

Randolph workers sending care packages to troops in Afghanistan

BY MATT MANOCHIO • STAFF WRITER • DECEMBER 10, 2009

RANDOLPH -- Luis Bandeira and Gerald J. Giaimis loaded into a municipal vehicle today boxes of canned goods, dry cereal and toiletries bound for Afghanistan.

The goods, donated by municipal workers including Giaimis and Bandeira, and many others, will be bundled as care packages for troops overseas as part of Operation Appreciation.

"I've got to tell you, we're an organization that cares about the troops, so I'm not surprised by the high level of donations we got from people," said Giaimis, the township's assistant manager.

Operation Appreciation is a joint venture of the United Way of Morris County, the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, and Brighton Cromwell, a supply chain integrator that works for the federal defense department. They will package roughly 175 care packages on Friday for shipment to Afghanistan, Paul Boudreau, president of the Morris chamber, said today.

Randolph Mayor Ed Metz, Councilman Gary Algeier, Maureen Connelly and Richard Lindsay of the Randolph Township Employee Association, and Frank Howard, of the township Supervisory Employees Association, gathered in the municipal building to send the items to Brighton Cromwell on Canfield Avenue, where the care packages will be boxed.

"I saw an email on it about two weeks ago and I said I thought this was something we could join," Algeier said. "And we just jumped on it."

The two local unions each donated \$1,000 checks to help ship the packages overseas.

Andrea Conway, director of marketing and communications for United Way of Morris County, said Operation Appreciation began on Nov. 19.

"It's pretty intense what we've been able to pull together in the middle of a short window," she said today.

She and Boudreau said multiple corporations and individuals donated money, food and toiletries for the the effort.

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