

Dear Friends,

February/March 2009

This was the first month we did not have an official Willow Glen packing day. However, a great group of Dads and Daughters from NCL did meet with us and packed over 30 of our big boxes of small hygiene packs- thousands of them! They will ship March 2nd, along with our regular shipment. In addition, we assembled over 100 individual care packages in Carmel last week, and mailed them on the 12th. We have now shipped 465,000 pounds of care packages! We still support over 100 military units per month.

The military has been advised to throw away anything containing peanuts and peanut butter, therefore, we are not shipping anything with peanuts EVEN IF IT IS NOT ON THE RECALL LIST. It doesn't make sense for us to pack and ship it, just to have it thrown away. (Not to mention the cost of the items themselves.) Also, new items are added to the recall list almost daily, so better safe than sorry. So please do not accept or donate anything with peanuts for now.

We are seeing a trend of some new units being deployed for 18 months again. We'll keep an eye on that. Also, many troops are requesting hygiene items, so supplies are low. Time for us to contact our dentists and hotels again!

UPCOMING EVENTS

New! Patriot Light! <http://www.thepatriotlight.com> Ever see a solar powered flash light? The new Patriot Light is fantastic. Julie DeMaria has used one for quite a while, and they are really convenient and powerful. They now have one in digital camo, along with a program where folks may purchase them for the troops, shipped by Operation: Care and Comfort and a few other organizations. Check it out!

New! Recycle your electronic items, like used cell phones, PDAs, inkjet & laser cartridges, iPods, laptops, video games & consoles and digital cameras to benefit OCC. We will be joining the Recycle for Soldiers program! OCC will receive money for items we collect and send. We will have our own recycle bags and labels shortly, but you can bring your recycle items to our care package assemblies, or simply drop them off at any of our collection sites and we'll do the rest! We will add info to our web site soon. Please visit <http://www.recycleforsoldiers.com/> for a list of accepted items.

Comic Book Drive

Ongoing, we are asking folks to donate comic books and funny papers to send in our care packages! Please help us spread the word! Something as simple as a comic book can brighten our troops' day. Please call Julie if you have any questions, at 408-373-8635 or email at troopssupport@comcast.net!

Saturday, February 21, San Jose Sharks Support our Troops Game with OCC, 1:00 PM

Game on! Our second San Jose Sharks "Support our Troops" game of the 2008-2009 season! We hope to receive a lot of shipping money as well as items. Our friend Greg Kihn will be singing the National Anthem again.

Sunday March 1, Willow Glen Care Package Assembly - 10:00 am until we finish

Our monthly care package assembly will take place at the American Legion. Come join us as we box up supplies for our troops. Ages 5 and up are welcome to join in the fun, but children must be supervised by an adult. For more information, please contact Julie at 408-373-8635 or troopssupport@comcast.net.

Where:

American Legion Post # 318
1504 Minnesota Avenue
San Jose, 95125

Wednesday, April 8, Carmel Care Package Assembly - 9:30 am

Operation Yellow Ribbon Monterey will meet to assemble over 1000 more care packages for us to send to our troops. To help, please contact Julie at troopssupport@comcast.net, or Joan at BJernie@aol.com. They have a page on our web site with additional info!

Thank you for your continued support of our troops. We appreciate all that you do for them!