

Soldier's Angels Chaplain Support Team Newsletter June 2011



**Find out how you can say
"Thank You!"**

Go to

www.soldiersangels.org

May No Soldier Go Unloved

**To reach the Chaplain
Support Team please**

email us at:

cst@soldiersangels.org

Team Leader: Dina Katkansky

Team Assistant: Treece Mulkey

Blog Leader: Linda Ramirez

Chaplains for Children:

Linda Storpikai

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The Chaplain Support Team Mission Statement

The goal of the Chaplains Support Team is to provide direct support to the Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants, as they provide comfort to the troops.

The Chaplains perform most of their duties in a non-denominational capacity. We supply Chaplains with requested items related to their mission. We also provide them with requested numbers of hand-out letters and gifts that can be easily distributed to the many soldiers that Soldiers' Angels may otherwise not be able to locate and support.

Through this program, Soldiers' Angels can reach those soldiers that may be in remote locations, feeling isolated and lonely, in need of a morale boost, which may never have heard of Soldiers' Angels. The Chaplains Support Team takes great pride in supporting many deployed military service members who need and enjoy knowing that we appreciate their service and incredible sacrifice in protecting our freedoms and the freedoms of others.

As a team member you'll be able to pick and choose those projects that you're able to support, whenever you are able to help, as there is no mandatory sending requirement. In addition, there are teams dedicated to Catholic and Jewish support for these special Heroes'. For more information, or to join the team, you can contact us at cst@soldiersangels.org



Chaplain Support Team Blog

<http://sachaplainsupport.blogspot.com/>

Have you had a chance to check out the Chaplain Support Team's new blog? It's a terrific way to keep up with the different project requests, announcements and hardwork Angels are doing for the Chaplains and Assistants. In addition, updates from Soldier's Angels are posted for you to read as well. Angel Linda Ramirez kindly stepped up to help post to the blog, and has done a terrific job with it. I

encourage you to swing by and sit a spell to read all the wonderful things happening on our team. If you ever have any items you'd like to see added, please give me a holler! We want to be sure and shout the great work you are all doing from the roof tops, while at the same time getting word out about Soldier's Angels.

4-H Clove Club Does Great things for Chaplains!

Soldier's Angels Chaplain Support has been lucky to have young Angel Becca, mom Kate and her Dad in our corner! Becca has been hard at work with her 4-H Clover Club gathering items and shipping them to deployed Heroes, Chaplains and Assistants. Becca even named her special project "Operation Of Smiles". The kiddos gather at their club meetings to write letters and send care packages every month to 3 Soldier's Angels Heroes. In April, the club and her family sent 18 boxes! Says Mom Kate, ***"Becca will be speaking to her grandparents in Tennessee Senior Citizen's group in July about the importance of supporting our troops and adopting a soldier. One of her 4-H projects is a PSA for a cause she feels is important and with the help of***

her dad she is planning a 60 second video PSA on adopting a soldier thru Soldiers Angels. We are honored to be part of SA and thank you for the opportunity to assist with supporting our troops." We are proud of the 15 members of the 4-H Clover Club, Becca and her Mom and Dad!!

Becca's 4-H Clover Club is a terrific example of how the loving hearts of children can be actively involved in the tremendous efforts of Soldier's Angels. We invite all groups to participate in the fun! To contact us if you would like to start up your own "Special Operation", please contact us at cst@soldiersangels.org

St. Augustine Catholic Church works hard for Chaplains

Mary Ellen Kruse, a teacher in Houston Texas, contacted the Chaplain Support Team looking for a service project for the kids in her class. She had received a grant from the state of Texas, and could purchase/ship support items to a group who was from her home state. After putting our heads together, we were able to provide a name and address of a lucky group who were from Texas, and her "little Angels" went to work! They were very successful in their project, and I wish I could get more pictures to work here so you could see all the glowing faces of these hardworking kids!! GREAT WORK!!!

Angels Kiddos do Service

Projects for Chaplains

Angel Ramona obviously sets a great example in her house! To the left, you can see her son Alex with just a few things he collected as part of a service project! WOW! And daughter Anastasia also chose Soldier's Angels Chaplains for her service project and completed 5 boxes of goodies for 2 of our Chaplains! Terrific Angeling!

Team Numbers from January – May 2011

Care Packages Sent: 1422

Cards and Letters Sent: 1396

Additional Team Numbers: 1025 LBS of Almonds, 4 Cases of Beanie Babies from Beanies for Baghdad, 610 books for Chaplain Ed H. re-integration project in partnership with Operation Paperback

Memorial Day in Fredericksburg, Virginia

Sara C. contacted me via the Chaplain Support Team to share that she was going to be participating in a Memorial Day event in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She wanted to be able to have names of 3 Chaplains/Assistants on hand to be able to send care packages to based on donations she received at the service. I excited sent them to her, and asked that she send me a note about how the day went. Here's what she said:

"We had the Memorial Day observance today. Phenomenal turnout, over eight hundred people. The line for people to send care packages was overwhelming. I have yet had a chance to count the number of individuals requesting to send care packages. So, in order for the three Chaplains, that you sent me their contact information, not to be so overwhelmed, I will take more names if they are available. Briefly, I will sum up the day: We started the ceremony with presentation of colors, the National Anthem, The Pledge of Allegiance. We honored the Wounded Warriors that were invited and the the Gold Star Mothers (parents). The movie presented was Taking Chance. After the movie, all of the names of The Fallen were read aloud beginning with WWI. The audience was asked to speak aloud any others they would like to add and then must have been twenty more. It was extremely moving. The ceremony ended with TAPS. Attendees were told they could help our current warriors by sending care packages. I can not believe the number of individuals wanting to participate. It really is impressive. So as I previously stated, if you have more addresses that we may

send care packages to, I would greatly appreciate it, if not please advise the Chaplains to be expecting quite a few packages in the next month or so. Thank you again for all of your help."

Sooooo....THANK YOU SARA!! THANK YOU FREDERICKSBURG!!!

Here is a link to the article if you would like to read more:

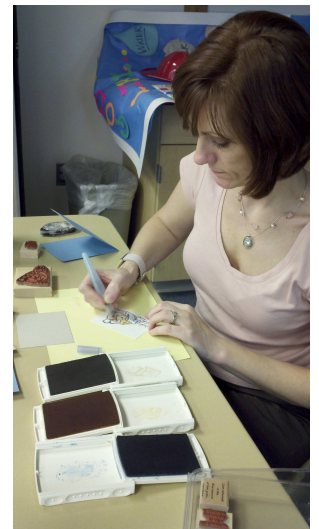
fredericksburg.com/New...011/629951

Christmas in July

Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana #2 (a 501 C 3 non-profit organization) have collected items for Christmas in July care packages ranging from Q-tips to Beef Jerky, Peanut Butter Crackers to Footballs - all for the troops!

The Soldier's Angels Chaplain Support Team was honored to hear from Mr and Mrs. J (name withheld for privacy) asking if we had any names we could provide to be the lucky recipients of all their hard work. We provided these amazing, gracious and giving people address of 17 of our Chaplains and Assistants who will be deployed through July, and they will be receiving 100 !!! packages! Suzette mentioned that they always lovingly include Psalm 91 bandannas to help inspire the troops. This is indeed a special item, and one which many Chaplains have indicated are loved by the troops. Thank you from the heart for your hard and loving work in support of the troops!

**St Matthew's Makes 200
Cards for Chaplain
Jeremy's Request –
GORGEOUS!!!**



Notes of Thanks from our Chaplains and Assistants

"Soldiers' Angels, I am a Chaplain assigned to xxxxx Afghanistan. Currently, one of the NCOs assigned to our office has been a recipient of care boxes that contents of which we distribute to our Service Members here in Kabul. This is a tremendous source of ministry and we can't thank you enough. Thanks so much for all you do for our deployed Service Members...it makes a difference! God Bless, Chaplain Pete S."

"Thank you for the information and the support. I have attached the survey for you and look over. Again, we greatly appreciate any support you can give and simply having someone pray for us does much more than you could ever imagine. May God bless you and Soldiers Angels. Thank you more than you know. You have already blessed me beyond comprehension and I thank God for your ministry. Please know that your work does not go unnoticed." CHPlevka

Thank you for all your support of Chaplains in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We do appreciate all that folks have done and continue to do for us here.

Thanks again, CH (CPT) Timothy P

Thank you for your warm and thoughtful e-mail. I am excited about your program and I know our leaders and soldiers will share in my excitement. Attached is the survey to begin the process. We have a program set up here where I collect many care package items and provide them to soldiers who are busy serving their country here. If you would like to have the supporters sent the care packages to me that would be great. Again, thanks in advance for your support. I look forward to our continued interaction. Blessings, John S

I received the boxes of coffee. I have already started handing them out. We have a lot of very happy coffee drinkers. Thank you and your organization so much for your support. I also received a personal box from a church which was a real blessing. Thank you for everything you do. Chaplain Russ H

To all of our great supporters. I am happy to say that the time for us to come home is close enough that we can no longer receive packages in the mail! I have yet to receive the new mailing address that the unit replacing us will use, but if you are interested in continuing to send packages to them just let me know and I will forward the address along when we get it. I know I've said it before, but I really can't tell you how much it means to have your support and to receive packages from the States while we are out here. We look forward to every mail delivery, and each box is like opening a present. The guys get so excited to see items they are used to seeing from back home. The socks, baby wipes, razors, shaving cream, canned food, ramen noodles, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, green t-shirts, underwear, flip-flops, nail clippers, candy, books, magazines, cookies, coffee, electric skillets with pancake mix, letters, cards, pictures, etc, etc, etc, were such a tremendous blessing. I can't even begin to express the unquantifiable impact you've made on the wellbeing, morale, and focus of the troops. It sounds strange, but it's true, that you may have literally saved someone's life because of what you sent. You never know who got a nice boost in spirit because of something they got in a package, which made them feel a little better that day, which made them focus on their job that much more, which made them find the IED rather than the IED finding them. You can be proud of the young adults serving in our military. The responsibility that some of them carry is larger than you can imagine. Guys in their early to mid 20's are in charge of groups of other guys, making sure they have everything they need for survival, and are staying sharp to save their lives. Not only that, but they also meet with locals and hold professional meetings with men old enough to be their grandparents to discuss road improvements, school attendance, shop improvements in the marketplaces, and so on. They influence not only the way the world views the Military, but the United States as well. It truly is amazing to watch these young people rise to the occasion and represent our country so well. Thank you for your wonderful support. It's been an honor to be over here serving such fine Americans as yourselves. Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful) -Chaplain M