

## **South Central PA Blue Star Mothers**

### **PA Chapter #2**

### **Annual Report**

**8/31/10 to 8/2/11**

For our chapter...

- We changed our name to more accurately reflect the area we cover
- Two of us attended the PTS Dinner and Panel hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter
- We met members of the new Central PA Chapter for lunch
- We sat on the Pennsylvania House floor with Blue Star Mothers of other chapters as the resolution proclaiming May as Blue Star Mothers Month in Pennsylvania was passed. Then we all went out to lunch!
- Some of us attended one of Central PA's meeting to hear a speaker
- We contacted approximately 100 churches and all of our state and national senators and representatives to let them know who we are and how we can be reached
- We posted signs about our chapter on many community bulletin boards
- We increased our community presence by volunteering to help with the Healing Field, participating in Support our Troops Day, and setting up a stand at Dutch Days, a local festival

For our troops...

- We sent monthly care packages to those that were deployed
- We sent a special Christmas package with wrapped presents and another package of all homemade cookies to those overseas
- We sent giftcards at Christmas to those who were stateside and we sent a package of homemade cookies to anyone that could not make it home for the holidays
- We collected donations from many area businesses and organizations to include in our care packages
- We held donation drives at Nell's Market where we collected items for our packages
- We sent cards for holidays and birthdays to those that were stationed in the states
- We had school children and Girls Scouts make cards and write letters
- We worked with a knitting group at the Lutheran Home to make scarves for the winter months in Afghanistan
- We donated 170 mini-blue-star banners to the families of the 307<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade in New Kensington, PA
- We donated money for deployment supplies and had two members attend the 29<sup>th</sup> CAB deployment ceremony in Maryland
- We assisted a Family Readiness Support Group at a pre-integration event and donated deployment gifts for a Maryland National Guard Unit

- We adopted the 635<sup>th</sup> MCT from western PA and a MD Guard unit and sent them packages each month

#### For our Wounded Warriors...

- We volunteered for events at Walter Reed Hospital such as Oktoberfest and Springfest
- We made blankets for patients at Walter Reed and at Landstuhl Regional Hospital in Germany
- We taught a class of 5th graders and a group of women at the Lutheran Home how to make the blankets
- We had two donation drives and sent 31 packages of new clothing, backpacks, and personal hygiene items to Landstuhl

#### For our Fallen Heroes...

- We marched in the Memorial Day Parade and carried banners with the names of 10 Fallen Heroes from our area
- We attended a Memorial Day Service
- We presented eight families with Gold Star Banners
- We sent two families framed poems on the death of their loved ones – the Fallen Heroes were friends of two of our member's children
- We sent cards and white roses to our Gold Star Families on Gold Star Mothers' Sunday
- We have cooperated with the other Pennsylvania Blue to Gold Liaisons to make sure that every Fallen Hero's family in our state receives a Gold Star Banner even if they are in an area with no chapter

#### For our veterans...

- We passed out thank you cards before the Memorial Day Parade
- We donated personal hygiene items to the York County Veterans Center, several veterans' hospitals, and a veterans' homeless shelter
- We attended three Veterans' Day ceremonies
- We attended a POW/MIA ceremony

Respectfully submitted,  
 Laurie Menges, president  
 South Central PA Blue Star Mothers  
 Chapter #2

*A Blue Star Mother,  
 A Gold Star Sister,  
 And a proud American*