



**Respond With Love<sup>®</sup>**  
**Stuffed Animals And Comfort Pillows**

**Interim Summary Report**  
**April 12, 2013**

Following the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, America Responds With Love<sup>®</sup>, Inc., a national non-profit organization, offered its assistance to help the Town of Newtown. In particular, America Responds With Love offered to help find homes for products donated to the Town of Newtown, but that were not needed within the Town and the immediate communities.

The Town of Newtown received a tremendous number of stuffed animals, comfort pillows, and other products donated by the American people. The numbers of products donated were far in excess of what was anticipated to be needed by the Town of Newtown. Though leaders within the Town of Newtown asked Americans throughout the nation to not send additional products to Connecticut, many Americans continued to send donated stuffed animals, comfort pillows, and other products. The generosity of the American people, while well-intended, created a situation where the Town of Newtown had far more donated products than needed.

The Town of Newtown established the Newtown Donations Distribution Team to review and process all donated products. The families of those affected in Newtown were able to select donated products for their use. Donated products not selected by the families, including many stuffed animals and comfort pillows, were given to children in Newtown as well as to area hospitals, police departments, and shelters within Connecticut.

On March 20, 2013, the Town of Newtown asked America Responds With Love for assistance to utilize the donated stuffed animals and comfort pillows that were not needed within the Town of Newtown and the State of Connecticut.

On March 25, 2013, America Responds With Love made arrangements for a tractor trailer to pick up 21 pallets of stuffed animals and comfort pillows in Newtown. Volunteers with the Seventh-Day Adventist Community Services Disaster Response helped load the truck donated by Sea Transfer Corporation of The Bronx, New York. Volunteers from throughout Connecticut with the Seventh-Day Adventist Community Services Disaster Response, a national humanitarian organization, had been helping the Town of Newtown process and manage the donated products.

Sea Transfer Corporation moved the donated products to The Bronx, New York, on Monday, March 25, 2013, and then to a donated storage location provided by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of the Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church in North Plainfield, New Jersey, on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.



Volunteers with the ROTC at the North Plainfield High School helped unload the truck of boxes of donated stuffed animals and comfort pillows at the Parish Center of Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church in North Plainfield, New Jersey. In the background can be seen the fork lift donated by Astro Rents. The rental company also donated the use of a pallet jack for this community project.

During the past three weeks, America Responds With Love has been donating the stuffed animals and comfort pillows to a number of hospitals, police departments, social service organizations, and others that help serve people truly in need. Recipients, thus far, include a number of governmental entities and non-profit organizations in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Among those that have received donated products from America Responds With Love are:

Camden Police Department, Camden, New Jersey – Approximately 100 stuffed animals for its Toys for Tears program

FBI, Philadelphia Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Approximately 50 stuffed animals for victim services program

Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, New Jersey – Approximately 50 stuffed animals

North Plainfield Public Library, North Plainfield, New Jersey – Six large stuffed animals for the Summer reading program

Stony Brook School, North Plainfield, New Jersey – Approximately 300 stuffed animals for the Summer reading program

Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Camden, New Jersey – Approximately 50 stuffed animals

West End School, North Plainfield, New Jersey – Approximately 600 stuffed animals for the Summer reading program

Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington, Delaware – Approximately 100 stuffed animals for victim services program

The Newtown Donations Distribution Team expressed its thanks to America Responds With Love for its “help in the distribution of extra donated items to the Town of Newtown and Sandy Hook...We thank you for that service.”

“We are pleased to be able to help the Town of Newtown find ways to utilize the stuffed animals and comfort pillows donated in the wake of the tragedy,” explained Mr. Richard McDonough, President and Chief Executive Officer of America Responds With Love. “We believe Americans who generously donated the stuffed animals and comfort pillows will find that using these products to help people truly in need in The Bronx, Camden, Long Branch, North Plainfield, Philadelphia, Wilmington, and in other communities will be a fitting way to remember the lives lost in Newtown.”



A few of the comfort pillows from the Town of Newtown that were donated by America Responds With Love to organizations that serve people truly in need.



These volunteers are holding two of the stuffed animals donated by the Town of Newtown to America Responds With Love.

Mr. Bob Cavanaugh, on the right, and Mr. Tim McCarthy donated their time and efforts to move hundreds of stuffed animals and comfort pillows from North Plainfield in northern New Jersey to the Camden Police Department in southern New Jersey. The stuffed animals and comfort pillows were then distributed within the Camden Police Department for its Toys for Tears Program

as well as to the Philadelphia Division of the FBI,  
Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, and the  
Wilmington Police Department.

America Responds With Love is in the process of making arrangements to distribute the additional donated stuffed animals and comfort pillows to other communities throughout the United States.

Reports will be filed with the Town of Newtown and the State of Connecticut in subsequent months as the stuffed animals and comfort pillows are donated by America Responds With Love to communities throughout the nation.

For more information please visit [www.respondwithlove.org](http://www.respondwithlove.org).

**About America Responds With Love®, Inc.:**

America Responds With Love®, Inc. is a national non-profit organization that provides products and services to people truly in need throughout the United States. Among those helped during more than 25 years of services are disaster victims, families in crisis, military veterans, and others that are truly in need.

Books have been provided to a children's school hit by an arson fire, to senior citizen centers, and to schools in communities truly in need. To enhance the environment and help restore lands, America Responds With Love has provided more than 6 million flower bulbs to communities in nine states in the past eight years. Relief has been provided in communities hit by disasters ranging from the Gulf Coast to northern New Jersey and from south Florida to Joplin, Missouri. Housing has been provided to families in crisis and military veterans in a number of communities throughout the nation.

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