason Dittmar proudly presented us her 1,505th on July 31, 2010.



Mason Dittmar is California Angel CA-01-043. She is a knitter and last 6 years she has devoted most of her knitting time for us OBFS. I think for sure her contribution will reach 2,000 at middle of next year. This year alone she gave us 300 beanies. She also volunteers so many charity organizations for many years. I feel privileged to know that she is helping and giving us this much time for OBFS.



Miss. Hilynne Kent (TX-43-003) visited OBFS from Texas on February 10, 2010 she brought over 75 beanies to us. The reason of her visit to California is that she is celebrating her 90th birthday with her family here. Just look at my head, Miss. Lynn made this beanie with long black hair. Did I mentioned her age, would your believe the number?

It was one of very nice California sunny Saturday On May 2010. We OBFS volunteers gather to have some of the work done.



Miki & Bette Bertch May 2010

We have visitors from San Louis Obispo Northern California Ms. Bette Bertch is a California beanie angel CA-01-600. She is a friend of Barbara dye's mother who started beanie making club there. Bette and her daughters came down from San Louis Obispo to visit San Clement garden show. She knew Barbara will be here Saturday to help OBFS so they drop by to meet her. Of course she brought over bags full of her and club's beanie creations.



Bette & Barbara

Meet the "Nasty Knit Wits" in Peoria, Arizona. If all the self proclaimed **Nasty knitters** look this beautiful this whole world looks a lot different. Don't you agree?



"Our fun knitting group is located in Peoria, Arizona. We get-together usually about once a month or so., bring our knitting projects and share ideas as well as teach new ones. We are made up of many ages from young to retirees. We bring snacks and of course some great tasty wine, (for adults only) oh, and of course some laughable jokes and stories to share.

Please accept our beanies to include in your next shipment, along with this photo of some of our group. Each one is different and made with our men and women in mind who are serving our country from near and far.

Our Blessings and Safe Keeping are sent with each new Beanie!"
The Nasty Knit Wits Caren Gomez (President)



BACK ROW:
Lou Conder, Bea Aird
Gloria Bean
(WIN "Beanie Angels")

FRONT ROW:
Bea Langley, Kathy Rodenbeek
(Non WIN "Beanie Angels")

OTHERS WHO MAKE BEANIES:
(No picture)
Ethel Mastrantonio,
Betty Lenehan (WIN group)
Cecelia Fulton
Non WIN group)

These ladies are from WIN "Widows in the Neighborhood" in Las Vegas Nevada. They are attached to Nellis Air Force Base. Their work is exceptionally organized and documented with each shipment. They do not fool around with their project and I

learned a lot from these ladies.



These 457 beanies are from “Yarn Spinners” of Westminster Senior Center California. As of this month they have delivered over 8,000 beanies. Adelaide Balcom started helping OBFS in 2005 and called the meeting place as International Craft School. City of Westminster Mayor Rice and all the council members are very supportive of Yarn Spinners and OBFS. When Ginger Borden took over the leadership with Barbara Johnston

they continued to support OBFS. This group makes all different projects for different charities all year around. I visited them several times. They are all fun loving busy bees. The place is filled with laughter and their mouths and hands are constantly working.

Now you met some of our beanie angels in person. I will introduce you to more angels in near future on web site we are rebuilding. I must thank Tom Varin for being our web master for over 2 years. He gave us lot of his time and talent. There will be section called **“Meet our Beanie Angels”** and if you like to contribute you or your group picture to display on OBFS web site just send us the picture and the little note to describe it.

I also call OBFS support person as **Support Angel** and they are the person who mainly support OBFS general operation. Without these angles I can possibly make smooth and clean operation of OBFS. I also issue their angel numbers.

I received a prestigious award **“George Washington Medal of Honor”** from Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge On February 27, 2010. The award luncheon was held at Chapman University in City of Orange. We had horrible rain through the night and morning but for the occasion the sun was out and as soon as we got back the rain started again.



Some of our angels got wings and flew away and they left me with a lot of thoughts and love in the past 6 years.

Our angel **Louise Headlee** (CA-01-603) passed away in January 2011, her family requested to their family and friends to make cash contribution to OBFS. I am thankful for the support and I will carry Louise's passion and love of OBFS with me. I received the strength and conviction from these people and their love will help me to go on with this



Operation Beanies for Service Members for many years to come. I thank all of them and their families who are continuously supporting OBFS both financially and emotionally.

In this review, please note that you met some of our beanie angels, we received prestigious "**George Washington Medal Honor Award**" from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, and OBFS is on our way to collecting and shipping more "**Unspoilable Home Made Cookies with Soul**" to our troops. We will post more pictures and letters from troops on web site so you will be able to see them and know our efforts are well accepted by them.

So long for now and see you on new web site. It is so exciting to have this technology to create and communicate with you all. Make sure to bookmark the site as favorite and visit regularly as we update them.

Casting off with best wishes to all you angels,

Miki Sessler
(Founder OBFS)
miki@operationbeanies.org

P.S. It is getting increasingly difficult for me to provide news letters individually delivered to you due to the cost of printing, supplies and postage. Any extra postage stamps or office supplies or even cash contributions will be very much appreciated and put to good use. If you have over stocked yarn of any kind or size I am able to redistribute it through various organizations and individual beanie makers who will make beanies and return them to us. Please call me or e-mail me, we will make a pick up. OBFS is a self funded charity. Anything you contribute will be used exclusively for OBFS activities.