

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

Kroger Cards Numbers Dropping

The Kroger Gift Card Project is an easy way for members of OTY to help provide funds to purchase requested items and money to ship these items. These are the ONLY expenses that OTY has – there is no overhead to run OTY. These are personally taken care of. When this project started it started with a bang! However, over the past 2 months the amount of the check received from Kroger has continued to drop in spite of the fact that the number of cards out there has continued to grow. This means that some of the first people to get the cards are no longer thinking about reloading them to use. Carrying the card in your wallet isn't enough, you have to remember to reload it and continue to use it. Every time you reload the card that amount is added to the accumulated balance for the month and our check is issued for 4% of that total. It is greatly appreciated that many are remembering to reload their card on a regular basis but I would like to ask those who are carrying the card and not using it to take a minute to reload and use your card and help put money into the OTY check. We all buy groceries and gas. Many are regular customer of Kroger so please if you have a card use it and for our new members who don't have a card contact me. The cards are loaded with \$1 to register them to OTY and can only be gotten from me or at People's Building Loan & Savings. You use it like cash after loading it with any amount up to \$500 at a time. The card can be reloaded as many times as you like. As a Kroger customer with a Plus Card you will loose NONE of your benefits and discounts when using the OTY Gift Card.

YOU LOOSE NOTHING AND OTY BENEFITS!!!

Festival at the Workshop in the Country

David T. Smith Workshops here in Morrow had close to 18,000 walking over their fields from September 28 – 30th. The Country Living Magazine sponsored the Fair and the TV Antique Road Show was taped from there on Saturday. When I found out about this Fair I knew OTY had to be there. This was so good to miss out on. What a landfall for our Christmas messages! Arrangements were made and people were called to help man the booth plus those handsome Marines I told y'all about last month were imposed on. It rained the day before, but those 3 days were perfect to spend the day outside. I went armed with over 3,800 cards but by 2:00 on Saturday I was calling my husband to bring more, we were running out. The Marines in their dress blues did the trick! They got the ladies attention! Where ever they were was a crowd around. Some wanting to thank them and shake their hand, others wanting their picture made with them and others just wanting to take in God's handy work, but they left with a card in their hand to write a message on and drop it off at the OTY booth. Thanks to our Marines for being such good sports and allowing me to exploit them – all for a good cause. David T. came by late Saturday afternoon and said he wants to get involved in OTY and ask me to give him a call when all the excitement had settled down. I want to thank ALL who worked those 3 days. It was fun getting to know some of the members. Special thanks to People's Building Loan & Savings who produced our literature, purchases a canopy and had our name on it and their staff who help put things together behind the scenes as well as Donna Thorman, manager of the Morrow branch who worked when I couldn't. Again big thanks to your Marines who put their hearts into our OTY project with big smiles and hugs that made some of the women standing around green with envy. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Karen Tannreuth, the Butler/Warren County coordinator of Toys For Tots. Karen also joined us on Saturday working in our booth. Here are some of their upcoming events. I hope these will of interest and that some will be able to attend.

Little Miami School District Has Jumped on the OTY Bandwagon

With the efforts of a lady I had the pleasure of meeting at one of the festivals recently the Little Miami Schools have become very involved in OTY. Kym Dubar is the lady I talked with and she said she wanted to have the schools get involved and she would see what she could do. She has gotten classrooms to adopt several of our units. They will be writing to the troops and sending care packages. The troops

really do enjoy hearing from the kids. Some have come home and visited the classes to thank them personally for their involvement. Thanks to Kym for taking OTY to the schools. That name might ring a bell to some of you. Kym is running for the School Board.

Qatar Hospital Gets New Commander

LtC Karen Church has completed her tour of duty and has returned to the States. She was replaced by Major Nancy Johnson. Before she left LTC. Church filled Major Johnson in on OTY and that we are holding money donated to purchase sneakers as needed. Major Johnson contacted me in October and requested some sizes that she had need for. This money donated and specified for the sneakers had a nice boast in October with a \$202 donation from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Mason VFW. The requested 8 pair of sneakers that were requested were donated by one of our staff so there is still about \$450 being held for future needs at the hospital. The storage is limited at the hospital so Col. Church has requested we not send a large number at one time.

New Address for Hospital in Qatar:

Major Nancy Johnson
Attn: Wounded Heroes
379 EMDG/SGN
APO AE 09309

Remember these brave HEROES that are her patients are there for a short time to recuperate before returning to their units. They are alone, no family with them. Please take a minute and send notes to them.

Below are two emails sent to the West Chester Mothers of Twins Club from some of the Qatar Hospital staff:

Good Morning Jill Parker,

My name is Steve. I am one of the Nurses assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group here at Al Udeid AB.

My staff and all of my patients read all the heartfelt letters and found them to be very uplifting. Our patients really appreciate receiving care packages from home as they convalesce with us for periods of up to 4 weeks at a time often without letter and packages from home.

Best wishes from the staff of the 379th EMDG.

Stephen W. Riggs, Capt, USAF, NC

Clinical Nurse

379 EMDG

Jill Parker and Jen Schanne,

Today they handed out cards sent by you and your organization to the patients at Al Udeid air base in Qatar. I am a Navy Officer serving in Baghdad and passing through Qatar. I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in remembering the troops and to let you know that your cards have reached the service members recovering from their wounds and maladies. Cards are a great reminder to the young men and women far from home that someone back home is thinking of them.

It is all of our pleasure to server this great nation and the citizens such as yourself and the other volunteers of the West Chester Mothers of Twins (sounds like a group with their hands full) and Operation Thank You.

Sincerely,

Kevin Siepel

Soldiers Needing Special Attention:

A Marine mother finally received a call from her son. This was a very disturbing call. He told her he is getting shot at so much he doesn't really care any more. This young man needs to know there are people that do care and appreciate what he is doing. Here is his address. Let's all take a minute and drop him a note. Not only this week but every week.

Kuster, Matthew A. LCPL
FAST Det 3 F2
24 TSC 473 Box 124
FPO AP 96349-0124

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue,NW
Washington ,D.C. 20307-5001

Soldiers Returning Home

Lee Rose **Lt. Michael Porges** Chaplain Tim Overtuff Sgt. Glen Goya SPC Joshua Ludwick

Christmas Messages for the Troops

During October there were 2 packing sessions and we got all of the cards proofed, stuffed, and counted from the Country Living Fair at David T. Smith's Workshops. I wanted to keep these cards separate to see just how many we got over that week end. The total from the 3 days in the country was 3,992. I was very pleased with that number. We have been invited to participate in the Fair again next year, which we plan to do.

Our numbers are growing on the card count. Just this morning I had a phone call from a lady telling me she already has 1,000 messages and her personal goal is 2,000. She told me of a friend who had done 400 cards herself and was apologizing that since she worked she was sorry she wasn't able to do more. One lady emailed me asking for pictures of our troops to put on a poster she wants to use when she gets the messages written. That is a great idea!! If anyone else wants pictures I'll be glad to send them to you. There are people all over 3 states working on this project. For awhile I was concerned that because I was sick and unable to attend 5 big banquets with about 400 at each one we would fall short of the 16,000 goal this year, then I started getting the calls such as the lady who wants to get 2,000 herself. Girls and boys, I am no longer worried – we might even surpass that number. OTY is a TEAM of WONDERFUL people that know how to take things into their own hands!! Go for IT gang.

THE NEXT PACKING GET TOGETHER IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 @ 10:00AM @ THE LEBANON LODGE.

Parking is off of Mechanic Street, enter the red door and come up to the second floor. Please bring your lunch as well as any cards that you already have. I look forward to see a lot of new faces and meeting many who work with OTY that I have not had the pleasure of meeting face to face before.

The other scheduled packing will be Thursday, November 15th and Friday, November 30th with Monday, December 3rd and the FINAL session on Monday, December 10th.

Avon Christmas Gala!

Come join in on the Savings at the
Avon Christmas Gala
Held at the Loveland Curves,

Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24, from 1-4 PM.
There will be drawings for
Free Avon Merchandise, Door Prizes,
Cash and Carry items, as well as Order Discounts!
**Receive 20% off of your order! If you bring a new pkg. Of
Men or women's socks for our deployed troops,**

Located in the Shoppers Haven Plaza, across from the Elementary
On Loveland Madeira Rd. Loveland.

For directions call :

C.J. Doughman

Avon Independent Sales Representative

513-774-8017 or 513-305-8205

www.youravon.com/cdoughman

*** Open to the public! No need to have a membership to attend!
Tell all your Friends and Family! See You there!**

**"Be who you are and say what you feel...
Because those that matter... don't mind...
And those that mind... don't matter."**

Toys For Tots

Remember to pick up a couple of new toys to donate to the Marine's Toys For Tots Campaign going on this month. You will find drop off locations in many of the major stores in your area. Share the holiday spirit with a child and have fun shopping for toys at the same time.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS!!