



February 2009

THE REASON WE SERVE feedback from the battlefield

I wanted to thank your group for the two great packages I received at Christmas. Your thoughts and well wishes are greatly appreciated and gifts are shared among our group.

I am surrounded by many fine Americans out here doing an amazing job of protecting Iraqis and training them to protect themselves through the Army and Police. They are doing excellent work each and every day.

Stephen S.

On behalf of the Soldiers of the 84th Engineer Battalion and all Soldiers deployed to FOB Marez in Mosul, Iraq, I want to thank you for your generous contributions, warm thoughts and faithful prayers.

We continue to fight for freedom and peace in our country and throughout the world. Your involvement helps us cope with family separation and long work hours.

May God bless you for your kindness. Thank you guys so, so much!

CPT Sean P.

As we catch our breath to look back over the full twelve months of operation for Cypress Cares, we think: "what a full year it has been"!

Nearly 700 care packages were shipped in 2008 alone to over 150 service personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Korea and on-board US Navy ships. Thankfully, many of the soldiers returned home in the past few months. As more deployed soldiers fill the empty spots of those who have returned home to family and friends, Cypress Cares continues to fill a portion of the increasing need for care packages.

2008 closed out with a highly publicized and well attended event with 40 students from several Cy-Fair Independent School District schools. Cypress Cares received positive media coverage from KRPC News 2 Houston, who filmed a segment of the activities for the Education Station portion of the five o'clock news. The students were excited to see themselves on television. This event is now scheduled to be an annual undertaking, purposed at helping students remember the giving spirit of the season.

As 2009 began, momentum continued to increase. The January box packing day resulted in 40 more packages for the troops. We also had the first middle school to conduct a school-wide donation drive for the troops. The *No Place for Hate* group of students from Houston Independent School District's Johnston Middle School did their part to show troop support this month. The students collected enough donations to fill 30 boxes for the troops.

Perhaps the most heart-warming segment of the Johnston packing day was reading the genuine letters of thanks for the soldiers written by the students. Messages such as "we realize freedom is not free", "we are so grateful for your support", "stay strong and come home safe!" demonstrated that the students understand the sacrifice being made on their behalf. These students should be very proud of what they accomplished.

Cypress Cares continues to press on, making progress and building a city-wide network of support for our soldiers. Thank you for your commitment to the organization, and may God continue to bless America through our strong men and women in uniform!



CYPRESS CARES

★ **★ COMMUNIQUE ★**

February 2009

SPECIAL THANKS



Cy-Fair ISD students pose for a picture after boxing more than 30 care packages for deployed soldiers in December.



They just keep upping the ante...even though they tirelessly support Cypress Cares with their time, money and creativity, many of our dedicated volunteers are raising the bar again, this time by adopting soldiers. These volunteers are selecting individual soldiers to sponsor through additional care packages and letters. This option is available for any family, friend network or business. Personal and specialized attention provides an additional level of comfort for the troops. The soldiers truly enjoy the personalized contact.

Despite economic turbulence, several Cypress area businesses are digging deep into their pockets to support the efforts of Cypress Cares. Our organization is very grateful for the continued support and encouragement. The mission of Cypress Cares cannot be fulfilled without your dedicated support. If you are a business owner, or know of a business that would like to offer financial support, please contact Cypress Cares via email at cypress_cares@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE

 upcoming events

22 Feb: Fashion Forward Fund Raiser
Cole's Crossing Community Center
13050 Barker Cypress Road
12 PM – 6 PM

Ladies, this is your chance to spruce up your spring wardrobe and support your troops all at the same time. Refreshments will be provided. Bring a friend!

15 Mar: Boxing Day
Cole's Crossing Community Center
13050 Barker Cypress Road
10 AM – 12 PM

Bring Spring Break snacks for the troops.

28 Mar: Ride In to Support The Troops
Cypress Saloon
12710 Telge Road
12 PM – 2 PM

Calling all bikers and non-bikers! Enjoy heartwarming Cajun cooking while you warm the hearts of the troops by signing cards and donating to the cause. \$15 per person, food and water are provided. Drinks available for purchase from Cypress Saloon.

More to come...

Check back at www.cypress-cares.org for more updates.

CONTACT US

cypress_cares@yahoo.com
www.cypress-cares.org

Cypress Cares is a local chapter of the national 501 (c)(3) organization 'Support Our Troops'. Cypress Cares is dedicated to providing community support for the troops who protect our freedoms through care packages and letters of encouragement from those of us who are proud to be Americans.