

Edith Rossiter

War Relief Volunteer, Sister Susie Society

Edith Rossiter did volunteer work during World War I. She and her friends started a group called the Sister Susie Society in Washington, Connecticut. They wanted to help to people whose lives were disrupted by the war.

The Sister Susies gave wool to people in town to knit scarves and socks for soldiers. They made clothes for refugees in Europe. (Refugees are people pushed out of their homes by war.) The Sister Susies also collected old clothes from their neighbors and sent them to Europe for people in need. They held parties and collected money to donate to the American Red Cross and groups that helped refugees. They sent money to support a Belgian orphan named Daniel Bataille. His parents had been killed in the war. As the war went on, Edith Rossiter and the Sister Susies organized bigger events to raise money. They held a market on the Washington Town Green. They sold Christmas cards with recipes from different countries. They made bandages and sent them to hospitals to help wounded soldiers.

Edith Rossiter and her friends raised over \$3,500. That was a lot of money back then! The Sister Susies donated \$1,000 to relief organizations. They used most of the rest to buy supplies. They sent 32,000 bandages, 600 clothing items, and 600 knitted items to Europe to help people during the war. An exhibit at the Gunn Historical Museum in Washington, Connecticut, in 2014-2015 told the story of the Sister Susies and their work.

