

*The OPERATION: THANK YOU NEWSLETTER*  
**August 2007**

**KROGER CARD WORKING WELL**

The feedback on using the Kroger Gift cards has been very encouraging. Comments from the users:

“Just an FYI - Stuart and I have both been using our Kroger Gift Cards. To use them is way easy because everything can be done in the checkout line, in case anyone asks. You simply ask the cashier to load the gift card first then you checkout after that. This was such a great idea and a very easy way to support the organization!”

“My husband has been using it for his business truck. He likes it but wishes he didn’t have to go inside to load it.” She ask for another card for herself.

“I love this card, I load it once a month and forget it. I don’t have to bother with checks anymore.”

There are just over 300 cards out there now. The check arrived and I was very excited. The closing date on the account is about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The statement showed only 66 cards were used and the amount of the check was **\$477.68!!!!** Of course not all the cards had been in someone’s hands long enough to start using them. Just think what kind of income this will be when everyone starts to use their card. This is a great way to keep money coming in and the user does NOT loose a thing.

**Remember to keep reloading your card. Tell your friends and family!!**

Call me and I will send cards for them.

**TROOPS NEED LOVE AND SUPPORT**

Here are some soldiers who need mail and support several are in the same group all have the same address – just change the names.

**SPC RUDELL, Russell      SPC YOUNG, Alexander**

1/63rd ORD Co.  
68 CSSB  
APO, AE 09344

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**Tim Reed -- Jeff Hodge -- Jason Daniels** These 3 are in Afghanistan

FOB Bermel  
A Troop, 1-91 CAV, TF Eagle  
APO, AE 09354

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**Nate Kenworthy** don’t know if he has local ties

FOB Bermel  
A Troop, 1-91 CAV, TF Eagle  
APO, AE 09354

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**LCPL BAKER, Christopher      LCPL McCLELLAN, John**

B Co., 2D Tank Battalion  
Unit 73430  
FPO, AE 09509-3430

These four (4) guys were being relocated "in the middle of nowhere" and they need our support.

**Chad MOWBRAY -- Shane EATON -- Alex ANDREW -- Ben JONES**

B Co., 508th STB  
LLVI 21  
FOB Warrior  
APO, AE 09354

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**HOSPITAL IN QATAR**

This is the hospital we are working with for the sneakers and other items they need. There are 20 to 30 wounded there at a time. These young soldiers are there for minor wounds and will be returning to their units when recovered – therefore the turnover is steady. They are there recovering alone – no family. They need encouragement and support as they come and return to Iraq or Afghanistan to their units.

Col. Church will see that they receive the cards and letters.

Lt. Col. Karen L. CHURCH

Attn: Wounded Hero

379 EMDG/SGN

APO, AE 09309

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This young sailor is getting NOTHING!!!!!! Absolutely, nothing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We can not allow this to happen!!

**PSSN Nicholas NORIEGA**

EXEC DEPT

Emory S Land (AS-39)

FPO, AE 09545-2610

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He's in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and needs our hugs, prayers and mail. She said that he is not getting much mail and he really needs us. So, if you would ... please ... take a few minutes and send him a card.

**LCPL PEREZ, Jose Ivan**

7400 Merton Minter Blvd.

Audie Murphy VA Hospital

Spinal Cord Injury Unit GLD

D026 Bed A

San Antonio, Texas 78229

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**Please send a birthday card to:**

SGT Sean P. RINER

316th ESC, G6LS Anaconda

APO, AE 09391

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**I AM BLESSED!!!!!!**

A couple of years ago we had a preacher at my church that used the slogan – GOD IS GOOD! in the opening of her morning services. BOY!!! Did she know what she was talking about! I always agreed with her but maybe didn't fully comprehend just how good He can be until OTY became such a driving force in my personal life. He has blessed me first off with OTY. He has brought OTY to where it is today in gentle stages. I did not see where He was leading me or did I ever image what He had ahead for me and OTY. Maybe that shows His wisdom! At first He blessed me with my sisters at church who were there and the first ones I called on to help proof and stuff Christmas cards when it got too many for me to do alone. Then other friends joined into the project and helped take the cards out into their circles and clubs. Others started to collect items and send to the troops, each one of these friends were a blessing, not only for their efforts but the friendships that they offered. OTY was still a hobby, a very rewarding hobby but a hobby nevertheless. God about then said "okay, now is time to kick this thing into high gear." And He brought in the

big guns – several local newspaper stories, TV coverage, a front page story in the Enquirer and we were off to the races! The 10 church ladies group still worked very hard proofing, stuffing and mailing but now there were new friends being made as people from all over Cincinnati joined in to stuff the cards that now numbered 8,000. Schools, churches, Scout and Brownie troops, Red Hat clubs, swim groups, fraternal organization, Ladies auxiliaries, and many who just wanted to do something but had not known what or how before now had a way to show the troops that we appreciate them. Each person, each group has been a blessing to me personally and to the purpose of OTY. There are now 280 (at the minute I wrote this) blessings on the mailing lists for OTY. I AM BLESSED BY EACH OF YOU!!! The other day I had a sweet lady call and leave me such a lovely message thanking me for **allowing** her to be part of my organization. She touched my heart but she had it backward – it is I who thank you, each one of you, for being part of OUR organization. Without YOU what we do as a group would not be near as effective. God has blessed ME with each of YOU. And God blesses OTY because He must approve of what we are doing. He keeps opening doors and providing unseen ways for us to provide these special requested items that our troops need or want just to make life a little easier for them.

### **WE ARE BLESSED!!!!!!!**

I hope when you read the letters from the troops each month that come out with the newsletter you feel blessed to know that YOU have helped brighten someone's life whether it was a jar of peanut butter to satisfy a craving, or a hot plate so they can cook the meat that Supply bring to them. When was the last time someone told you that you made their year, not day, but year because of an electric skillet, or smiled to learn that because of that electric skillet some father's were able to enjoy a special pancake breakfast on Father's Day. These are blessings God has brought our way because He has provided OTY with the funds to purchase and send these things.

God tells us to ask and we will receive and that is just what I did. We received a request forwarded to me from one of the newest additions to our unit list. It was from a friend of his, the commander of a the hospital in Qatar. A small hospital where the slightly wounded are sent to recover before rejoining their units in Iraq or Afghanistan. She needed towel, disposable razors and sneakers. The towels and razors were not a problem. One of our blessing comes in the form of discounts on CVS items plus they have monthly promotional for the community to purchase different items for us. The problem was the sneakers. They cost more than OTY had to spend on any one location. I put out an email asking if anyone of us had some connections to the sneakers. The blessings poured in! My email has been HOT! I found donations that were on the way. One person was very helpful and directed me to where we can get a great deal on sneakers and then one of our members emailed me that there would be a check coming from the people she works with for **\$500!! WHAT A BLESSING!!!** Then our reporter from the Western Star called and wanted some information. She wanted to write an article and tell the community about our shoe drive for the hospital. In this article she told people that for \$20 they could purchase and ship one pair of sneakers.

### **ANOTHER BLESSING!!**

As you know OTY works with Blue Star Mother's of America, the Dayton Chapter in card showers, special troops that don't get mail and packages from home, well their president put me in contact with the president of The Thank You Foundation. Our names are similar but we are two organizations with the same goal – caring for our troops. The Foundation works some with them overseas but mainly with veterans and the returning troops. I met with their president John Guinn, and we are working on ways our two organizations can pool our resources at times to serve a common goal. This is **ANOTHER BLESSING!!** We each have contacts that will benefit the other. We are already talking about a join project to raise money but that is all I will say right now. Talk is all it is right now. Do keep an ear out in the community for talk about The Thank You Foundation. It is not someone getting our name wrong, it is another worthwhile group. If anyone would like information about contacting them for assistance available for the returning soldiers contact John Guinn @ 877/280-8893 or direct in Lebanon 513/850-4910

[www.TheThankYouFoundation.org](http://www.TheThankYouFoundation.org) or email: [John.guinn@thethankyoufoundation.org](mailto:John.guinn@thethankyoufoundation.org)

### **Update on Hospital In Qatar Project**

With the money that poured in from my first requests for connections I went to Wal-Mart here in Lebanon and ask to speak to the manager. Told her I wanted to purchase 50 pairs of sneakers – knowing she did not want me to strip her shelves. She found out what they were for and not only packed the 50 pair in boxes to ship for me but gave me a discount over the already sale price. I was able to purchase them for an average of \$10 a pair!! She told me anytime I am buying for the troops to talk with her before I check out. Just as I am looking at the large stack of boxes to try and fit into my car who should show up – my husband and his truck! I told you God looks after OTY. Lynn did not know where I was or what I was doing that day. He was just out doing his thing.

I emailed Col. Church and told her I have the 50 pair and ask if she wanted more at this time or should I hold off on more for a time. Because of a lack of storage space she ask if I could hold off and she would let me know when to ship more. I will allow Wal-Mart to store them until that time. I'm sure we will be adding funds to the sneakers project so we will just earmark those donations for the hospital and use them as needed in the future. Back a couple of months ago the Full Gospel Church of God had a sock drive and donated 550 pair of socks so each pair of sneakers will have a pair with it. The Colonel also mentions that they could use some men's underwear which OTY will send from our funds. The Seekers SS class of Montgomery Community Baptist Church gave us \$165 to purchase phone cards. These were sent with the sneakers as well. Many people have had a hand in putting together a VERY successful special project here. This should make everyone have a good warm feeling inside that we, as a group, have been able to make the lives of some of our wounded a little more comfortable. And the cards and letter they will receive will let them know we back home do care and appreciate their sacrifices. God has blessed us by allowing us to help these special soldiers.

### **Other Special Requests Supplied This Month**

A unit in Afghanistan needed tents for soldiers who go out on training patrols with the Afghan soldiers for 2 to 5 days at a time. The military tents are too large and cumbersome to take. They requested lightweight backpack type tents, of course they had to be brown. We sent 2 tents to them. Another group imbedded with the Iraq military lives in primitive, remote location. They receive food supplies once a month but they come in large packs and dry out before they could eat them. They also had no way to cook. They requested a hot plate, skillet and pans along with storage containers. We sent all of that plus plates and flatware they needed and spice to make the food they are given a little tastier. Oil of Olay products was a big requested item this month, moisturizers, of course in that dry heat, shaving cream – non aerosol, DVDs and books along with special snacks. Every box goes out with socks tucked into it plus I sent 50 pair of socks each to 2 chaplains. They have small supply cabinets for the troops who drop by their R&R stations that the soldiers can take what they need. This month popsicles, almost 2,000 were shipped everywhere I knew they had a freezer. These were donated by the Harvest Eastern Star from the Dayton Temple. Many of these go to the Chaplains for the drop-in soldiers to refresh themselves with. Another big item is the power bars and power drink mixes. These keep a soldier going when there is not time for a meal and they are easy to carry in their pockets.