



It's that time of the year again- the holidays! Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and others when being around family is a big part of the celebration. Of course, we have thousands of troops who will not be home to celebrate these holidays with their families and friends. Please remember them!

This is the busiest season for Operation: Care and Comfort. Over the last three months of 2011 we will mail and distribute **tons** of care packages through OCC Care Packages (by the way, due to increased postal rates, shipping is now \$1.15 a pound!), support hundreds of military families and veterans through OCC Adopt a Military Family, and will send hundreds to thousands of troops, vets and their families to entertainment events such as San Jose Sharks games- free of charge, through OCC Tickets for Troops. The amazing part of this is we do it through all volunteer efforts- no salaries, through the generosity of donations (time, talent and treasure) made to OCC. Thank you to all who make this possible!

We'd also like to thank the Federal employees who have designated funds to OCC through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC.) Our CFC number is 77631- please share it with your co workers and tell them about the work we do!

There's been a lot of news about the troops coming home but we are still receiving new requests for support. These came in just **yesterday**:

My name is SPC XXXXX in the US Army. I will be in country Oct 11 until Oct 12. We deployed with 86 Soldiers in our Company; 20 of us are females. We have access to microwaves and dvd players. Right now we live in huge tents, but most of us have our own rooms which are sectioned off by ply wood.

If you don't mind we would like for you to send Christmas and holiday cards, stockings and small decorations and ornaments, knit caps (any color), a lot of hand and foot warmers, gloves (all sizes), small Kleenex packets, Q-tips, DVDs, AAA batteries, paperback books, disposable razors, wet wipes, baby wipes, eye drops.

snacks: Tootsie rolls the assorted flavors, skittles, lollipops, life savers, jolly ranchers, gummy worms, gummy bears, different kind of gummy candies, salt water taffy, starburst, mike n ikes, baby ruths, butterfingers, laffy taffy, nerds games for Nintendo dsi, drawing books, color pencils, craft accessories

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greetings, my name is Chaplain XXXX, My group arrived at Bagram Airfield in mid-october and we are in a year deployment. We will be replacing the 101st SBDE which I believe was already on you list under the name of XXXX. If they are still on the list, you can take them off and place us on. We are in the army, our unit is around 300, and around 70 are women. We do not have ready access to microwaves, and our living conditions are in b-huts. On the shopping list, my soldiers need the following:

Twizzlers, chewing gum, breath strips.

Cracker jacks, trail mix energy bars, breakfast and granola bars. Kool-aid mix Beef jerky

Hotel sized deodorant, lotion, mouthwash, Unscented baby wipes, wet wipes MACH III RAZOR/BLADES, AAA and AA batteries, AT&T phone cards.

Thank you so much!

Our San Jose Sharks Support our Troops game is this Saturday evening, November 5th. Our last care package assembly of 2011 is Sunday November 13th. This is a great opportunity for community service hours for the first semester of school! We hope you will share the attached newsletter with your friends, co workers, and organizations. Thank you!

2011 OCC Holiday Events

October 31st, Trick or Treat for the Troops

Our most popular donation drive, our annual Trick or Treat for the Troops campaign is here! 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 to the Troops
- purchase candy when it is on sale, for the Troops
- ask your dentists to donate any candy that they "buy back" from patients, for the Troops
- ask folks to bring a bag of candy for the Troops when they attend your Halloween party

All of that candy, **including chocolate**, will be shipped November 13th and in January. We ask that you do not donate unwrapped, home made, and "body parts" candy and treats.

Saturday, November 5th, San Jose Sharks Support our Troops Game with OCC, 7:30 PM

Game on! Our first San Jose Sharks "Support our Troops" game of the 2011 – 2012 season will be Saturday November 5th! A military member will ride the zamboni, and our friend Greg Kihn will be on hand to sing the National Anthem. Operation: Care and Comfort volunteers will be on hand to collect items and monetary donations for OCC before the game begins, and uniformed troops will be on hand to greet fans. For information on how to volunteer, please email Julie@occ-usa.org!

Sunday November 13th, Willow Glen Care Package Assembly - 10:00 am until we finish

Our Willow Glen 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 julie@occ-usa.org. Please remember to bring your community service form if you need one signed!

Theme: Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, etc.

Requested items: All Christmas and holiday cards, decorations, unbreakable ornaments, light strands, hand and foot warmers, hot drink mixes, cold weather related items.

Same day, same place! (9:00 am – 2:00 pm) Don't forget **our E-WASTE collection!** Bring old cell phones, small appliances, etc. For more info including a printable flyer visit the events page on our web site, www.occ-usa.org!

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

Now through end of year, Adopt a Military Family Campaign - holiday season

OCC's Adopt a Military Family campaign starts for the holiday season! With your support, we have been able to help many local military families throughout this year. The holidays are a special time for us to make sure that military families who need a little support are taken care of. Civilian families, companies and organizations are welcome to join our stand by list of folks who are willing to anonymously help meet the needs of these military families as the needs arise. We offer a way to assist with no red tape, just help! If you would like to be added to the standby by list, please email Julie@occ-usa.org

Saturday December 10, Operation Toy Drop - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

More info to be posted at www.occ-usa.org!

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