Once a week for most of the year, nine white-haired elves lean over workbenches at Rockwood Lane retirement community, carving and crafting beautiful new toys for children in need.

The “Rockwood Elves” are led by Bob Manning, a father of nine children, who first started making toys for his own grandchildren in the expansive woodshop added to the home that he and his wife built in California. Soon he added toys for his church and before he knew it he and twelve other friends were making thousands of toys for local charities.

When the Mannings moved into Rockwood Lane retirement community in 2007, Bob brought his impressive collection of shop tools with him—along with his desire to continue making toys. The Rockwood shop was in a sorry state with dilapidated equipment.

So Bob struck a deal: “I approached Allen Currier, the CEO of Rockwood, and said, ‘If you will agree to support a group of men making toys in the shop, I’ll donate my tools. He jumped at the idea.”

Bob asked for volunteers and was joined by Jack Harvey, Harry Hendron, Lynn Jackson, Bill Paulson and Peter Yocum. They start work in mid-January to have everything ready for Christmas. They work for two hours, one day a week to create dozens of hand-carved trains, frogs, cradles and trucks (a few pictured to the left)—all with moving parts.

“We decide early in the year what we’re going to build and then we start cutting out lumber for the various toys,” says Bob. “We usually try to make about 18 of each kind. Rockwood supplies the lumber. First we cut out all the pieces. Then they have to be rounded and sanded and smoothed and so forth so there’s no slivers for the kids. Then we do the assembly and gluing together and finish them with a non-toxic oil.”

“We try to make them as sturdy as possible. Because these are for small children and they take a beating.” Each toy takes about eight to ten hours to complete.

This December the Rockwood Elves delivered nearly 100 gorgeous wooden toys. Each one hand-crafted with love for a lifetime of play.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, another group is assembling a different kind of holiday cheer. When Cathy Lobe and Betsy Blake hit the holiday sales, they aren’t filling their carts with electronics and toys. They are gathering items to fill stockings and gift bags for nearly 200 homeless teens, women and veterans.

After the holiday when the markdowns begin, Cathy and Betsy spring into action: “Betsy and I love to shop. But we are at that point in life where we are trying to downsize our stuff. This lets us still have the fun of shopping,” says Cathy. “We hit Walmart and go from there.” At every stop, they cram their carts with essentials like blankets, socks, gloves, toiletries and towels.

“As a teacher at North Central high
You made a difference:
Thank you to all our event supporters!

Thank you for supporting our fall fundraising events—your attendance and donations have provided crucial support and funding for Hope House women’s shelter in Spokane and Crosswalk North Idaho in Coeur d’Alene.

At the 16th annual Lake City Blues Benefit you raised support and dollars for Crosswalk North Idaho’s drop-in center and Work Ready youth employment program. We appreciate the hard work of Carl Speer and the Inland Empire Blues Society in organizing this annual event. Thanks also go to everyone at Elk Point Estates, our many donors, and to our great musicians from Blues Edition and friends.

At the Hope House Celebrity Fashion Show, you once again raised vital dollars and awareness for our women’s shelter. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors: Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, AmericanWest Bank, The Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Northern Quest Resort & Casino, Pamiris Payroll, Inland Imaging, Molina Healthcare, Umpqua Bank, Wheatland Bank, and Washington Trust Bank. Thank you to all our celebrity models, fashion providers, makeup artists and auction donors. Please help us thank our supporters by visiting their websites and businesses. You can find a full list of donors at www.voaspokane.org/FashionShow.

Your support means the world to us and to the homeless women at Hope House and at-risk youth at Crosswalk North Idaho. Neither program could survive without you!
Social Service: 2014 Hope House Celebrity Fashion Show

Fashion show...see if you can find yourself in the dozens of additional photos at www.voaspokane.org/fashionshow. Photos by Dave Ainley Photography

Glenda Steed & Officer Mike Yates, ret.  
Dave Sposito  
Jill Rider, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich & Kim Plese

Julie Farley (The Makeup Studio) & Officer Teresa Fuller  
Pyper McCormick  
Joyce M. Cameron, Hannah Sateren & Francisco Velazquez

2014 Models (more info at www.voaspokane.org/fashionshow)

Lisa Ellis (Hope House speaker)  
Victoria Christensen  
Marilee Roloff (VOA CEO)

Dylan Jackson  
Sister Sue Orofalski & Mark Agee  
Esther Dolezala
2014 Holiday Wish List

Looking to spread some holiday cheer? For more information or to arrange drop off or pickup contact Kay Murano at 509.624.2378 ext. 104.

Men & Women

Community-Based Housing—Hope House
Services for Veteran Families
Veteran’s Housing

- Pajamas, robes & slippers (XL-XXL)
- Jeans, flannel shirts, sweatshirts & sweaters (esp. LG-XXL)
- Men’s work boots
- Gloves, stocking hats & coats
- Household items (alarm clocks, dishes, furniture, microwaves, pots/pans, shower curtains, silverware, towels, twin sheets, vacuums, etc.)
- Bus passes
- Gift certificates (clothing, crafts, food, haircuts, movies, etc.)
- Cameras, albums & frames
- Toiletries (deodorant, feminine hygiene, razors, toothbrushes, etc.) & make-up
- Craft, model-making, sewing & quilting materials
- Backpacks
- Postage stamps & stationary
- Socks & underwear (briefs, bras, thermals)

Families

Services for Veteran Families

- Baby Bjorns, slings & diaper bags
- Toys (ages 0-4)
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Gift certificates (books, groceries, pictures with Santa, toy store, etc.)
- Strollers & new car seats
- Food grinders
- Baby bottles, dishes & sippy cups
- Bath supplies (bubble bath, shampoo, toys, etc.)
- Cameras, albums, frames & scrapbook supplies

Teenagers

Alexandria House—Aston-Block Apts—Crosswalk
Cranston North Idaho
Foster Youth Services

- Underwear & socks
- Winter coats (esp. XL–XXL), gloves & stocking caps
- Jeans, hooded sweatshirts, flannel shirts & tops (esp. XL–XXL)
- Games & activities (basketballs, board games, footballs, hockey, cards, skateboards, tech decks, etc.)
- Electronics (hand-held video games, MP3 players, etc.)
- Toiletries (esp. deodorant, toothbrushes & chapstick), grooming kits, makeup
- Arts & craft supplies (beading, drawing, photography, scrapbooking, sewing, etc.)
- Boots & winter shoes
- Bicycle helmets, lights & locks
- Twin bedding & bath towels
- Gift certificates (books, clothes, food, music, etc.)

Babies & Toddlers

Alexandria House—Aston-Block Apts—Crosswalk

- Underwear & socks
- Winter coats (esp. XL–XXL), gloves & stocking caps
- Jeans, hooded sweatshirts, flannel shirts & tops (esp. XL–XXL)
- Games & activities (basketballs, board games, footballs, hockey, cards, skateboards, tech decks, etc.)
- Electronics (hand-held video games, MP3 players, etc.)
- Toiletries (esp. deodorant, toothbrushes & chapstick), grooming kits, makeup
- Arts & craft supplies (beading, drawing, photography, scrapbooking, sewing, etc.)
- Boots & winter shoes
- Bicycle helmets, lights & locks
- Twin bedding & bath towels
- Gift certificates (books, clothes, food, music, etc.)

Don’t Forget Your Deduction!

To be eligible for a deduction on your 2014 taxes, end-of-year donations must be postmarked by Dec. 31st.

Use tax ID# 91-0577131

For more information or to download our complete holiday wish list visit www.voaspokane.org or contact Kay Murano at 509.624.2378 x 104