

**Subject: Upcoming Operation: Care and Comfort Events to Support Our Troops**

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## Operation Care and Comfort

**Dear Supporters of our Troops,**

After taking a couple of weeks off, we are back and focused on our mission of sending care and comfort to the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was a crazy year, and our numbers show it. We shipped over 68,000 pounds of care packages in 2005, compared to 75,000 pounds our first two years combined. To date, we have shipped over 150,000 pounds of care packages! This could not have happened without the continued hard work and support of so many. As we begin our fourth year of shipping care packages, we need your support as much as ever.

Our strength is in our fantastic community and their efforts. We have many care package donation drives, assemblies, and projects happening each month. We have groups that meet monthly (Families Serving the Military, Operation Yellow Ribbon Monterey, and a Curves ladies group in Morgan Hill/San Jose) to assemble care packages, and we are grateful for their faithfulness and hard work! We also have individual efforts for which we are very thankful. For example, last month, Silver Creek High donated packages to send to a Marine unit serving in Iraq. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church donated wonderful care packages from their congregation, as well. Three generations of a family in Santa Clara sewed over 1000 small fabric pouches and filled them with treats that we sent in our Christmas care packages. This week, we had our 14th or so Eagle Scout project completed, with candidate Nate collecting 200 DVDs to send to our troops! The KFOX Weather Foxes, Ms Cyndi MacDonald's 5th grade class at Painter School, have committed to make 985 care packages by May. They started with hand made soap and candles packages, complete with Christmas and Valentine cards. Currently, Valley Christian and Los Gatos High Schools and others are working on their projects. Congratulations to everyone who took the time and put these great projects together!

We would also like to thank those who stepped forward, and requested to be put on a standby list to adopt a military family for the holidays. The American Red Cross also donated 40 \$50 Albertsons Gift Cards, to be given to military families who could use a little assistance. In all, we were able to help over 2 dozen families by pairing them with civilian families, all anonymous and through military family readiness group leaders. Remembering that military families have needs throughout the year, we would like to be able to keep this grassroots program going all year round. If you would like to help, and missed your chance at Christmas or we did not need your services then, please feel free to send an email with your contact information to Julie at [troopsupport@comcast.net](mailto:troopsupport@comcast.net), and we will place you on a **brand new, standby list**. We have already helped three more families in 2006!

**We received many, many letters, cards, and emails from our troops over the Christmas holiday. Here are a few:**

*Thank You and Happy New Year from Iraq. I just wanted to take a minute and thank you again for your support. The packages we received around the holidays made a big difference and were greatly appreciated. I just wanted to let you know again how much your efforts and support are appreciated. Especially at the Holiday season when spirits are a little down. You may never realize it but you really make it better for us over here.*

*Thanks Again.*

*Regards,  
SSG Justin Marshall*

*Speaking on behalf of my crew I wanted to thank you and your group for sending us the multitude of boxes over the last couple of months, especially the last two weeks. Our Christmas was made very special by all of your efforts and the donations of so many. The Christmas stockings were a really nice touch. I wish I could send you pictures of the looks on our Sailors faces when they came into medical on Christmas morning and saw all of those stocking lined up with their names on them. They really didn't know about what was in the boxes they had seen beforehand, so the look of surprise and happiness was the best thing I have seen on their faces in a couple of months. This is the first Christmas away from home for six of these young guys, your efforts really picked them up. I can't say thank you enough times in one email so I asked my assistant to find a way to get a group picture and print it so that everyone here can sign it and send it back to you.*

<>Sincerely, Bill Adams

<>This is Sgt. Vitale, Brian's cousin here in Iraq. I have been receiving your packages and can't say thank you enough for your generous and kind support to me and my fellow soldiers. I am overwhelmed with joy by your giving! Thank you Thank you!!!! May God bless you for your kindness and giving in many ways! I hope all of you at The Red Cross and the other organizations will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! From all of us here in Iraq. Thank you for your support Sgt Vitale here in Iraq

**And a letter from a thankful soldier, upon receiving a care package:**

To Operation: Care and Comfort and the volunteers and donors-  
Thank you so very, very much for donating your time, kind thoughts, kind deeds, money and everything else and to everyone else behind the scenes; those who made it, bought it, stored it, grew it, and blessed it and packed it and mailed it! :-)  
and those who stuffed the love in it! and the cards and letters... You are ALL toooo wonderful!  
SFC Scharyl Berry

**Most requested items:**

Food: Beef Jerky, microwavable soups, stews, noodles (no pork, please)  
Hygiene: Mach III Razors and blades, dental supplies  
Entertainment: DVDs, CDs, international phone cards, batteries (AA and AAA)

**Want a military pen pal?**

KFOX listener Lina Prokopchak has a list of service members serving in Iraq that would like pen pals. Please contact Lina if you would like to correspond with someone serving, but please only do this if you are prepared to continue to write to them on a weekly (or more) basis. Lina can be reached at [lina@wnsunwired](mailto:lina@wnsunwired).

**Support our Santa Clara County Girl Scouts, as they Support our Troops!**

Santa Clara Valley Girl Scouts are, once again, asking folks to purchase cookies to send to our troops! Last year, they sold over **40,000** boxes for our troops, and Operation: Care and Comfort has been shipping cookies like crazy! So, even if you don't eat them, you can buy a box or a few, and ask that they be donated to us. Program information can be found at [http://www.girlscoutsofsc.org/cookie\\_central/cookie\\_share.html](http://www.girlscoutsofsc.org/cookie_central/cookie_share.html).

**Upcoming Operation: Care and Comfort Events- mark your calendars!**

**Saturday February 4, 10:00**

We will be assembling care packages in Mountain View, along with families of soldiers serving in Iraq with the 445th and 351st Civil Affairs Battalions. If you would like to help, please contact Julie at [troopsupport@comcast.net](mailto:troopsupport@comcast.net).

**Wednesday and Friday, February 22 and 24th, San Jose**

Helen and her group will be assembling care packages for OCC in the evening. For more information, please email Helen at [h\\_loyd@comcast.net](mailto:h_loyd@comcast.net).

**Saturday, March 18 1:00 San Jose Sharks SUPPORT OUR TROOPS game**

This is the second time this year that the San Jose Sharks are teaming up with OCC, to Support our Troops. Mark your calendars! We will be collecting items before the game, and Greg Kihn of the Greg Kihn Band (and the the morning man on 98.5 KFOX) has agreed to sing the National Anthem. More info will be posted on our web site, soon. <http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/>

**Saturday, March 18 AFTER THE GAME, King's Head Pub, Campbell, CA 6:00 pm**

Marty Kane and MidLife Vices will be playing at the King's Head Pub, with special guests Greg Kihn and Chris Jackson of 98.5 KFOX! A \$5 cover charge will be collected and donated to Operation: Care and Comfort. Come out for some fish and chips, and enjoy fantastic music! **Oh, this is a kids friendly venue**, and service members get \$2 off each drink when they show a valid military I.D.!

**Friday, May 26, SF Giants Salute to our Military Night, 7:15pm**

Join us for the SF Giants' third annual Salute to our Military event. There will be fireworks after the game, and lots of military tributes during the game. Season ticket holders are being asked to donate tickets back to be given to service members. Check out the SF Giants web site for details, at [http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/sf/ticketing/group\\_special\\_events.jsp?loc=military](http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/sf/ticketing/group_special_events.jsp?loc=military)  
Tickets may be purchased for the game in a couple of weeks, using this link:  
<http://www.sfgiants.com/specialevents>

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, or if you wish to help. Thank you all so much.

Julie DeMaria , Randy Bye, Cookie Crissman  
co founders

Operation: Care and Comfort

<http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org/>

<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/>

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Troop Support Coordinator

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