

# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS DONATE TO “HOMETOWN CARES PROJECT”

Support our Troops! The City of Hometown has been sponsoring a “Care Package for our Troops” project since 2006. Donations can be dropped off at City Hall. Below you will find a list of items accepted for donation. All items must be new and in the original sealed packaging (except recreation items as noted below). Homemade food items cannot be accepted.

Please help us make this project a huge success.

**We are asking for monetary donations for help with the shipping costs. Please make checks payable to “The City of Hometown” each care package costs \$14.75 to send.**

Letters of support are always uplifting for our soldiers to receive. (letters from you, from children, or from your business, office, school, or other organization in support of our troops)

## Food and Snack Items

- Gum, Lifesavers, Mints (blister pack gum is best because of the intense heat)
- Fruit: individual serving size cans of fruit, dried fruit  
(Note: Plastic fruit cups with the plastic seal are not recommended as they can open in transit; individual-size cans are preferred.)
- Nuts, sunflower seeds, peanuts, trail mix
- Power bars, protein bars, nutritional bars
- Beef jerky, beef summer sausage (non-perishable; labeled USDA Beef)
- Single-serving bags of snacks, crackers, chips, snack mixes
- Pop Tarts, cereal bars, "milk & cereal" bars, granola bars
- Ramen Noodles, Cup-O-Noodles serving cups
- Ravioli and other canned ready-to-eat meals (canned or styrofoam single serving are best)
- Tuna lunch kits (includes foil pouch of tuna, crackers, and condiments in each single-serving kit)
- Canned sardines, smoked oysters
- Torengos® nacho-style chips and canned nacho cheese dip
- Jalepeno Velveeta® and crackers
- Taco Bell® Sauce Packets
- Seasoning salts, flavoring salts

Pork and pork by-products are not allowed to be shipped to most Middle East combat locations. Please send non-perishable foods only. Single-serving package sizes are preferred; large packages won't stay fresh and are harder to ship. If you can stuff it in your pocket and it's not going to spoil or melt during the summer season, it's a good thing to send!

## Beverage Items

- Coffee, coffee mixes, tea
- Hot cocoa mix
- Lemonade mix, Koolade mix, Tang, Iced Tea mix
- Gatorade mix (powdered only)
- Crystal Light (or other brand) "On The Go" flavor packets (these come in a box of several sleeves of flavoring that can be added to a 16-20 oz. water bottle; see photo to the right)
- Sugar and creamer packets for coffee

We cannot ship liquids. However, the Troops do need flavors to add to the drinking water provided to them. Please send pre-sweetened or sugar-free flavoring mixes in small or single-serving packages. During the colder months, hot beverages are in great demand. Please do not send glass jars.

### Clothing Items

- Cotton socks
- Underwear and T-shirts

Military-green cotton boot socks  
(try military surplus stores)

Color of underclothing and socks is not as important as 100% cotton. Send fingerless gloves and stocking caps during winter months only.

### Communication Items

- Disposable cameras
- Envelopes, paper, pens
- Small pads of paper
- Notebooks (a size they can keep in a pocket and keep dry)
- Drawing pads (small)

Small, blank journals

If you are a school or other organization collecting items where children under the age of 18 are involved, please do not encourage donations of tobacco items.

### Personal Care Items

- Sunblock
- Throat Lozenges
- Gum, Lifesavers, Mints
- Eye Drops (to relieve dry eye, not redness)
- Blistex, Chapstick, Carmex (in stick-tubes rather than tubs)

Lip balm is in high demand in desert areas. The lipstick-style tubes that you apply directly to your lips are preferred over the "tub" style. Eyedrops are to relieve dry eyes; please avoid sending eyedrops designed to remove redness as those will increase dryness and irritation caused by sand and storms in a desert climate.

Current magazines are also nice to include in each package. Paperback books can also be donated.

### Recreational Items

- Hacky Sacks, Tennis Balls
- Deck of cards
- Hand-held games
- Gameboy Advance games
- Movie DVDs (new or used; original only)
- Music CDs (new or used; original only)
- Portable DVD Players

### Body Wipes & Hand Sanitizers

- Baby wipes for personal hygiene (alcohol-free)
- Liquid body wash (no pump-style dispensers)
- Liquid hand sanitizers (no pump-style dispensers)
- Disposable hand sanitizing wipes

When the Marines are out in the field, facilities for showering and taking care of personal hygiene are infrequent and in many locations non-existent. Portable-sized packages of non-alcohol based baby wipes are in high demand for these Marines.

Footcare is critical and the demand for quality products is very high. Be sure that all items are in the original, sealed packages

### Foot Care Items

- Cotton socks, black, green, or white
- Boot liners/insoles
- Odor eaters for boots
- Lotrimin AF or Tinactin for athletes foot (tubes of ointment or cream, or the bottle of drops; please do not send the aerosol spray type)
- Medicated Foot Powder, Medicated Foot Swabs Moleskin (for pads on sore feet, you'll find it with Dr. Scholls type things at WalMart or drug stores)

Please purchase small or travel-size items for personal care. We try to send a new toothbrush in every package, so the demand is very high for toothbrushes. Toothpaste tubes get messy; the plastic "bottles" of toothpaste stand up better to the conditions of combat zones. The new "Brush Ups" are very popular and useful for the Marines.

ShaveMan™ Battery Powered Shaver

If you know of a soldier serving overseas please email or drop the name and complete current mailing address at City Hall. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to participate in this project. What a wonderful lesson for children to learn as they donate items to the soldiers. If you bring a homemade card or letter please include your address on the document so the soldiers can send you a thank you if they want to. These soldiers are away from home from months at a time and receiving a package from home makes such a difference in their time away from family and friends.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and a HUGE thank you to those that have supported this project for the past seven years which has allowed us to send well over 400 care packages to our troops.

Clerk Hacker and Veteran Rich Bukowski taking Hometown Cares packages to the Post Office in 2010.

