

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil
Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>
www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard
www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard
https://twitter.com/SD_Guard



December 11, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD Guard delivers winter clothing, toys to those in need

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard delivered more than 1,200 winter clothing items and toys statewide this week to help bring warmth and joy to people in need this winter season.

The donated clothing, including coats, mittens, hats, scarves and blankets, and toys for children were dispersed by Guard members to a variety of social service organizations in the communities in which they serve.

Soldiers and Airmen, as well as members of local communities, dropped off new and gently used items from October through December at National Guard armories and Air Force installations located in 22 South Dakota communities.

This is the second time a clothing and toy drive was coordinated by members of the SDNG.

“The response we got back was phenomenal,” said Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, SDNG chaplain. “People’s hearts are generous and they expressed the joy they felt when distributing the clothes and toys to places within their own community. I think this drive was very successful and as I like to say our winters are cold but our hearts are warm.”

Chaplain assistant Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, who participated in delivering the donations to four organizations in Rapid City, felt the immediate gratification of giving to those in need.

“The positive impact this drive has was solidified for me as I saw the people who are going to benefit from the donations,” said Watkins. “It feels good to know that we are helping our local community.”

-30-

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



151208-Z-XW157-003: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, right, and Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, both members of the South Dakota National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters, haul boxes of winter clothing items and toys to social service organizations in support of people in need this winter season in Rapid City, S.D., Dec. 8, 2015. Community members, Soldiers and Airmen statewide donated more than 1,200 items to include blankets, mittens, coats, hats and toys. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)



151208-Z-CW157-002: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins and Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, deliver clothing and toys donated by community members, Soldiers and Airmen for the SDNG's second winter clothing and toy drive at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Dec. 8, 2015. More than 1,200 items to include blankets, mittens, coats, hats and toys were donated in a statewide effort to help bring warmth and joy to those in need this winter season. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)



151208-Z-CW157-001: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, a member of the South Dakota National Guard, hands a toy to a little girl outside of The Hope Center in Rapid City, S.D., Dec. 8, 2015. Community members, Soldiers and Airmen statewide donated more than 1,200 items to include blankets, mittens, coats, hats and toys to social service organizations. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.