



The JDF Footprints



By Executive Director Carolyn D. Jenkins

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April showers bring May flowers and shoes! Each spring gardeners turn over the dirt in their gardens and plant seeds. Sometimes the seeds yield beautiful flowers and other times, those seeds provide a bounty of fresh vegetables we can enjoy.

Members of the **Stroller Warriors** planted seeds of love by volunteering to collect shoes. The shoes pictured

above magically sprouted out of the ground! Well, not exactly, but this group of dedicated volunteers collected an impressive bounty of shoes for the less fortunate.

The Stroller Warriors is a unique running club composed of military spouses. Established in 2010 at Camp Lejeune, Stroller Warriors chapters have sprouted up all over the world.

With a special focus on military families, the Stroller Warriors help meet the needs of families all over the world, helping them enjoy healthier and happier lives through fitness. As the spring season got underway, our new friends at Stroller Warriors went to work.

Every gardener understands the time, and labor investment gardening requires. The harvest does not magically appear. The seeds need to be watered and tended regularly. In this case, the Stroller Warriors at the Quantico, Virginia chapter established their game plan.

They collected new and gently used shoes over a four week period. As they jogged, they spread the word to their friends and neighbors. When the group met each week, the members brought shoes for the collection box. Soon, they needed multiple collections boxes to hold their bounty.

The members made numerous telephone calls to remind their friends and family about their collection efforts. When shoes weren't brought in to the collection boxes, drivers stepped up and drove around to different homes to pick up shoes.

Some members checked shoes to ensure they were in good shape. They thoughtfully sorted the shoes for children, men, and women. When we arrived to pick up the shoes, the

Quantico Stroller Warriors had collected eleven dozen pairs of new and gently used shoes!

The recipients of the shoes the Stroller Warriors collected were very grateful. Shoes are not readily available to those in need, and often the underserved are forced to wear ill-fitting shoes.

The seeds of love the Stroller Warriors planted will help many families live much healthier and happier lives. **Thank You Quantico Stroller Warriors and Stroller Warriors everywhere!!** The work you do is making a big difference. We salute you and Happy **National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 11, 2018.**



Wanna' volunteer and donate?
Contact us at thejdf@jdfffeet.org



**Have a great month and
Happy Mother's Day!!**