



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

## December 2022



Happy Holidays Sisters!!

I am sending warm wishes for a Happy Hanukkah, a wonderful Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year! I hope many of you will get to spend special time with your families and friends.

Many of our members have been going through hard times this year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers

Then NEB will be off from Dec 22nd till Jan 5th for the holidays.

The online store will also be closed from Dec 22nd -Jan 5th.

The NEB will be at the Mid-Year meeting from Jan 12th - Jan 16th 2023. It is a working meeting so we will have our laptops with us. The online store will be closed during this time as well.

Peace and love from my family to yours!

Stacy Anders, National President 2021-2023



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Presidents Message	1
Holiday Wishes from the NEB	2
VAVS Message	3
Fundraising/Projects	4-6
Chapters/Dept. In Action	7-30
Holiday Wishes	31-34



**Blessings and Holiday Wishes  
From the NEB**

**Wishing You a New Year  
full of peace and joy!**

*Stacy, Rebecca, Karen, Cheree,  
Brenda, Marisol, Sonya, Alethea,  
Carla, Anne, Jackie, Karla and Lynn*



## Happy Holidays from the VAVS Team

This month, December, is the busiest month for our VAVS folks. We are seeing so many amazing photos of activities at your local VA facilities. The trees being decorated in the lobby, the packages being delivered with holiday treats and the joy on the faces of our veterans and our volunteers. We would love to showcase the photos in the January national newsletter! Please send to [vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us) a few photos that we can put into a collage.

When you complete your December report be sure to include your activities and donations as well as your hours of time volunteering at the facilities. If your chapter moms attended an event with you, please include them in your occasional hours and be sure they signed in.

We look forward to a wonderful 2023 with new volunteers joining our team. If you are interested, please let our National VAVS Representative, Anne Parker, know in January.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and our best wishes to your families.

*Anne Parker, Doreen Berggren and Carol Sanchez*

Blue Star Mothers, Inc

December 2022



# FUNDRAISING & GIVING

Quarterly newsletter to help our chapters with fundraising ideas including ideas on where to give and donate!



Happy New Year, Let's Make 2023 The Best Year Yet!!

## Money,

How to raise it and utilize it to serve our military and veteran community.

First I want to start out by reminding chapters that although not required it is recommended to keep a surplus of at least 6 months of chapter expenses in the bank.

Once you have your surplus, we can move on to the fun part of the organization, giving and supporting. This newsletter is here to help give you ideas on how to use your money.

If you don't have very much money right now, don't despair this will also include ways to raise money for your chapter.

*Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email [fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us)*

## Cool and Fun Ways to Raise Money

- **GIVE IT UP CHALLENGE**

This is fun; people join the challenge and agree to give up something for a set period of time (such as Starbucks), and instead, they give the money to your chapter.

- **PAINTED TILES/BRICKS**

Sell engraved/painted tiles to families and businesses to be displayed on a gratitude wall. Talk to the city, businesses, or anyone willing to donate a wall of their business inside or out; think busy hallways.

- **VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION**

Get donated new items, trips, gift cards, etc, assemble baskets/packages, and auction them to the public. Perfect for Valentine's Day!

Looking for a no fee way to collect donations?

Try: [GiveSendGo.com](https://www.givesendgo.com)

- **COMMUNITY BONFIRE EVENT**

Collect pallet donations from local businesses and partner with your local fire department for safety regulations. Sell tickets ahead of time and recruit volunteers to ensure a safe, fun-filled evening.

- **SHOE CAMPAIGN**

Collect new and gently used sneakers/boots for those in need in other countries and partner with The Fundraising Campaign; they will buy the shoes from you. 700 pairs \$1500+ money for your chapter.

- **PET PHOTO CONTEST**

Have people enter a photo of their pet. People can vote with money (\$1=1 Vote). Check out [gogophotocontest.com](https://gogophotocontest.com)

- **PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISING**

Check out [donorbox.com](https://donorbox.com). You, your family, businesses, and others can create free donation webpages to share with all of their people and grab donations on your behalf. This looks like a fun ongoing event.

Businesses can have the donor page at the footer of all their email communications, etc. & on their website.

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*Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email [fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us)*

## Ways to support and give!

- **SUPPORT ANOTHER CHAPTER**

Team up and support another BSM Chapter that may need funds to do care packages.

- **HOST A FARWELL BREAKFAST**

(Or welcome home dinner)  
You can host a breakfast for high school and college students heading off to the military in your community.

- **FILL AND DONATE DIAPER BAGS**

Purchase a new diaper bag and fill it with essentials for expectant active duty and veteran mothers.

You could even create toddler bags with toys and clothes as well to donate.

- **HOST A CARD MAKING EVENT**

Host a local event and invite the community to come and make cards to send to the troops or newly enlisted at basic training. Purchase snacks and supplies to make decorate and make the cards.

- **DOOR DECORATION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

Host a craft day, purchase all the supplies, and gather your chapter and community to make door decorations for military families in the community. Let families put in a request to get a door decoration.

- **BEEF UP CARE PACKAGES**

Splurge a bit for items inside the care packages. Purchase more beef jerky, trail mix, and healthy snacks that typically cost more and are not usually donated.



**Share successful fundraising ideas with us!**

*Suzi Freeman*  
Fundraising Chair

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**Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email [fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us)**

# Dept. of Michigan

## Convention 2022-2023



## Quilts of Valor Shining Star Nancy Vos

Quilts of Valor recipients, left to right; Mary Patterson, US Navy - Lorena Stein-Bignell, US Army - Sgt. Phillip Wise, US Air Force - Hollie DiMaggio, US Army - Debbie Rasmussen, US Navy

Sgt. Wise talked to us about Operation Baby Lift. He is the only survivor from the cargo hold of the plane that crashed shortly after take off while carrying children out of the country at the end of the Vietnam War.

# Congratulations Dept. Michigan 2022-2023 Board

President, Jacqueline Ransom; 1stVP,  
Trudy Wysocki— 2VP, Stacy Jarvis—3rd  
VP, Brenda King-Gibson—Recording  
Secretary, Kathryn Gross-Jacek—  
Financial Secretary, Mary Sherwood—  
Treasurer, Kim Muller

No Board photo available

# Michigan BD Board



## 2022-2023

President, Pat Lomonaco - 1VP, Claudette Lunney -  
Recording Secretary, Jennifer Brouwer - Financial  
Secretary, Brandi Olsson - Treasurer, Tanya Lahr



## Sisterhood



## BD Tea Party



## National Officers



## Fun

# Dept. MN Board



# Installation

Left to right; Terri Hawkinson, Treasurer—Pam Dickson, Financial Secretary—Jeanne Ullmer, Recording Secretary—Karla Keller, President—Pam McCabe, 1st VP—Jennifer Swedberg, 2nd VP— Gail Genen , 3rd VP



# Dept MN Convention 2022-2023



# DEB with 3 NEB Members





# Dept of MN

November is always a busy month for everyone, that includes Blue Star Mothers!

Our chapters are all completing compliance, prepping for Thanksgiving, some preparing for a major troop packing and some are saying their goodbyes to their child for deployment. Oh how I remember those goodbyes. My heart goes out to all of you who will be missing your child, this time of year especially.

Our Department fundraiser is to help a flower shop, who receives orders from around the world, place a wreath at their family member's gravesite at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. In honor of Veterans Day and the holidays, we placed 220 wreaths. It was a wonderful day to be together and remember our fallen. In turn they give us a generous donation for our help. We also lay flowers at two other times of the year.

We are holding our Gold Star Families in our hearts, who will have an empty chair at their table.

Sending our prayers to families who have a child deployed that their family member will be home with them soon.

We hope those with a child stateside will be able to spend time with them at some point.



Dept. of MN gives away reading glasses at the MACV Home for the Holidays. MN 7 and MN 11 pictured above



WISCONSIN BLUE STAR MOTHERS  
CHAPTER 1 – DECEMBER 2022



Deployment box packing



Snack Packing!



Joyful!



Serving our Veterans a lunch makes us happy!



76 Veterans served  
a home cooked  
meal in Honor of  
Veteran's Day!



# GREENVILLE UPSTATE SC4



## BON SECOURS FESTIVAL OF TREES

We always look forward to participating in the festival of trees. There is nothing better than getting into the holiday spirit by decorating our Blue Star Mother tree at the Hyatt Downtown Greenville, SC. We love showing off how proud we are of our sons and daughters and using this opportunity to share our mission with our community.

## HOLIDAY CARE PACKAGE PACK-OUT

On November 12th we held our annual holiday care package pack-out. With the help of our Blue Star Dads, the Furman University Army ROTC, friends, and neighbors we packed 90 care packages to be mailed to our troops.



## DONATIONS

We received many generous donations from our community to include in our packages including Halloween candy, Chick-fil-A sauces, games, personal care items, and many, many snacks.



[www.greenvilleupstatebsm.com](http://www.greenvilleupstatebsm.com)



# Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chapter PA16



Veterans Day Parade  
November 11



Volunteered: Served food at Veterans Breakfast  
November 12



Donated: USO Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets  
November 17



Monthly Meeting - November 17

# Buckeye Military Moms OH9



It is December and we are in the holiday season as well as the holiday spirit!

Our members helped decorate a holiday tree at our local VA medical center.



We packed boxes (a few times) to send to deployed troops, sending them goodies as well as, hopefully, some holiday cheer!



We provided a delicious Italian dinner at our local American Legion, raising over \$1000 for American Legion Post 239. We also gave all our veterans a patriotic pin!

At the beginning of December, we had our holiday party at a local restaurant – lots of fun, laughter, and hugs, as well as an ornament exchange!



**From Chapter 9, we wish a happy holiday to all, and a wonderful 2023!**



# Greater Birmingham, Alabama AL4

BSM AL4 Chapter holds our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at Kelly Ingram VFW. We will be changing our meeting style in 2023 and meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at locally owned restaurants around town to hopefully increase meeting attendance.

We have a Facebook page ([facebook.com/bsmal4](https://www.facebook.com/bsmal4)) and Instagram ([bsm\\_al4](https://www.instagram.com/bsm_al4)).

Our website is updated often: [bluestarmothersbirmingham.weebly.com](https://bluestarmothersbirmingham.weebly.com)



We had six members at this month's meeting. This was our last meeting at the Kelly Ingram VFW. We are very thankful for the support they have provided over the last year. We discussed upcoming events and planned our next year.



On Oct 22, we celebrated our 1-year chartering anniversary. It was enjoyable time to fellowship and share our military mom stories



BSM AL4 and a local school worked together to donate to 3 Hots and a Cot, a local organization that helps homeless veterans



National Night Out in Sylvan Springs. Lots of fun in our community and hanging out with the Mayor



In 1947, Raymond Weeks, from Birmingham, AL, led a delegation to establish November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans Day. Birmingham is home to the oldest Veterans Day Parade. BSM Greater Birmingham was honored to participate in the Veterans Day Awards Dinner and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade.





SPRING CREEK AREA TX18

BLUE STAR MOTHERS



MERRY CHRISTMAS



# NE 2 Heartland Moms



Heartland Moms, together with some Gold Star moms braved the cold to show support during the Lincoln Veterans Day parade Sunday, November 13th.

Heartland Moms served Veterans in Lincoln, NE a Thanksgiving lunch on Wednesday, November 23rd. An added bonus, they got to meet some Nebraska football players as well.





*Camp Arifjan*

**SACRAMENTO - CA7  
BLUE STAR MOMS**  
*November 2022 Packing Event*



*Military Support*  
A local unit packed boxes for deployed comrades.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
HELPED SHIP 400 BOXES**



*Businesses & Groups*

The VFW, AL, Elks, County Offices, Businesses, Utility Companies, Scouts, Schools, Pageant winners, Sports Teams, and more held donation drives and packed boxes.



*Postage Funds Received*

Blue Star Moms Debbie Konvalin and Jamie Hazen and Associate Debbie Balich announce the proceeds from the Moose for the Troops fundraiser sponsored by Roseville Moose Lodge.





# MN 7

## Minnesota Chapter 7 – North Metro

Chapter Members helped pack meal bags with Meals from the Heart, to be distributed to our National Guard members for Thanksgiving. Members also delivered to a National Guard Army.



Annual "We Care" Box Packing to send to our troops.



Donated a Trex bench to the Palmer Lake VFW – we collected 500 lbs. of plastic.



Presentation of Appreciation from Minnesota Solider and Family Support from 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division



Chapter members collected toys in conjunction with Dollar Tree Stores and Operation Homefront and they were donated to our local National Guard Army, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon for their Military family holiday party, Palmer Lake VFW for their holiday party and the Eagles Healing Nest.



"Adopted" a MACV apartment building for transitioning homeless veterans and made holiday bags for the residents with fun and useful items.



# Greater Kalamazoo Area MI Chapter 186



Our youngest Associate, Vanna Jensen was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her volunteer service assisting us with the project



Stephanie and her Mom preparing labels for the boxes

Our Kellogg Marketing Department representative, Matt Esterline was given a certificate of appreciation for the wonderful support and the donation. His son, Jackson, a scout, helped packed 46 of the 156 boxes. What a wonderful scout he is, We also presented him with a certificate for his help with this event.



December 3rd Louisiana 528th National Guard Family Day! We provided desserts for over 300 guard families. Pictured are Jayme Watson with CPT Roach, a grateful recipient of items we delivered on several trips



# LA 6



## Christmas Parade



## Veterans Day



## 126 Box Packing

# LA 7 Chapter Central, LA



## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Our November Project was Hometown Hero Banners. This year our community purchased 34 banners which were displayed on major highways in our town for the entire month of November.

Several of our Chapter members along with members from Chapter 1 and one of our Blue Star Mothers from Illinois attended a "Veterans Day Ceremony in Ascension Parish". We enjoyed Retired Air force Brigadier General Paul Tibbets IV interesting speech.

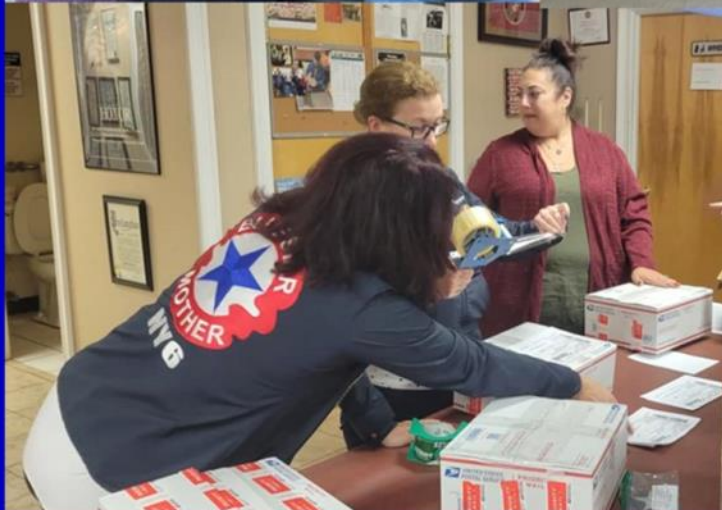


Our Moms attended the Central Veterans Day Ceremony and we were honored that our Corresponding Secretary Sandy Stockwell gave a brief speech during the program.



We rode in The central Veterans Day Parade and threw goodies to the spectators!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!!**



## Blue Star Moms Chapter NY 6

On Sept. 23rd, our 2022-2023 new slate of officers were installed to serve on the Blue Star Moms NY6 board. On Sept 25th, we remembered all those who lost their loved ones in the name of Freedom on Gold Star Families Day. Woman Veterans were honored and awarded medals at the Cradle of Aviation on October 15th. On Oct 27th, we prepared packages full of supplies to send overseas to our deployed soldiers. In packed auditoriums, on November 10th, 2 schools paid tribute to Veterans and invited us to participate. On Veterans Day, we visited Calverton National Cemetery to pay tribute to our deceased soldiers and veterans. On November 14th, what better way to relieve stress and get fit than with a Veterans Gratitude Yoga class. We collected teddy bears to be given to children this holiday season for the Red Knight Motorcycle Club Teddy Bear Drive held on November 20th. A Big Shout Out to the Terryville Fire Dept. Our BSM Chapter NY6 President Peggy Dinkelman gave out Certificates of Appreciation to those who made our efforts easier along the way .

# NY7 Buffalo-Niagara

## VA Football Pizza Party

## WNY Heroes Women Veterans Retreat



## A Look Back at our 2022 Activities



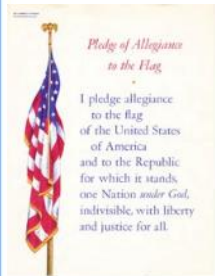
## 125 Holiday Care Packages for our Troops

## WNY Freedom Lounge Christmas

**BLUE STAR MOTHERS**  
  
**FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4**



VA4 attended the Celebrate Virginia Group's Golf Pasta Dinner. Teresa Sumners, and Debby Krieter lead the Pledge of Allegiance. They presented a plaque to us in recognition of sponsoring a golf hole.



Tremendous THANK YOU! to Mary Kulesa, Norka Kletzke, Sue Gass-Burson, Alicia Salyer and Pat Stello our Financial Book Review Committee.



Wreaths placed at Quantico National Cemetery in recognition of our local fallen heroes and roses at our family members headstones.



# Blue Star Mothers NC 15



Fancine-Financial Secretary and Mary-1VP. Veterans Day Parade Charlotte November 5, 2022



Photo- Francine, Jill, owner's son, Fostoria

Planet Mitsubishi of Charlotte donates money to organizations that support our Military and Veterans. The owner's son raced cars in July as a fundraiser. He with the recommendation of Abby selected our chapter to donate the money too. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Planet Mitsubishi of Charlotte has donated us a check. April 2022 check \$11,000

Daughters of American Revolution presented Fostoria Pierson with the Medal of Honor April 2022.

Sister- Letitia Marine Air Force Veteran

Son -Major Booker and spouse Allison

Twin daughters Andria & Adria

Granddaughter Sarah



Blue Star Mothers hosted its first Gold Star Mothers and Families Ceremony on September 25, 2022. Eleven Gold Star Mothers, three Gold Star Fathers and a host of Gold Star Family members, numerous Veterans and their family members attended.

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

December 17<sup>th</sup>- Wreath placement at Veterans Cemetery

December 22<sup>nd</sup>- Christmas Flower Workshop



Several members enjoyed an amazing (and free!) performance by the United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Choir on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Marcus Performing Arts Center in downtown Milwaukee, WI.

This past month our group was as active as ever! We kicked off the holiday season with sisterhood and devotion to our military community by supporting the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin who organized their first Winter Banquet. Our chapter reserved 2 tables for the event, purchased quite a few raffle tickets and even won a fabulous auction item!



The call for bakers and box packers was heeded by our group! Operation Home Baked collected thousands of homemade cookies, holiday candies & homemade cards from local school children! Items were sorted & boxes were packed, weighed and shipped to members of our military serving abroad as well as those stateside, but unable to come home for the holidays.



We held the last meeting of 2022 on December 13<sup>th</sup> with over 30 members in attendance. In addition to our gift exchange, we had dinner catered by Java Dreams as well as delightful appetizers and desserts brought in by members. The icing on the cake... all the donations collected for Veterans Outreach of WI.



## Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers IN8

Chapter IN8 has been busy since you last heard from us. We held our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Golf Outing in September, participated in Family Day at Army National Guard 1-293rd, Veteran's Day Parade, packing and shipping Thanksgiving and Christmas Care packages, received a BIG surprise at our local VFW, and held our annual Christmas Veteran Care event where we packed over 50 Christmas Stockings for our local VA Hospital Outpatient and Oncology patients. We're looking forward to 2023 and bigger and better things to come! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



### 2022 Golf Outing – Remembering our Blue Daisies



### Family Day 1-293<sup>rd</sup> – Veterans Day Parade



### VFW 857 Presenting a BIG check for \$2100 – Christmas Stockings for VA Hospital

From your sisters in Massachusetts, we wish all our military families a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season. For the Fall season, we held our October meeting at a local, family-run farm enjoying the sunshine, each other's company, live music and good ol' fashion New England scenery and hospitality.

# MA 3



As we celebrated Veteran's Day, November was filled with several activities including the Worcester Veterans Inc. 5K Run; Worcester Veterans Inc. annual pancake breakfast and the Sturbridge Home of the Brave 5K where we held a fund-raiser. We made many connections while chatting with other military organizations learning about the services they provide. Of course we spread the word about BSMs too! We also recognized our U.S. Marine's on their November 10th birthday.



[www.CreativeCertificates.com](http://www.CreativeCertificates.com)

Blue Star Mothers Utah Chapter 1 worked all year on a tree for the Festival of Trees in Sandy, Utah. Every tree is auctioned off and the money donated to Primary Children's Hospital. Our tree was in remembrance of all service members and we took our ornaments to community and Gold Star Events as well as the Utah Military Academy in Riverdale, Utah where ornaments were decorated with remembrances of specific service members from the past, present and future. At the base of the tree were boots for each of the past, present and future. The tree raised \$2,000 Pictures of the completed tree are available at <https://www.facebook.com/UtahBlueStarMothersChapterOne/>

# Utah 1





*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from  
Chicago Land Blue Star Mothers 926*

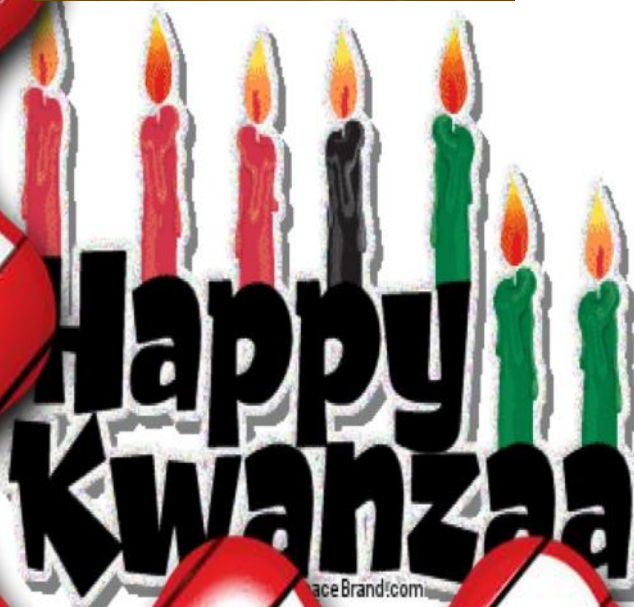


**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

Happy  
Hanukkah



Happy  
Holidays





J.F. TRACY

**A COOL SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS!**



May the magic  
and the wonder  
of the holiday season  
stay with you  
throughout  
the coming year