

## OPERATION: THANK YOU NEWSLETTER May 2007

### **MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> -- YARD SALE**

The village of Morrow has a Village-Wide Yard Sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May every year. It is the only time you will ever see a traffic jam in Morrow. This year OTY will be set up at the People's Building Loan and Savings, just as you come into Morrow. We will also be having a **BAKE SALE** along with the **RUMMAGE SALE**. It starts at 8:00am. John and Carol Hise will be in charge and other volunteer will be there helping. Bring your baked items or rummage items to sell at 8:00am – priced for sale. Please no adult clothing. The baked items will be sold at flat rate so they don't need to be marked, just the rummage items. We appreciate all your trash – remember one man's trash is another man's treasure. ALL proceeds will go to support the troops.

### **FUND RAISER – REMINDER!**

Please keep in mind there is going to be a big OTY party at Beef O'Brady's on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Time is 5:00 to 8:00PM. Bring you family and friends!! During those hours 10% of the house Beef O'Brady's will donate to OTY so come out and enjoy an evening out and a brake from cooking. This will be a good time to meet others who are part of the OTY staff. So please identify yourselves to us.

### **KROGER GIFT CARD**

The Kroger gift cards should be available soon. I am waiting for some papers from the IRS that are needed to register OTY with Kroger and get the project started. The response has been very good to the idea. The cards will be loaded with \$2 each, therefore costing you \$2 per card. **YOU CAN CARRY A OTY GIFT CARD AND NOT LOOSE ANY OF YOUR KROGER PLUS CARD BENEFITS.** Once you have your card you will take it to the counter and load it with whatever amount you would like and pay for that amount as you usually pay for your groceries then you present BOTH your Plus Card and your OTY Gift Card. OTY will receive 4% of the total placed onto the Gift Cards for the month. With many of these cards in use this could be a very nice monthly income for OTY. IF you have not placed your name on the interested list as yet please call or email me. When I have the cards in-hand everyone on that list will be contacted. Tell your friends and family that they can lend a hand just by using the OTY gift card. I really appreciate all who have already contacted me to put their name on the list.

### **NEW GROWTH DAILEY**

Things really have been going like gang-busters! We add new volunteers almost daily and new soldiers weekly. The figures scare me a little – we are working with 65 soldier contacts and there are about 175 people on my volunteer mailing list now. I sometimes meet myself coming and going. I must say we have some people who have really stepped up to the plate lately and taken some of the load off of me. I can almost be in 2 places at once now. Now I have help available I need to turn over some of the projects and go on to other things. I'm working on that.

### **HEROES RETURN HOME!!!**

There have been several of our troops who have returned home. They are – Jessup Burton, Jacob Peck, Pat Greenawalt, Eric Viburs, Aaron Thiele, Mark Sharpless, and Rodney Taiclet, and Travis Conkle. We welcome each of them home with open arms and hugs saying “Thank You for a job well done. We are all very proud of you.” Also, Rachel Rosebrock and her husband, Michael Brazil will be leaving the end of May to return to the States. It is time to hold their mail. But our job is not done and won't be till all our troops are home. As these brave American Heroes come off our support list others are being added. Still others have been notified they will be extended for up to 3 months.

### **JELLY BEAN PROJECT – A SWEET STORY**

An update on the Jelly Bean Project. The numbers have gone up as the final reports drifted in. There were several who were unable to get their jelly beans to Alexis – the project manager – so they sent them on

themselves then reported to me that they had sent them. Total pounds shipped is over 850 pounds to 30 locations. Hope they have some dentists over there! Check out the webpage to see all the work Alexis put in getting the jelly beans packed up and shipped.

We received a note from Gina, Alexis' mother, for our help with Alexis' project:

Carol –

Thank you so much for all of your help. We couldn't have done it without you and OTY. I am so excited that we were able to make a difference in lives. OTY is an incredible organization. Your work means so much to others. You touch so many lives. You are a true blessing.

Gina

### **AFGHANISTAN SCHOOL PROJECT**

Chaplain Scott Kennaugh has requested our help with school supplies for a school they are building. They would like the supplies by the end of June to present to the Mayor at the dedication of a Mosque that is being built for this little town. Pens, pencils, chalk, rulers, crayons, small scissors, this type of items. No books with Bible stories, please. Also, any of the children's clothes that we have left at the Yard Sale will be sent to him as well. He told me that clothes for all seasons will be welcome and clothes are always welcome, not just at this time. The address to ship your school supplies to is:

Scott KENNAUGH/Chaplain

"MANDOZAI"

2-321 FA

FOB Salerno

APO, AE 09314

\*\*\* packages have to be shipped by the post office \*\*\* Flat Rate boxes are available but be sure and tape them up good. These boxes have been known to open in 3 or 4 days if just sealed with glue on box.

### **VOLUNTEERS DO GOOD WORK**

Below is an email from Lisa Rigdon. She requested birthday cards for her son William and YOU responded!!!

Apr 23, 2007 2:09 PM

... called and said he received over 200 cards...LOL He loved it said to tell everyone thanks so much... he still has some to open yet...He said.. OH MY LORD whoever you gave my name to I got over 200 cards.....and counting ...LOL...

Thanks so much everyone for brightening his day and mine....

The OTY volunteers are awesome!!! I am pleased and proud to have each of you as part of the OTY team.

### **OPPERTUNIY TO MEET WITH OUR TROOPS**

In the past week I have had the honor to find two of our local troops on the other end of a phone call. How exciting is that!! First it was Sgt. Jacob Peck then a few days later I had the chance to welcome home Cpl. Jessup Burton. Jacob pulled a sneaky one on his family and on me. As you will see in the letters section, he told me he was coming home but to be careful and not put anything in the newsletter or emails to his grandmother because he was planning to surprise everyone. He pulled it off – on me as well as his family. When I questioned him as to where he was all he said was, "Sorry, I can't tell you where I am. Just know that I am safe." About 3 days later I get an email from his grandmother, " He's Home!" He was in NC being debriefed when he said he couldn't tell me where he was. I love surprises! Thanks, Jacob for including me in the surprise. We plan to have dinner and I will get to give him a BIG welcome home hug. That is exactly what I was able to do last Friday when Jessup Burton and I met for the first time. I ran up to his grandmother's when I learned he was there. Jessup is only in town for a few days as he is an active duty Marine. Jessup had many nice things to say about OTY and the people that offer their support through it. He said we sent just what was needed at the right time. Jessup has volunteered to return to Iraq in a few months on a special team.

Jacob and Jessup, you are our HEROES. Thank You both for your service to us and to our country. We are all VERY PROUD of you BOTH.