Calling All Angels

Volume 5, Issue 9

Special points of interest:

- Honoring the heroes of 9/11 with a run—anyone can help.
- A Scammer is using SA's good name!
- The number of wounded heroes passing through Landstuhl remains high.

Inside this issue:

Running with the Angels	2
Steppin' for the Troops	3
Honoring the 31	4
It's coming soon!: Sale-abration	5
Jammin' July	6
Thanks from the Front	10
Team Reports	11

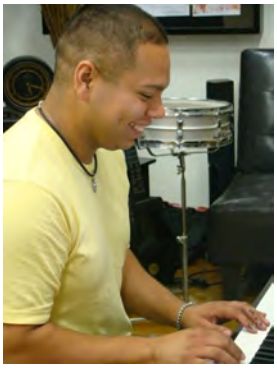
Inside this issue:

Hitting All the Right Notes

Over the past year and half Soldiers' Angels has been talking about the continued development of its music therapy program. With the launch of Soldiers' Angels Operation Harmony's Facebook page, things are now in full swing!

It all began in late 2007. While deployed to Kuwait, Sergeant First Class Kenneth Collins noticed that among his company were quite a few soldiers with musical talent. SFC Collins began to develop the idea of creating a garage band as a way to relief stress and maybe assist the Christians in the unit with their worship.

SFC Collins also happened to be in touch with Soldiers' Angels co-founder Jeff Bader. With Jeff's enthusiastic support and assistance, instruments and equipment began flooding into Collins' unit. Soon "Praise in PT's," a Christian praise band was rockin' the house.



Since the beginning of Soldiers' Angels, founder Patti Patton -Bader had been sending all musical instrument requests to her husband Jeff, an amateur musician himself. In 2008, he delivered a guitar to a wounded warrior who immediately began to play it. Not long after, Jeff received a letter from the wife of the wounded warrior "who said her husband had bad TBI and couldn't even remember how to get home from his doctor appointments. But he was a guitar player and he remembered how to play a song from beginning to end. She said that playing that song gave him hope that he could heal, and sent him on the path of recovery."

Voice of the Angels

Dear Angels and Friends,

It has been a long, hot summer, but that doesn't mean it's cooling down for Soldiers' Angels. In fact, it's only getting busier and better! In the upcoming months there are some big things on the horizon, but first I want to talk about some of what has already happened…

In August we had our semi-annual Board of Trustee Meeting, during which a new member was elected to the Board. Nick Palmisciano is an amazing guy with a spectacular background in

success. I personally look forward to working for him and the rest of the Board of Trustees to accomplish Soldiers' Angels long term goals.

A graduate of West Point, Nick has worked as a U.S. Army officer, Fortune 100 employee and entrepreneur. The Founder and CEO of Ranger Up Military and MMA Apparel, he brings expertise in marketing and branding to

With help from Yamaha Music and Gibson Guitars, Soldiers' Angels has given dozens of guitars to America's heroes.

Operation Harmony (continued)

That touching note inspired Patti and Jeff to take things to the next level. They both wanted to make sure that the music therapy project would fit the mission of Soldiers' Angels—to assist in the recovery of our wounded warriors.—so they investigated carefully.

Soon Patti and Jeff joined forces with Yamaha Music & Wellness Institute to come up with a one-of-a-kind music therapy program. Operation Harmony is not only for wounded warriors, but for *all* veterans who would like to use music to soothe their souls and express what they are feeling.

Keeping in mind the challenges of veterans who are wounded, the program offers many options to injured heroes and other interested veterans. "Yamaha's Clavanova's (pianos) which we have at the Soldiers' Angels Support Center can be played by amputees and those mentally challenged, or by anyone who doesn't know how to play an instrument," explains Jeff. "They also make a guitar product that is adapted to injuries, and we use harmonicas as well."

Soldiers' Angels Operation Harmony has also handed out dozens of musical instruments to wounded warriors and veterans at several events.

Jeff he has seen the improvement in speech, short term memory and confidence that playing a musical instrument gives to our wounded warriors with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and/or a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). A special video featuring Op Harmony has been made and "you can visually see the confidence, joy and enthusiasm that are on the faces of our heroes in as they play," Jeff says. One of the heroes featured in the video has found a musical goal that is motivating him: to learn a song to play for his wife on their wedding anniversary in September.

As Jeff says, "Music is well said to be the speech of Angels." And now, thanks to Patti, Jeff and Yamaha, it's the speech of Soldiers' Angels as well.

To see the video of Operation Harmony mentioned above, visit: http://vimeo.com/27017147

"Playing that song gave him hope that he could heal and sent him on the path of recovery."

Running with the Angels

In San Antonio and Shreveport, you can run with Angels on 9/11. Across the country you can support the runners with your donations.

Soldiers' Angels is hosting two Runs for Remembrance this September 10-11, 2011. All funds raised from the events will go to the work of Soldiers' Angels in support of military personnel, veterans and military families. If you are not a runner, you are invited volunteer to help a race and to donate in honor of the runners or an American hero of your choice.

In San Antonio, the Run for Remembrance takes the form of a relay race and ultra-marathon. Teams made up of nine runners will run a relay race (1 mile loop) for 9 hours and 11 minutes, or a single ultra-marathoner will run the duration (September 10-11).

In Shreveport, LA, the event will consist of the Soldiers' Angels 5K Run of Remembrance at Veterans Memorial Park. Participants are asked to bring donated items for care packages.

For full details on both runs, including registration and contact information:

www.soldiersangels/race

Hitting All the Right Notes

Soldiers' Angels, as well as extensive experience in military support and new media. Nick is also founder and CEO of Ranger Up's military content site *The Rhino Den* and Wombat Vengeance LLC, which runs social media/guerilla marketing and management campaigns.

In the nonprofit field, Nick founded *Train the Troops MMA*, which brings world-class Mixed Martial Arts athletes to the bases of deploying military personnel for extra hand-to-hand combat training, and is a board member of West Point's The 98 Fund, which provides financial support to families of graduates killed in action. In 2009 he coordinated the first MMA fight in a combat zone (Mosul Iraq), and is planning a similar fight in Afghanistan.

Nick served in the U.S. Army from 1998-2003, including a deployment to Kosovo in 2000, before ending his service as a Ranger-qualified infantry captain. After completing his MBA, he worked for John Deere in business development/ acquisitions, sales and branding for five years while developing Ranger Up. Nick holds an MBA from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from West Point.

September is opening with some high-profile events. The R.E.D. Friday videos have gained some traction, resulting in groups starting to host R.E.D. Friday events. On September 3 in Austin, TX, a retirement home will be hosting a special event we will attend and from which we will film our Friday video. Then, as we move towards the 10th anniversary of September 11th and the attacks on our country, Soldiers' Angels will be hosting the Run for Remembrance in San Antonio Texas and Shreveport Louisiana. (see www.soldiersangels.org/race). On September 18, we are proud to announce, Warner Bros. studio and ALCON Media—the makers of *The Blind Side*—will be providing a private, invitation-only screening of their new upcoming movie *Dolphin Tale* (dolphintalemovie.warnerbros.com) in San Antonio at the RIALTO Theater with some of the talent from the movie. Wounded warriors will be the special guests to enjoy this Hollywood-style premiere with red carpet and all the trimmings. It's a wonderful chance to treat the nation's wounded heroes like the true stars they are.

As Fall picks up speed, we will all be looking forward to the Holiday Season and the impact we need to make on those who continue to make an impact on our quality of life and the pursuit of happiness!

Toby J. Nunn
Executive Director

Warner Bros and ALCON Media will be providing a Hollywood-style private movie premiere for wounded warriors, with red carpet and all the trimmings.

A graduate of West Point, Nick has worked as a U.S. Army officer, Fortune 100 employee and entrepreneur.

Steppin' for the Troops

Soldiers' Angel volunteer Amy Krome doesn't let a lifelong physical disability slow down her support for the troops. Running Amy's QRF, adopting soldiers, editing the Soldiers' Angels Newsletter and dozens of other things she does for America's heroes aren't enough for her--she's always on the lookout for new and creative ways to support the troops.

Amy's latest idea occurred to her while using NuStep, a step machine that can be employed in a seated position. As she pressed herself to reach a higher and higher number of steps during each workout, Amy realized she could be within reach of 3000 steps a day, honoring the 31 Special Operations heroes who died in the helicopter shot down on August 6, 2011. In a creative twist, Amy has turned this into an ongoing fundraiser for Soldiers' Angels: *Steppin' for Heroes*.

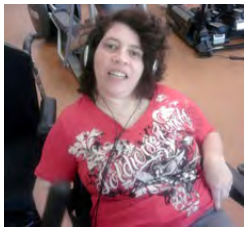
Steppin' for Heroes is conducted in week-long increments, with donors stepping up to pledge based on how many steps Amy can complete each day for that week. One *Steppin' for the Heroes* week is scheduled for each month. The first week will be August 30 to September 3.

Here's how you can be part of *Steppin' for Heroes* with Amy:

- Pledge that you will donate a specific amount to Soldiers' Angels every time Amy reaches at least 2,000 steps each day in a given week
- Challenge Amy by promising to double your pledge if she reaches 2500 steps or above on any day in the designated week

To get involved, print a pledge form or share a flyer to get others on board this inspiring effort! For more information, email Amy at amyqrf@soldiersangels.org with "*Steppin' for Heroes*" in the subject line.

The next week of *Steppin'* is September 20-24. Go Amy, Go!



Angel Amy Krome is honoring fallen heroes and supporting the troops by exercising for 3,000 steps a day despite her physical challenges. Join her and cheer her on!

America lost 31 highly -trained and experienced Special Operations heroes at once. Commentators described it as the equivalent of losing an aircraft carrier, in terms their military value.

All too many of them, because of the very nature of their jobs, go without the recognition they so richly deserve.

Honoring the 31

When news reports started coming in that 31 service members (all but one of them Special Operations personnel, most of them SEALs) had been killed in a single helicopter crash, a famous line in the presidential address that President Ronald Reagan gave the evening of the Challenger Space Shuttle Tragedy came to my mind: "We will never forget them nor the last time we saw them this morning as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God."

In May of this year, President Obama announced to America and the world that an American Special Operations team—with the assistance of allies— had served "justice" to Osama Bin Laden for what happened September on 11, 2001. Americans world-wide and much of the rest of humanity let out a sigh of relief.

That sigh of relief was short-lived, because the war soon came back with a roar. On Saturday August 6, 2011, America lost 30 of the most amazing, courageous and selfless warriors, highly-trained and experienced Special Operations heroes. Among those heroes were 22 members of the now-famous "SEAL Team 6," the team responsible for the raid on Bin Laden.

It was a sad reminder that not only does the "War of Terror" continue, but Special Operations warriors—along with every member of our Armed Forces—continue to do their duty by placing themselves in harm's way to protect and defend our way of life… and in doing so, sacrifices are made!

America's Special Operations "take care of business," but all too many of them, because of the very nature of their jobs, go without the recognition they so richly deserve—they are the true unsung heroes!

In honoring those we lost, let us give all of America's Special Operations—past, present and future—the recognition they deserve!

Angels, please tip your wings in honor of our Special Operators!

To the 31 heroes killed on August 6: You will never be forgotten!

A Thank You to—and for—the Children

Soldiers' Angels Virginia sends this Thank You:

We would like to thank Overtime Athletics Inc., its staff and all its campers (ages 6-15) for making over 100 cards/pictures, letters and thank yous for our troops overseas! This past week I was able to divide them all up and send out the thoughtful and appreciative notes to three different deployed companies and three adopted soldiers and their units.

So many hearts will be touched, and the children were so excited that *their* pictures would be sent to "*real Soldiers!*" There is nothing more beautiful than the innocence of children, and for that, we can thank all our honorable men who women for giving us this great country called America in which we can all grow and live our lives freely.

Overtime Athletics helped deployed soldiers enjoy over 100 cards and pictures from amazing children!

Congratulations to Bill!

Soldiers' Angels sends its warmest congratulations to William R. Hutton, longtime friend of Soldiers' Angels and new National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart…

On August 13, 2011, William R. Hutton of Thousand Oaks, California was elected as National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a national veteran service organization with more than 44,000 members.

Bill Hutton enlisted and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1965-1969 and was assigned to the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, Third Marine Division during his tour of duty in Vietnam (1966). While serving in Vietnam, he was wounded three times with the last occurring on September 28, 1966 while leading his company up Hill 400, which was well fortified with North Vietnamese machine gun bunkers and had held off the Marine Company for two days. For his actions, Bill was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart medal with second star and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Hutton was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps as a Staff Sergeant (E-6) in 1969.

In April, 1969, Bill joined the ranks of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department where he served in every major division including narcotics for over thirty five years. In 1993, Bill was awarded the Medal for Bravery and the Distinguished Service Award for saving the life of a fellow deputy whose weapon had been taken in a struggle with a "Hell's Angel" motorcycle club member who was under the influence of heroin. Bill has been a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart since 1997 and has held every leadership position in the Order up to and now including, National Commander. Bill is most proud of his work as a Department Service Officer and his close relationship with the hard working National Service Officers who provide services to our veterans and their families through the National Service Program of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Hutton's goals during his tenure as Commander include improving all aspects of service to veterans and their families, expanding and improving the National Service Program of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, improving communications at all levels within the organization, and expanding the active involvement of local chapters and state departments in veteran support activities.

"Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, through veteran service, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Through the VAVS program, MOPH volunteers selflessly provide assistance to hospitalized veterans at VA medical facilities and State Veterans Homes.

William R. Hutton was a hero of of the Vietnam war, a member of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and is now Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Bill was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart medal with second star and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

It's Coming Soon: Sale-abration!

Soldiers' Angels proudly announces the Third Annual Sale-abration, a nationwide garage/yard sale, to be held October 21-23! For the last two years, this special event has drawn together people in events across the country as they cleared out their homes, supported the troops by raising money, and spread the word about Soldiers' Angels.

If you would like to hold a sale, sign up at www.soldiersangels.org/garage-sale-signup and start spreading the news to your friends and neighbors. This could be a great event for a school or church, or a Scout/youth group. Get your whole neighborhood involved in one big yard sale!

Sellers who register will receive information packets, including flyers and suggestions for improving the sale and its impact. Help with press releases and local media will also be available. Please sign up now if you're planning on a garage/yard sale for Sale-abration!

If you would like to assist someone else who is holding a sale or see if there is already one near you, go here to check or sign up:

www.soldiersangels.org/sales-pick-state

Clear out your closet AND support the troops at all at once with Sale-abration!

Pennsylvania Angels joined up with a local citizen who helps vets during the winter. Together they are stuffing 150 Vet Packs for the coming winter.

They expect to have 75 backpacks filled by the end of September and another 75 for in November.

Customers of the Mystic Aquarium Store have donated hundreds of backpacks for the wounded.

Jammin' July

July was such a busy month that not all the July activities made it into last month's newsletter. For a few angels, July was certainly jam-packed…

Our Philly Angels took part in three different July events. In between it all, Local Soldiers' Angels Community Network Coordinator (CNC) Tammy Chappel met Mike, who is a part of a team assisting homeless veterans at the Erie Pennsylvania VA Hospital.

Tammy learned that during Pennsylvania's winters, Mike helps almost 300 vets. Together, they developed a partnership. "This year's goal was set at 125 vets to assist, and we even asked for extras if we could pull it off," Tammy says.

The plan is going well, Tammy reports. Between the SA warehouse sending 75 backpacks and Tammy and her fellow Angels working hard, they expect to have 75 backpacks filled by the end of September and another 75 for Mike in November.

Pennsylvania Angels met up twice at Hoss in Meadville, where they did a meet & greet and brought awareness to Soldiers' Angels. Tammy met up there with a former Angel that—to her surprise—found Tammy without even having the information she'd sent out to other Angels.

Along with Angel Christy Richardson, Tammy Chappel was brainstorming one day and came up with a great idea: collect "granny squares" to make Afghans for veterans. So, they logged onto Facebook and posted a few messages, asking their family and friends to donate a couple of granny squares, They truly were not sure what the response would be…

It succeeded beautifully! "Our first goal was to make an afghan for a wounded female soldier and one for a colonel at an Air Force base in CA, where a local Angel thought the colonel would enjoy it as a moral boost," Tammy reports. "Along the way, one of our Angels had finished a afghan and asked if we would take it as well. Sure enough we did; we sent it to the colonel and kept going with the granny squares and decided to ship both afghans to wounded soldiers."

Tammy says, "Thanks to other Angels, we had an extra goal. Angel hugs to all whom helped."

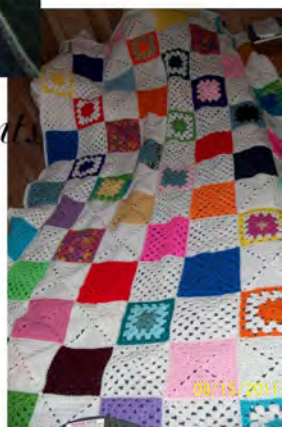
In February of 2010, The Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT had picked Soldiers' Angels to be the recipient of their annual Fleece blanket drive with Angel Kim Wagner, but it didn't stop there.. Since then, Andrew and his team at the Mystic Aquarium Store have been very busy...

In a recent email, Andrew described what one particular employee has been doing: "Eleanor was responsible for collecting 75% of the donations we sent you! In the last three months alone, she has convinced 289 guests to donate a backpack to Soldiers' Angels! Needless to say, she is an extremely valuable asset to both our organization and to our partnership with you!"

July was certainly a jammed and jammin' month for Angels to celebrate America's Independence while finding unique and creative ways to bring smiles to our heroes and awareness to Soldiers' Angels.

OUTSTANDING job, Angels! Keep up the AWESOME ANGELING!

The two afghan blankets made with granny squares for two Wounded Warriors



Everything Angel

Being creative along with having a hobby can be profitable in so many ways, but NOT just financially. Soldiers' Angels Lorri Robbins has been an Angel for a year and has a Facebook store (Gathering Post for the Armed Forces) where she sells homemade and handcrafted items so she can send care packages to her adopted heroes.

Recently a few of Lorri's fellow Angels discovered how creative she is and have been buying a few items, Meanwhile, Angel Katlynn posted a picture of an angel doll on her profile, and that was the beginning. Lorri picks up the story...

"I got a notification that WeiEn had used my name in a comment. I went to see and noticed that Kat Thompson had changed her profile picture to this cute primitive angel doll and everyone was commenting on it and how they wanted one! They actually started saying, 'I want 2, or 3. I want to give one to....' and on and on they went. WeiEn said, 'I bet Lorri Robbins can make these,' so I answered. I said, 'Yes, I can!' Someone else also posted saying they could make them, too."

Angel Katlynn Thompson herself also uses her skills and talents in Alaska to help her support her soldiers. "I sell antiques in a rented booth in town," Katlynn explains. "This is how I get the money needed to do all the work I do for Soldiers' Angels and my other groups, She and I know each other from our online group for a platoon of Marines."

With Katlynn and Lorri's leadership, Alaska Angels have come up with an creative idea to help with Wrapped in Holiday Spirit. "I want to sell angels from now till Christmas," Katlynn says.

Her goal is to sell everything angel-related in her antique store, with the funds from everything angels sold to go to *Wrap Around Christmas,* among those Angel items are16 angel dolls made by Lorri.

Katlynn has a message for her fellow Angels:

Greetings, Angels!

We Alaska soldiers angels are collecting ANGELS!! what type?? Dolls, paintings, fingering, pillows, sculptural items, what-nots...anything ANGEL! We have a spot in a local shop and are raising money for Wrapped in Holiday Spirit!!! Please, if you have anything angel laying around collecting dust, please send it!! All money raised goes to Soldiers' Angels!!

Please send your items to:

The Thompsons
4683 Chena small tracts
Fairbanks AK 99709

I will send in photos of the shop display!

Thank you, Lorri and Katlynn for using your gifts to help the troops and Soldiers' Angels!

Angel Lorri is making beautiful Angel dolls to benefit Wrapped in Holiday Spirit, the Soldiers' Angels campaign to bring a happy holidays to deployed troops.

Dolls, paintings, fingering, Pillows, sculptural items, what-nots...Anything ANGEL...

Door-to-Door Scam Uses the Soldiers' Angels Name!

Soldiers' Angels is not involved with anyone selling magazines door-to-door, nor have we been in contact with a door-to-door magazine seller who has said they are donating a percentage of their sales to Soldiers' Angels or sending purchased magazines to the troops.

Individual companies may plan to donate to SA, but unless they have made formal arrangements with us, we cannot endorse their fundraising activities.

In general, if a company is working with Soldiers' Angels, information on their project will be found on www.soldiersangels.org. Just click "Search" on the left side of the homepage and enter the name of the company or project to see if they are legit. If you ever have questions about a company, you can ask them for the name of their Soldiers' Angels contact or email angels@soldiersangels.org (sometimes local or small companies will make arrangements that don't appear on the website).

In current form, people are selling *Fit for Life* magazines that they say they are going to give to Soldiers' Angels to distribute to the troops.

This is a Fraud!

To avoid being scammed by someone claiming to work with Soldiers' Angels, check our site or email us to verify that they are legitimately supporting the troops trough Soldiers' Angels.

If you know someone who has been supported by an adopting Angel and would like to be interviewed for *Interview with a Hero*, email newsletter @soldiersangels.org with subject line "Interview with a Hero."

Interview with a Hero

Three simple words best describe this month's Interview With A Hero: love of my country!

Fresh out of high school, Specialist Jonathan Riley joined the Army to serve and protect his country. Riley is currently on his third deployment after serving with Operation New Dawn and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Unfortunately, it wasn't until his second deployment that Riley learned about Angels who wanted to support him. "I didn't know anything about Soldiers' Angels. I was a little bit down because my wife and I had just started our family, and a friend of mine asked if I had heard about Soldiers' Angels," Riley remembers. "We sat and talked about the organization for a while and I went and signed up. Soon I got an email from an Angel and we talked over AOL Instant Messenger," Riley added that his Angel sent "great stuff" that he shared with his fellow soldiers.

SPC Riley is in the 123rd BSB, "the Best BSB in the whole U.S. Army," He is married, with "three wonderful children." Listening to both SPC Riley and his lovely wife SIesia, it's clear that, for this young couple, having the extra support from Soldiers' Angels was a big blessing. Silesia was pregnant during Jonathan's last deployment and deeply appreciated the support.

When asked what hearing about Soldiers' Angels meant to her, Silesia said, "It's actually a relief. Last deployment his Angel helped him feel at home even though he was half way around the world. She would also talk to me since I was pregnant, and sent me cards around holidays. She was a true blessing to both of us."

Riley had this to say about Soldiers' Angels: "I think you are better than the USO. At times you are not an escape from the war, but you are a great spirit-lifter. I thank ya'll for that."

"His Angel helped him feel at home even though he was half way around the world."

Mama Mia is sending her delicious jerky to the troops through Soldiers' Angels.

Mama Mia! It's Jerky for the Troops!

Entrepreneur Mia Styles is helping Soldiers' Angels stuff care packages with her one-of-a-kind, delicious beef jerky, offering Mama Mia jerky for $4.50 per bag (reg. $6.99) when customers donate their purchase to Soldiers' Angels.

Though Styles has been in business only since January, she already has an extensive history of charitable activities. She has conducted fundraisers for cystic fibrosis and breast cancer, and even turned down a potential major investor who didn't like her fundraisers.

Created with her father's personal recipe that marinates the meat for three days before smoking it, Mia's jerky is a big hit with everyone who tries it, including her Marine Corps friends in Afghanistan who inspired her to start this donation drive for Soldiers' Angels. Since jerky is small and lightweight while offering concentrated nutrition, it's the perfect care package stuffer and easy for troops to carry when on patrols.

To get some yummy Mama Mia's jerky for yourself, visit www.MamaMiasBeefJerky.com (do NOT use that link to donate for the troops).

To donate Mia's jerky to the troops, visit: www.wepay.com/donate/SupportOurTroops

Siemens Sends Socks

The Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics office in Norwood, Massachusetts set an example for how to pull together to support the troops.

Inspired by a story they heard about a little girl with a deployed brother who collected socks for the troops, Siemens contacted Soldiers' Angels to see if we would like to receive the socks. Of course, it was a perfect fit with the Six Months of Christmas Drive!

Dubbed Operation White Socks and led by Sandy Capen of Siemens, who has a nephew in the military, the drive collected 185 pairs of socks. Thank you to Siemens employees of Norwood!

It's not too late to get your own office involved with Six Months of Christmas. See www.soldiersangels.org/6-months-christmas for details.

The Siemens office in Norwood, MA gathered 185 pairs of socks for troops' Holiday care packages. Thank you, Norwood!

For Standing Heroes, in Memory of a Fallen One

Angels in Virginia and West Virginia responded to SA's call to action last Memorial Day with a very special project in honor and memory of a Virginia Angel's husband, Sgt James McIlvaine, who was KIA on April 30, 2009 in Iraq.

The Soldiers' Angels Memorial Day-themed Fundraiser ran for a week, starting on Memorial day. Volunteers from both states met up at the Giant Food in Leesburg, VA to collect monetary donations and summer items to ship to a company of 200 soldiers deployed to Afghanistan. They also invited passersby to create or sign Memorial Day cards to be included in the packages.

The 2yr anniversary of that SGT McIlvaine making the ultimate sacrifice for our country fell on the first day of the fundraiser. What could be more appropriate?

"It was a very special and touching day,," CNC Jacqueline says. "Our Angel who lost her husband surprisingly showed up with her two younger children after spending the morning with her husband's unit in Arlington, Virginia. They came to kindly donate items and to see and take pictures with the poster I made in honor of their husband/father. They couldn't stay long, as they were on their way to honor and celebrate the life of a great Marine who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The team of Angels gathered over 715 items for care packages, with an estimated value of over $2100. They collected an additional $457 to cover shipping costs and gathered over 210 Memorial Day cards from Giant shoppers, which were included in the packages. In all, they sent 27 large boxes to their target unit.

"Hopefully these 200 servicemen and women will enjoy everything," Jacqueline says. "I know that our fellow Angels touched the hearts of many and made their deployments a little nicer. As for the Marine in memory and honor of whom we did fundraiser, we all know he would have wanted nothing more than for us to celebrate his life by helping his brothers and sisters overseas protecting our country… continuing *his* fight."

CNC Jacqueline shows off the 27 boxes she and her Angels collected for troops in Afghanistan, in memory of fallen Marine Sgt McIlvaine.

"He would have wanted nothing more than for us to celebrate his life by helping his brothers and sisters overseas."

Jacqueline created a poster honoring the fallen hero in whose memory the care package drive was conducted.

Angels in Virginia worked hard to rush care packages to a unit in Iraq that desperately needed support.

A Happy Cavalry—Thanks from the Front

Shortly after Mother's Day , an Army company based in Texas deployed to Iraq. As they began to settle in for another long deployment, Staff Sergeant Wangsness realized that due to the announcement that their PX was closing soon and the fact that mail for them wasn't too frequent, he should reach out to Soldiers' Angels.

Wangsness and his unit were no stranger to the support given by the Angels of Soldiers' Angels, having received it on their last deployment. So, it was the SSG's hope that by reaching out to Soldiers' Angels with the help his wife Dana and his Soldiers' Angel, when the PX finally closed his Company would have enough supplies to last the duration of their deployment.

Amy's QRF swung into action, posting a notice about the situation. Jacqueline Stein, Community Network Coordinator (CNC) for Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia, spotted the posting and offered to help. After connecting with Amy, she reported the situation on the VA State Blog:

Due to their isolated location in Iraq and the base PX closing as the military draws down, they cannot purchase their own supplies. They are in a terrible situation and desperately need hygiene items ASAP. The few things they have left are being stretched for the entire company.

Jacqueline added that she would be at a local grocery store and invited people to drop off items for SSG Wangsness there or at her home. She finished her announcement:

Thank you all for your help and generosity. It is greatly appreciated. In the spirit of this 4th of July weekend, what better time than now to help those who sacrifice all they have to give us our Independence and Freedom which certainly is NOT free...

Due to Jacqueline's work schedule, all of the donations needed to be collected the week of Independence Day, so she threw herself into the project. "I spent all of Sunday (the 3rd) and early Monday morning (the 4th) making signs, responding to emails and phone calls etc," she recalls.

In part because of the holiday, no one was able to assist Jacqueline at the last minute, so her mom decided to "sacrifice" her own Independence Day and help her daughter receive the donations. Aren't mom's the best? "My mother and I spent five hours on the 4th of July in 90+ degree weather outside of Giant collecting monetary donations for shipping, and items for the unit," Jacqueline recalls.

Though it was only a day's notice, having the donation drive on America's birthday just fit perfectly. After collecting all the donations, Jacqueline, her family, another Angel and her two sons as well as a neighbor, spent all day putting together care packages. The next Monday, Jacqueline took all 40 care packages to her local post office where she ran into a slight snafu: she realized that she was short on money for postage!

Accompanied by her little sister, a "Junior Angel," Jacqueline went around her neighborhood asking for help, which brought in almost enough. Then another Angel heard Jacqueline was still a little short and covered the rest of the postage.

Jacqueline collected so much that she was able to send two additional big boxes of snacks and items specifically for females a few weeks later, including pictures and letters from some summer campers.

The packages to SSG W arrived in record time and he was thrilled, as was Jacqueline. "It all just happened so quickly," she says. "The grace of God was definitely there and He obviously wanted us to help that company. I can't think of any other way of how or why it became so successful in such a short period of time and went so smoothly. The heart and generosity of Americans really shined that week."

"...it became so successful in such a short period of time and went so smoothly. The heart and generosity of Americans really shined that week."

Soldiers' Angels Germany

Army Spc. Nick Ganey, left, talks with his buddy, Cpl. John Aycock at the NATO hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan, after an IED flipped their 15-ton armored vehicle upside down. Ganey spent more than an hour trapped underneath in the turret. He suffered burns to his arm, legs and torso. Photo: Ross Taylor, The Virginian-Pilot.

"There is a huge effort going on in Afghanistan and we've got to take care of these guys. I don't think the public really knows how many people are getting injured over here."

- Lt. Col. Terry Lonergan, a critical care transport doctor from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, deployed to the 10th EAEF in Afghanistan

To learn more about Soldiers' Angels Germany, see www.soldiersangels.org/germany

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS at Landstuhl Hospital for September 2011

Thank you for your help with these items, listed in order of need.

- Sweatpants and Zippered Hoodie Sweatjackets (sizes M, L, XL, dark colors)
- Plain white undershirts (sizes M, L, XL, crew neck)
- Men's Boxer-briefs (M, L, XL) 2nd choice boxers.
- Calling cards (60-minute domestic cards. International not necessary)
- Blankets of Hope
- Socks (white ankle or crew length preferred.)

The ICU at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center incorporated the Soldiers' Angels Logo into t-shirts created by the staff.

"I don't think the public really knows how many people are getting injured over here."

Army Surgeon General Maj. Wertin from the 28th Combat Support Hospital sews up a Soldier's wound after he was hit by shrapnel during an insurgent attack in Mosul, Iraq.

The Sewing Team includes five sub-teams putting their sewing (and even non-sewing) skills to work. Check it out at www.soldiersangels.org/sewing-team.

From the Sewing Team

RULE #1 = HAVE FUN!

The girls who attended Camp Danbee this summer had fun! On their community service day they made 26 blankets for our heroes!—blankets made with love and laughter, each communicating "we have not forgotten you," bring beautiful messages of support.

Have you started yours yet? Have you delivered ONE flyer to ONE scout troop or church sewing club or fabric store yet?

We have lofty goals again this year for our BLANKETS OF BELIEF: to honor and acknowledge our heroes—deployed AGAIN over the Christmas holidays and cold winter months—with tangible proof of our support. Our heroes LOVE these blankets!

Will you make just ONE?! Will you share just ONE flyer?! Will you tell just ONE friend or family member?! Will you help us put a smile on the face of just ONE service member?!

Will you help us put a smile on the face of just ONE service member?!

There are complete instructions at www.soldiersangels.org/sewing-team. Click on "Blankets of Belief. For guidelines on blanket-making, next click on "Basic Blankets of Belief Guidelines and Shipping" and/or on "Make a No-Sew Blanket." For a flyer to share with others, click on "Blankets of Belief Flyer."

And don't forget RULE #1 = HAVE FUN!

Many thanks from the Sewing Team and on behalf of the heroes we all support!

Love,

Dee :)
Dee Jerge, Vice President-Sewing Team

You don't have to know how to sew to make a blanket!

Sewing Team Information & Contacts

www.soldiersangels.org/sewing-team

Vice President—Sewing Team Director—Blankets of Hope
Dee Jerge
blanketsofhope@soldiersangels.org
djerge@soldiersangels.org

Sewing Team Newsletter
Karen Giffin
bohnewsletter@gmail.com

Germany—Blankets of Hope
Maryann Phillips
mphillips@soldiersangels.org

Sand Scarves
Anita Dice
sandscarf@soldiersangels.org

Cooling Scarves
Deborah Delcorio
coolscarf@soldiersangels.org

Crafts Corner/Crochet Team
Deborah Delcorio
crochet@soldiersangels.org

Operation Top Knot
Judy Shervanick
optopknot@soldiersangels.org

Patriot Pillowcases
Katie Williams
djerge@soldiersangels.org

Activities & Events

Wounded Soldier Backpack Collection - Aug. 9 - Sep 30, ALL Month in Fresno, CA. For more info email Twyla Choate at events@soldiersangels.org

Steppin' For Heroes - September 20 - 24, Online fundraising event. For more information, contact Amy Krome amyqrf@soldiersangels.org

Card Signing for Troops - September 3, at Big Lots in Maine from 9 am to 3 pm. For more information, email Kim at Justinkim69@aol.com

Deployment Ceremony - September 1, 2011 at the Maryland National Guard, 8 am. For more info, email Desiree Bowman at desiree620@yahoo.com or cncmd1@gmail.com

Richmond Good Old Days - September 8 - 11. for more information please contact Joe Wheaton at cncmi40@gmail.com

Michigan Troop Support Drive & BBQ - September 10 at 11 am TO 12 pm. Fresard Buick GMC (21800 Woodward Ave, Ferndale, MI 48220). For more information, contact Jen Dawson at cncmi12@gmail.com

Soldiers' Angels 9/11 Memorial Run for Remembrance, September 10 - 11 ALL Day in San Antonio, TX and September 11 in Shreveport, LA. For more info, email Craig Siwarga at csiwarga@soldiersangels.org

Pennsylvania Labor Day Parade, September 10 in Spartansburg from 11 am to 1 pm. For more information, email Tammy Chappel at cncpa2@gmail.com

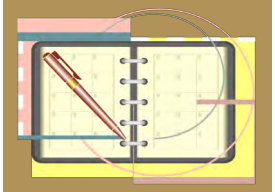
Kansas Cider Days Fall Festival, Sept. 24 - 25, in Topeka. For more information email Sherry O'Neil at sherryoneill1@hotmail.com

New Hampshire Honoring Our Heroes, October 15, 2011 in Plaistow for more information email Twyla Choate at events@soldiersangels.org

Sale-abration, October 21 - 23. Are you ready to clean house AND raise $ for our troops?! It's A Sale-ABration! Give your junk "wings"! Sale-Abration can be anywhere! The yard, driveway, Apt bldg common room or lobby, Senior Citizen center, Community center, VFW or American Legion hall, National Guard Armory, Church basement, Fire House,even eBay! Explore the possibilities! Mark Your Calendars and see www.soldiersangels.org/garage-sale-signup for more info.

Day of the Deployed - October 26. A day of honor recognizing our deployed service members and their families, originated by Soldiers' Angels. Americans are encouraged to reaffirm their patriotism and allegiance to our flag and country, and to honor our brave men and women in uniform who are selflessly putting their lives on the line to protect and preserve our way of life. For more information, email DAYOFTHEDEPLOYED@soldiersangels.org

1) Event in every state
2) Every governor in the nation endorse a proclamation
3) Engage senators and congressmen to embrace Day of the Deployed
4) Send proclamations to all public affairs officers in all military branches to disperse
5) Disperse proclamations into the hands of our deployed heroes
6) Establish major media coverage
7) Encourage Americans to support and rally the troops



IF you know of an event, activity or fundraiser for Soldiers' Angels that is either sponsored by or for Soldiers' Angels, please let me know. My goal is for every state to take part in this section, so PLEASE email newsletter@soldiersangels.org Thank You! —Amy

SOLDIERS' ANGELS

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Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and their families. Founded in 2003 by the mother of two American soldiers, its hundreds of thousands of Angel volunteers assist veterans, wounded and deployed personnel and their families in a variety of unique and effective ways.

"May No Soldier Go Unloved," encapsulates the motivation behind Soldiers' Angels. The volunteers of Soldiers' Angels work tirelessly to demonstrate active care and concern for veterans, the wounded, deployed service members and their families.

The Fallen

(enlarge view to read the story)