



# Merry Christmas!

## *The JDF Footprints*

by Carolyn D. Jenkins

### December 2016 Newsletter



**Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noël, Frohe Weihnachten, Kala Christouyenna, Buon Natale, Mele Kalikimaka, Meri krismas and Vesele Vanoce!** No matter what language you say it in, it brings a spirit of hope, peace and love. That night, many many moons ago, the sky opened up and an angelic choir sang out glad tidings. The star that lit up the sky is still lighting up the sky, emanating a spirit of love. That star brought strangers together in search of a long-promised king. The promise did not fail, and it is still bringing strangers together.

Amid all the hustle, bustle and commercialism, people sing and smile during this time of year. Strangers laugh and talk as they stand in lines. The promise of hope, peace and a brighter future fill the air. Children all over the globe are counting down the days until Christmas.

***What's The JDF doing?*** The JDF team is in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, scurrying here and there. We're working to ensure we can spread as much Christmas cheer and love as possible. It's getting cold outside and we know there are lots of people who need shoes, socks and foot care supplies during the winter months, especially the homeless.

One of the vulnerable groups of homeless citizens in the US are **veterans**. Although one homeless veteran is one too many, the August 1, 2016 U.S. Department of Defense Veterans White House press release provided positive news. The number of homeless veterans is declining. There are less than **40,000 homeless** who have been identified as veterans. This decrease is due in large part to partnership efforts between organizations.

The JDF partnered with our new friends at the **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 341 and internationally recognized architecture and interior design firm, BBGM**. BBGM Director Alfred H. Gooden, III wanted to gift veterans with backpacks this Christmas. Each backpack BBGM delivered to the VFW had socks, a shirt and a hat, along with a blanket, ready for delivery to a homeless vet. The VFW enlisted help from The JDF and we will 'bonus pack' the backpacks. We will provide shoes, socks, toe warmers, toenail clippers and foot care supplies to the vets. Thank you to BBGM and Director Alfred H. Gooden, III for their generosity. We also thank VFW Post 341 Commander Allen White, Past Dept.

Commander John Johnson and Dept. Quarter Master ‘Snapper’ Danzy for partnering with us. This Christmas will be a little warmer for some of the vets who sacrificed so much in service to our country.



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Danzy, Mr. Gooden, Mr. Johnson, Mr. White, Ms. Kraus, Mr. Mascaro, JDF Board members, Carolyn and Robert Jenkins. Backpacks and blankets line the table and floor.



JDF Board member and veteran Robert Jenkins poses with Mr. Johnson, and a Vietnam veteran who is given a backpack and blanket from Mr. White and Mr. Danzy.

### ***‘Wanna Help The Homeless In Your Area?***

“The poor will be with you always.” During these cold winter months, the homeless are particularly vulnerable.

There is a shortage of beds in metropolitan areas and sadly, many of the homeless would rather brave the cold than go to a shelter. According to ‘Doorways for women and families,’ **there are 600,000 homeless. 1.35 million of the homeless are children.** The JDF is still collecting slightly used and new shoes for the homeless and the needy. Shoes protect our feet from illness and the dangers in our environments.

You can help the homeless and those in transition in your area by volunteering to collect shoes from your family, friends and coworkers. Join The JDF team and help your friends empty out their closets. We’ll work with you to establish partnership opportunities so you can provide shoes to the needy in your area. Your volunteer efforts can provide a bit a dignity and protection to the underserved in your community. “We are our brother’s keeper.”

***You Can Help The JDF!*** Thank you to everyone who supported The JDF on Giving Tuesday. Black Friday and Cyber Monday broke shopping records all over the US. Giving Tuesday didn’t break any records but it’s not too late for you to make a **Year End Donation to The JDF.** In addition to making a monetary donation to The JDF, you can help our fundraising efforts.

We’re collecting **unused gift cards!** If you or your friends are given gift cards that you don’t need or want to use, please consider donating them to us. We use gift cards to purchase foot care supplies, shoes and socks for the homeless. We also use gift cards for our fundraising endeavors. Patrons can bid on these gift cards and their contributions allow us to continue to purchase items for the homeless. Got a gift card? Contact us at [thejdf@jdffeeet.org](mailto:thejdf@jdffeeet.org) or mail it to Box 473 Garrisonville, VA 22463. We’ll put it to good use! Thank you!

***The JDF Winter Wish List!*** We’re providing supplies to the homeless through March. Please take a few minutes and **click on the large pink button on our home page. It has our Winter Wish List of supplies that includes shoe strings, toe warmers, toe nail clippers, bandages and lots more.** You can make donations to help us purchase these items or you can purchase them and mail them to us!

***Happy New Year!*** Please remember to make your tax deductible **Year End donation to The JDF by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

From our family to your family, have a blessed, safe and  
Happy Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and New Year!

**Change your world in 2017!**