

June 2009

Dear Friends of our Troops,

Well, we are trying to get with the times! Operation: Care and Comfort is now on Facebook. We will be working to update it. Be sure to become a friend, fan or whatever.

Tell your friends and family about us, too. Don't forget that if your kids need community service hours, they may want to volunteer this Summer vacation to get their hours taken care of. Of course, they may prefer to wait to the last minute to torture their parents, but let's not give them that opportunity! Check the EVENTS page on our web site for packing dates, and other volunteer opportunities.

We had a HUGE May. In fact, we shipped almost 10,000 pounds of care packages. (We will be hitting the 500,000 pounds shipped mark soon!) Thanks to all who participated with us at the SF Giants Salute to the Military game on Memorial Day! We raised money for shipping, collected items to ship, had folks write cards for the troops and were able to send about 1500 or so Troops, Veterans, and their families to the game, free. Everyone had a great time, and our SF Giants won! 98.5 KFOX also included us in an auction for a rock star signed guitar. Three charities, including OCC, will be splitting \$3550 raised in the auction. Thanks to Greg Kihn, Chris Jackson, and all of the KFOX folks for their support of our troops and OCC! Of course, Greg continues to shop for our Troops every week. Deeds, not (just) words from Mr. Kihn! Last, someone set up a fund raiser at Chevy's Gilroy on our behalf. We received a call to come down and pick up a donation check- what a great surprise! Thanks to you who did this for us!

Summer is almost here. Well, it's definitely already arrived in the Middle East. Over 100 degrees every day. We will be concentrating on donation drives to collect hot weather items, such as sun screen, unscented baby wipes (for sponge baths), neck coolers (cool ties), and even flip flops. We will also, on a one time basis, be collecting children's shoes (new or in great shape) and beanie babies (new only, please) to ship. Please see SGT Caron's email letter below!

The economy has hurt so many, and that does not exclude those serving in our military. We will be planning and participating in a few events to raise funds to help support local military families who need a little assistance. Let us know if you wish to be a part of these special events to support our Troops, Veterans and their families!

Care Package Assemblies

Wednesday, June 10th, Carmel Care Package Assembly - 9:30 am

Operation Yellow Ribbon Monterey will meet to assemble over 1500+ more care packages for OCC to send to our troops. To help, please contact Julie at troopsupport@comcast.net, or Joan at BJernie@aol.com. They have a page on our web site with additional info!

Sunday July 12th, 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 troopsupport@comcast.net. Please remember to bring your community service form if you need one signed!

Where:

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

Events

We have three huge events coming up in June and July, and of course, the Iron Construction Charity Golf Classic (to benefit OCC) on September 22nd. We hope that you can help us spread the word! For all upcoming events, please visit our web site at <http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/occevents/index.cfm>

Now through June 28th

Bay area **Sports Basement stores** will be collecting items for OCC. In addition, you can print a coupon from our web site for a 10% discount in their stores.

<http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/occnnews/occreleases/occpres/index.cfm?id=811>

Plus, they will donate 10% of the coupon sale to OCC. What a win win! Check out our web site for complete information, including the store addresses!

July 1 - 4th

Love shopping at Old Navy? **Old Navy stores in 14 states** will be collecting items for OCC. More information, including a special discount coupon and flyer, will be available on our web site soon! By the way, some of their employees will be volunteering time to OCC, and a donation will be made to us for every hour they work. If your company has a program like this (such as Cisco, Starbucks and others), please remember to submit your volunteer hours for OCC!

July 11th, 7:30 pm

The San Jose Earthquakes will be hosting their second annual **Salute to Armed Forces Night** with Operation: Care and Comfort! It is a 7:30 pm game, and they have a special priced ticket (\$15, regularly \$35!) for military and their families, which includes a special commemorative Challenge Coin! We will post the order form and information on our web site soon! OCC will receive a donation from the San Jose Earthquakes for each of these tickets purchased. OCC volunteers will be collecting items and monetary donations at the gates, and folks will also be asked to write a note to the troops. We hope to see you there! Please contact Julie for more information, at troopsupport@comcast.net, or (408) 373-8635.

Tuesday September 22nd, Iron Construction Charity Golf Classic

For the 5th consecutive year, San Jose based Iron Construction, Inc. has dedicated their charity golf classic to benefit Operation: Care and Comfort. Funds raised are used to ship holiday packages to our troops every year. Updated information is now available on our web site, <http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/occgolf/index.html>

We need sponsors, golfers and prizes! **This year, for a donation of \$75, (even if you can't attend) you will be able to have a special tribute sign posted along the golf course in Memory of, or in Honor of service members and veterans you wish to remember.** You can request that the photo be emailed to you plus one more special person. Imagine your son or daughter serving in the military, or a special Veteran receiving an email containing a picture of their special tribute sign. For more information on this, and other sponsorship opportunities, please visit <http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/occgolf/index.html>

Letters from our Troops

Received 5/18/09

Hello Everyone!!!

My Brigade CSM would like to try and get some children's shoes sent to us because he has seen a lot of children on patrols without any footwear. Also, any beanie babies is fine as well. He enjoys giving these kids anything that makes them smile or happy for even a little bit. Thanks for everything that you have contributed to us. You help us more than you will ever know.

Very Respectfully,
SGT Joe Caron

Received 6/11/09

This is LCpl Chris Kimma with Echo Co. 2/23 Marines. I just wanted to say thank you very much on behalf of my squad for the packages you are sending us and everything you do. Attached are a couple pictures of my fellow Marines enjoying what you have sent. Some Marines don't receive packages very often, so being able to open up the items you sent us is a big motivational boost. The cookies and candy went like hot cakes.

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us to keep pushing day after day.

Thank you again,
LCpl Kimma

Thank you for continuing to support our Troops. Here's to a great Summer!

Julie DeMaria, Cookie Crissman, and Randy Bye, co founders
www.operationcareandcomfort.org