



Charity, chamber, corporation join forces for troops

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MORRISTOWN — The United Way of Morris County, Brighton Cromwell and the Morris County Chamber of Commerce are joining forces for Operation Appreciation to send care packages to service members.

The chamber will collect donations of specific items, the United Way will collect cash donations to buy items and Randolph-based company Brighton Cromwell will utilize its warehouse to store and pack the care packages to be shipped overseas.

"When Brighton Cromwell conceived of Operation Appreciation and decided to partner with the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, we were looking for a way to serve our men and women overseas and deliver a small token of our appreciation for their bravery and dedication to our country. We are very proud of the Operation Appreciation team and this great cause," said Rob Van Etten, president and chief executive officer of Brighton Cromwell.

United Way will put its Front Line Fund to work to help local service members by being a repository for all financial donations. All funds donated to support Operation Appreciation will be used to purchase the items requested by soldiers, supplementing items donated by the community.

"As a community, we have the chance to do something really special with Operation Appreciation," said John Franklin, United Way's chief executive officer.

Between now and Dec. 10, the Chamber of Commerce is collecting donations of the following items: prepaid phone cards, scarves and gloves, commercially sealed lip balm, toothpaste, roll-on deodorant, travel size foot powder and moist towelettes, single serve packets of hot cereal, single serve boxes of cold cereal, ready-to-eat tuna and chicken salad kits, commercially wrapped individual packets of trail mix, individually wrapped beef jerky, energy bars, candy, gum and commercially wrapped cookies.

The packages will be assembled on Dec. 11 and shipped with a personal message to individual soldiers currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Recipients of these care packages have been identified through the Adopt A Soldier organization.

"I said to Rob Van Etten, president and chief executive officer of Brighton Cromwell, know the community is up to this challenge," said Paul Boudreau, president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

To donate items or volunteer to help pack the care packages, contact Michele Farrah at the Morris County Chamber of Commerce at 973-539-3882, ext. 231, or michele@morrishamber.org. Monetary contributions can be sent to: United Way of Morris County — Front Line Fund, PO Box 1948, Morristown, NJ 07962. Write "Operation Appreciation" on the memo line of

your check to ensure it is properly designated to this cause. All financial contributions will be used to purchase care package items.

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20091129/COMMUNITIES/91128040/Charity--chamber--corporation-join-forces-for-troops>