



Happy New Year!

This quarter's newsletter is about reflection, gratitude and the future.

What a great year!

We accomplished so much in 2023. With your help we distributed a total of **2040** Comfort and Care Packages to our troops, **250** Back Packs to our Homeless veterans, **12** Bulk Shipments to our local VA Pantry, provided **18** families with a brighter holiday season and helped our in-need families when a crisis arose which was just more than they could handle.

Throughout the year we had multiple fund raisers, on-line raffles, applied for and received 2 grants. We were the grateful beneficiaries of so many organizations choosing Holiday 4 Heroes as their sponsored charity. There were homeowner's associations, clubs, businesses, schools sponsoring supply drives and monetary donations. People and organizations, in the community, coming together on an evening or a Saturday to pack Comfort and Care Package and Backpacks. Organizations and neighbors hosting Mission Make Merry Wrapping Parties and families and groups adopting entire families. In addition, we had a couple of anonymous donors, one paid for a Holiday 4 Heroes family member to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum in DC and the other supplied funds to some of our families in crisis.

Thank You Holiday 4 Heroes Team!

Thank you to our team, Marie Dyer, ToniRae Hurley, Kelly Bias, Pauline Whalen, Tricia Rice, Leslea Ellis, Lawrence Crema, Madelyn Kish, Diane Yavor and Patti Rice Williams for your perseverance in providing for our heroes and ever willingness to pitch in and do whatever needs to be done. Your hearts are so large as is your determination to provide for others. You all make it happen! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Thank you to "Our Heroes"

Our biggest "Thanks" goes out to those who served and allow us to serve them.

Thank you to our Donors & Volunteers

We could not do what we do without you. Your never ending support for Holiday 4 Heroes keeps us inspired. We put out a plea and the response is always overwhelming. Your generosity in giving of yourselves in both your time and your donations makes our mission achievable. We can never thank you enough for all you do. Please accept our deepest gratitude.

Mission Make Merry 2023



What a heartwarming experience!

Our hearts are full. Because of you, we gave 18 in-need Military Families a brighter Holiday. With the help of our team, our amazing community and our Mission Make Merry Angels, we again provided a brighter Holiday Season for our families. We were greeted with big smiles and even some tears because of your generosity.

It takes a village - through the support of the community purchasing gifts and gift cards, to organizations contributing both their time and and resources and to the team making it all happen.

Special thanks to Leslea Ellis allowing us to take up her office space again this year and Trish Kinlaw for the tremendous task of organizing and keeping tract of it all.

Thank you once again to Ronin Riding Club for help with wrapping and assembling all the bikes. Your time and sponsorship is appreciated more than you know.

Thank you David and Tricia Rice for your donation of awesome

space for the Holiday 4 Heroes Headquarters and storing all the wrapped gifts until delivery.

Thank You all for helping make this happen!

Mission Make Merry Thank You

A big **THANK YOU** to the following groups who adopted entire families

- Gold Star Mom's of SW Florida
- Friends of 47th Street - Bonnie, JoAnn, Marie, Nancy, Linda, Carol and Pauline
- Ronin Riding Club
- The Kish Family
- PEO Sisterhood Chapter DF
- PEO Sisterhood Chapter GD

Thank you to our **15** Wrapping Hostesses and their Wrapping Elves wrapping hundreds of gifts for our Mission Make Merry Program.

- Santa's Helpers take tags and purchase presents and gift cards
- Santa's Elves Wrapping Teams hosted **15** Gift Wrapping Parties making these gifts look beautiful, for our families
- Santa's Elves Delivery Team delivering all of these presents to **18** families in one day.

Thank you to this quarter's generous donors

Magnolia Landings Community donated 143 boxes and \$1245.00 to help mail them.

St. Katherine Drexel donated 48 boxes from their supply drive a value of \$4800.00.

Bishop Verdot High School donated \$500 and lots of supplies for our Mission Make Merry Families Thanksgiving.

Keller Williams-Ft. Myers and the Islands a Holiday 4 Heroes Sponsor, did a Thanksgiving supply drive for our Mission Make Merry families.

Veterans of the Glen (Herons Glen) gave a generous donation to assist in our Mission Make Merry program.

Tara Woods, Pine Lakes and Lake Fairway communities donated \$7,450 during their Day of Caring Program.

Laguna Lakes community did a supply drive for our troops.

Hope United Methodist Church did a supply drive for our troops.

Gold Star Moms and Bluestar Moms generously donated to one of our families in need and helped them relocate after the passing of their Hero due to service-related issues.

Texas Roadhouse donated 10% of their sales for one evening.

Southwest Vendors for a Cause - Hosting Quarter Auction and Farmer's Market.

Midwest Food Bank our new partner.



Thank You Peter and Jonette!

The Holiday 4 Heroes Team would like to thank, Jonette and Peter, for being the "heart and soul" of Holiday 4 Heroes. You both give all you have - total unconditional love, commitment, dedication and endless work. Even though you were going through your own challenges this year you never missed a beat in your dedication to OUR HEROES. You truly inspire us. We love what you do, love working with you and love ♥ you both!



Thank You Midwest Food Bank

Special thanks to the Midwest food bank and Andrew at Round Table Provisions for your help with our monthly food offering for our Veteran families. We truly could not provide for these Heroes without your generosity.

The Future

Our Vision

Always be there for our heroes!

To accomplish this we need the continued support of our generous community.

How to support our heroes

- Become a **Sponsor**
- Become a Purse Bingo Sponsor
- Attend Events
- Purchase Monthly Raffle Tickets

- Pick up a box, fill it with supplies
- Buy supplies from the **Supply List** on our website
- Volunteer to help pack boxes, help at events or help out the team

- Make a monetary donation to help fill a package, fill a backpack for a homeless veteran, **help fill a truck** for our VA Pantry, **Pay for mailing** for a **package** or just **make a General Donation**

- Donate Gift Cards from your business for our raffles and events
- Do a **"Birthday Fundraiser"**
- Establish an **"In Memory"** for a loved one
- Pick up a gift card or gift for our Mission Make Merry Holiday Program

For More information about these programs - visit our website

holiday4heroes.com

Does your company have a "Matching Gift Program"?

Many companies have a matching gift program – How it works. You make a donation directly to Holiday 4 Heroes or through your Workplace Giving Program, and your employer will donate the same! Gifts from employees' spouses and retirees may also qualify for a match.

Your company may also match the hours you volunteer for Holiday 4 Heroes.

We would be humbled and grateful of you to choose us for this program.

Become a Holiday 4 Heroes Sponsor

Join our amazing list of Holiday 4 Heroes Sponsors. They are business owners, Foundations, clubs and individual donors. You will become a part of our Holiday 4 Heroes Community and will derive so many benefits both personally and professionally.

Please take a moment and visit our Sponsor Page to view the benefits of becoming a Holiday 4 Heroes Sponsor.

It's so easy visit our Sponsor Page!

[Holiday 4 Heroes Sponsorship Levels](#)

[You can even pay on our website!](#)

Our Yearly Sponsors Thank You for your continued support!

Gunterberg Charitable
Foundation
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Southern Door and Hardware
Ms. Liz Marnul
Ronin Riding Club

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
Keller Williams Ft. Myers and
The Islands - Laurie Johnstone
Leslea Ellis, LLC
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Ms. Anna Boots Tolles

American Legion Post 236
Cheetah Printing
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David and Linda VanderRoest
Dixie Buick
DLS Construction

Ms. Monika Jennings
Paradies Lagardere
Personal Touch Catering
Ray and Pauline Whalen
WB Williamson Bros
5 Suns Charitable Foundation

Our Team

Jonette Kessack
Peter Kessask
Kelly Byas
Lawrence Cremia
Leslea Ellis
Marie Dyer

ToniRae Hurley
Madelyn Kish
Tricia Rice
Pauline Whalen
Diane Yavor
Patti Rice Williams



Thank you Dr. CarolRae Culliton and the Gutenberg Charitable Foundation for again being Holiday 4 Heroes Presenting Sponsor. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please visit our website for More Information about Holiday 4 Heroes holiday4heroes.com

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