

Dear Friend of our Troops,

September is the official start of our holiday season for the troops. In September, Halloween themed cards, etc. are mailed to be received before Halloween. In October, Halloween and Thanksgiving themed items are shipped. In November, it's all about Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years! In October, we will be sending out chocolate candy and chocolate covered cookies (like Thin Mints) for the first time since last March! Let the holidays begin!

We've had many exciting things happen to our program over the past couple of months! Ticketmaster is now donating concert, show and sports tickets to us when they are donated by patrons. These tickets and others, donated to our "Tickets for the Troops" campaign, allow us to send military families to events FREE! This year alone, we have distributed over 14,000 tickets to our military, with the SF Giants leading the pack. Thank you!

Our volunteers from Lockheed Martin spearheaded a campaign to ask their employees foundation to give OCC a monetary grant. Thanks to these wonderful women, we will be receiving our first check from the foundation next week. Thanks so much Felicia and Donna, for your efforts!

In our last newsletter, we talked about the July 4th Old Navy drive for our troops in 211 stores, in 14 states. Well, the totals are in. In all, we received 36 pallets of Old Navy items, such as socks, under wear, flip flops, and tee shirts for our troops! In fact, it was so successful and popular that Old Navy has pledged that ALL STORES, over 1000, will participate next year! Our August shipment to the troops has arrived, and they are letting us know how much those items meant to them:

Hi Julie!

First of all I would like to thank you for what you have done for us (troops) here. I can't imagine the past years that I've been helping to send packages for the troops all over the world specially in this region and now I'm one of those recipients. I know you guys had worked tirelessly to make sure our troops are taking care of and show support and appreciate what we have done there and abroad. We, our guys do really appreciate the stuff you sent us.

I pick up 2 boxes yesterday and they loved those flip flops (shower shoes). The rest of the stuffs I am bringing it to the COW (our information center, kind of) so personnel goes there can grab what they want.

Say HI! To ALL the volunteers there in San Jose and also in Carmel. I miss you guys and God bless.

From Flo

Just wanted to let everyone know we had another box arrive today. The socks, shirts and flip flops are definitely going to help out, appreciate you guys so much, you have sent so much for this Company and it has really made life more bearable for these guys. We are down to just about four months left and I can say I cant wait. We will be back 15 months after we return to the states, I hope we can find this kind of support in 2011. You guys are top notch Thanks for all you do for us and for all Soldiers.

1SG Conklin, David (see picture)

September and Upcoming Events

Cycling for the Troops, through September 30th

Our friend and volunteer, Shawn Stingley, wanted to do something to help raise funds for Operation: Care and Comfort. He also wanted to help support the wounded troops and their families, through Strikeouts For Troops, SF

Giants Barry Zito's organization. Shawn decided that he would cycle one mile around Crissy Field in San Francisco to honor each US and coalition troops who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. 5968 miles to ride in only 44 days. You can help him in his mission by joining his effort! Please read Shawn's story and follow his progress at <http://www.cyclingforthetroops.org/>. Go Shawn, go!

Sunday September 13th, 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

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. Information is available on our web site, at <http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/occgolf/index.html>

We still 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>

October- November, Trick or Treat for the Troops

Our annual "Trick or Treat for the Troops" campaign is coming! Last year, we received 3 tons of candy from all over the country. Booksin Elementary School contributed over 1000 pounds of collected candy! How do you do this? You simply:

- take an extra bag out when you trick or treat, and ask folks to donate candy for the troops;
- donate your extra, leftover candy;
- purchase candy when it is on sale, before and after Halloween;
- ask your dentist to donate any candy that they "buy back" from patients, to the troops;
- ask folks to bring a bag of candy for the troops when they attend your Halloween party;
- collect left over candy at work, and through your gyms!

All of the candy, including chocolate, will be shipped during the holiday season and after.

Wednesday, October 14th, Carmel Care Package Assembly - 9:30 am

Operation Yellow Ribbon Monterey will meet to assemble 1000+ 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!

Coming soon! Information on our "Adopt a Military Family" holiday campaign, and upcoming Support our Troops games!

As you can see from this newsletter, people are using the three "T"s, Time, Talent, and Treasure, to show their support of our troops. Thank you all, for your continued support!

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