

OUR TROOPS SAY THANK YOU -

A CALL FROM SGT. BRUCE LYON

Not too long ago, Lisa Gorham got a very long-distance call from Afghanistan. **SGT Bruce Lyon** called to extend his heartfelt gratitude for all that the GFAF is doing for the troops. In Lisa's words, "I was floored when I got the call. He has not had internet access in six weeks and told 'intel' that he needed to contact me. So, they found me at Jean Peterson Design and patched him through. Sgt. Lyon says that our efforts are not going unnoticed and that they are incredibly appreciated and really help morale. He was so grateful for the dog medicine and treats - and everything else - and wanted to let us know that they are still alive and fighting the fight. He says that the bad guys aren't letting up and it's 'tough' [an understatement, I'm sure]. He was kind and is truly grateful for everything."

A NOTE FROM DONNA SMITH

We received a handwritten letter in the mail from **Donna Smith**, who's stationed in Iraq. She sends her deepest gratitude for the packages she received and distributed the contents to servicemen/women in her unit who never receive any mail or packages from back home.

A NOTE FROM LCPL ALEX LEYBOVICH

Another handwritten note:

Ms. Gorham, et al

On behalf of myself and my Marines I cannot thank you enough for your generous donations! With the winter months moving in quickly, I'm sure the cocoa and edible goodies will disappear soon! Our Chaplin holds a movie night every week, so I will make sure the discs you sent gets considered for future get-togethers. The Chaplin also assists with distributing goods to any sailor or marine who needs them. I try to take care of the Marines I work with and live with, but anything that does not get claimed within a few days I bring to other sections of our camp and distribute to other units.

Again, I cannot stress enough how much I appreciate you taking the time to put these packages together. I'll try to take pictures of some of these things getting distributed and email them your way. I wanted to add a personal touch to the thank you note because it clearly shows that you put effort into your contributions to the troops and for that, we salute you!

AN EMAIL FROM SGT. WAINE HAILEY

Hi Lisa,

[In response to your question about our mission] we went out looking for bad guys and bombs. We kicked in some doors and handed out soccer balls to some of the kids in the area after we secured the AO (area of operations) and set-up [sic] a 360 (a bubble were [sic] it is safe for the leadership to work). The people were so poor; they used discarded 5 gallon cooking oil cans as building blocks for their shacks, whole family [sic] would live in these. If you can imagine a homeless family in the States these guys were 100% worse. It broke my heart. I'd rather be in a fire fight then see that. Sally Struthers kids looked good compared to these people. I'll send pics tomorrow. I'm laying out a magazine on my editing comp.

[the following letter was in response to my asking if we could send the children anything. He also asked that I tell him a bit about myself and voilà, a fellow wine enthusiast!]

WOW we are a lot alike. I love wine. "It's my friend." I have been to many wineries on the east coast. When I retire I want to open my own restaurant and feature wines and beers from the east coast, as well as my own. I'd like to write a book to help my marketing; there are a lot of interesting history in these wineries. Affairs, lovers killing lover, embezzlement... it's better than any Hollywood script. You have to ask around and after they've a few glasses, they will open up but when they do.....WOW

We took some of the extra stuff out on their Christmas. ("Eid al-Fitr," the three days after Ramadan). Everything was taken with gratitude that you could only imagine, unless you were there. Shampoo, soap, lotion, wash clothes, flip flops (I have an idea on that) coats and blankets, not so much candy, meal replacement bars, dry goods, really they have nothing. If you can get the support we can make it happen on this side...