



Give2TheTroops, Inc. Newsletter (Jan. 2005 Issue)

In this issue

- MEET SANDY PANZA, SECRETARY
- MEET MARCELO TEIXEIRA, DIRECTOR!
- MEET PETE CASSELL, DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON BRANCH!
- HOLIDAYS WITH OUR TROOPS...
- THE TROOPS STILL NEED US!
- MORE CHILDREN HELP GIVE2THETROOPS!
- TROOPS REALLY READ OUR LETTERS!
- MAJOR EVENT: ELVIS CONCERT - BENEFITS GIVE2THETROOPS!
- MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP...
- Recognition...
- TRIBUTE TO THE WOUNDED and FALLEN HEROES
- Wristbands & Magnets
- Larger Magnets...
- Mini Magnets...

Dear Andi,

HAPPY NEW YEAR and thank you for supporting our troops!

MEET SANDY PANZA, SECRETARY



We have a new Secretary! Please welcome one of our latest Directors, **Sandy Panza**. Sandy lives in Monroe, CT and works in Fairfield. She spent many years as a Fairfield resident and volunteering with many organizations. Sandy brings her great organizational and record-keeping skills to our organization. **Dawn Ames** will assist Sandy as the **Assistant Secretary**. There's a lot of work to be done in this role, so if you are interested in helping Sandy or Dawn, please let them know.

Please read Sandy's background in her bio on our Website's Board of Directors page.

If you need to reach Sandy, her email is: Sandy@Give2thetroops.org

MEET MARCELO TEIXEIRA, DIRECTOR!



We have ANOTHER new Director! Please welcome **Marcelo Teixeira**. Marcelo lives and works in Stratford, CT. Originally, Marcelo came to us to offer his technical web design skills and help us with our daily website updates. Marcelo became more and more involved with Give2theTroops, spending at least 2 hours/day making updates, offering advice and even helping to unload boxes. We are thrilled to have him join our team. Marcelo was also a Navy Corpsman (medic) attached to a Marine Corps unit in the Persian Gulf War.

Please read Marcelo's background in his bio on our Website's Board of Directors page.

If you need to reach Marcelo, his email is: Celo@Give2thetroops.org

MEET PETE CASSELL, DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON BRANCH!



We have ANOTHER new branch AND Director!

Please welcome **Pete Cassell**. Pete lives in Longview, Washington. He is married to Carol Cassell and they have 2 daughters. Pete (with Carol's help) has already hit the ground running, collecting donations and getting the word out in the local newspapers. He is very excited to be part of our family and we are just as excited to have him onboard. Pete is also a Marine Corps veteran.

Please read Pete's background in his bio on our Website's Board of Directors page.

If you need to reach Pete, his email is: Pete@Give2thetroops.org

HOLIDAYS WITH OUR TROOPS...



- We heard from many troops and their families over the holidays. **PFC Clay Hull** (ARMY) was home for a few days (in Washington State) and called us before returning to Iraq. His phone call was a great surprise!
- We also received a call from Afghanistan from **SFC JohnCarlo Lewis** (ARMY) who was so appreciative of the X Box system and games we sent his unit. He promises to meet us when he gets back to the U.S.
- Mothers called, too: **Sheri Jolly** from Oklahoma who misses her Marine son, **Josh**; and **Yolanda Martinez**, who called from Florida, missing her Marine son, **Jonathan**. Holidays are especially tough for family members of those deployed, or who have lost a loved one, so please reach out to those families and give them extra support.

Holiday cards, emails, calls and letters were sent to us with special wishes from: LCPL Adam McCormick (USMC), COL Jeremy Deerinwater (ARMY), AT1 (AW/SW) John Boyd (NAVY), Sgt LaMeika Mack (ARMY), Sgt Tom Love (USMC), SPC Buddy Copeland (ARMY), SSG Columbus Wheeler (ARMY), SFC Wilmer Quarles (ARMY), Servia Howard (NAVY), and LCPL Jonathan Munoz (USMC), PFC Clay Hull (ARMY), SFC JohnCarlo Lewis (ARMY), and CAPT Jeff Ontko (ARMY).

Please know they appreciate everything you do for them and their fellow troops.

[VIEW LETTERS FROM THE TROOPS](#)

THE TROOPS STILL NEED US!

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Every week, we receive new troops who ask for a care package from us. For the month of December, we sent **178 care packages** to our

troops!

This was accomplished with the assistance of some terrific packers and shippers in December: Dawn Ames, Stephney Anderson, Kathy Beck, Kimberly Beck, Andrew Campbell, Lynne Campbell, Matthew Campbell, Dana Courtney, Kendra D'Andrea, Morgan D'Andrea, Sidney D'Andrea, Jen Emrich, Adam Gausepohl, Dave Gonzales, Aimee Mason, Jason Melaragno, Jeff Melaragno, Bob O'Donoghue, Joe Panza, Sandy Panza, Colleen Payne, Luke Pezanko, Marlene Pioli, Barbara Tucciarone, A.J. Tucciarone, Amy Young, Ben Young, Joshua Young and The North Stratfield School Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

## Thank you all again so much!

Please sign up with your closest Branch Director to help prepare the care packages for our troops. We need your help!

## MORE CHILDREN HELP GIVE2THETROOPS!

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*Southbury, Connecticut*  
Cub Scouts collect donations for the troops!

It is never too late for your Scouts or classrooms to write letters or collect donations for the troops. We mail boxes every weekend from our different branches.

We are happy post the many Scouts and School names on our Donor Honor Roll List.

[Look at all our Donors...](#)

## TROOPS REALLY READ OUR LETTERS!

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**When you write letters and cards to the troops, we forward them inside our care packages.** Here are Sailors aboard the USS Harry Truman reading some of the letters sent to them. The small red stockings hanging behind them were also sent by Give2theTroops Donors.

**So to all you teachers and children who send us thousands of cards:  
THANK YOU AGAIN!**

We always need letters and cards for our troops. It's what keeps their morale elevated. Many of them hang your cards and letters in their tents or where they sleep as a constant reminder that they are loved and supported back at home.

**MAJOR EVENT: ELVIS CONCERT - BENEFITS GIVE2THETROOPS!**



**It's not too late to get tickets!**

This great fundraiser is THIS WEEKEND in **Boston, Massachusetts! Saturday evening, January 8th.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CONCERT TICKETS: Call the Berklee Box Office at: (617) 747-2261. Tickets are \$27.50 and \$32.50 depending on seating.

Many of us are driving to Boston from Connecticut - please join us for a great evening with your family!

Las Vegas performer Steve Connolly ('Elvis') will perform an electrifying show. The Las Vegas Press and the LA Times both declared that Steve was the Ultimate in Elvis Entertainment. Steve (Elvis) will **donate proceeds to GIVE2THETROOPS** from the sale of his CD's, t-shirts, autographed pictures and other merchandise.

## MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP...



### We always need help with the following:

- Collecting donations or funds
- Packing & mailing care packages
- Bringing boxes to the dump
- Filling out postal customs forms
- Helping at our fundraisers
- Selling our magnets & wristbands
- Spreading the word about Give2theTroops...

### ITEMS YOU CAN EASILY DONATE:

- Plain white paper
  - DELL Ink toner
  - Zip-loc, *freezer* bags (gallon-size)
  - Packing tape - any kind! (we never have enough!)
  - Large black garbage bags
  - SUV's & strong arms to transport the care packages to the post office.
- Empty ink jet cartridges: For each empty cartridge sent, Recycle for America will give \$2.00 to Give2thetroops.

## EMAIL YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH MANAGER TO VOLUNTEER!

## Recognition...



- ON DECEMBER 21, 2004, The New York Times Newspaper did a wonderful story on our charity. (Pictured above are Aimee Mason and Kimberly Beck, both ages 12, packing boxes at Andi Grant's home. Photo courtesy of the New York Times)
- In Florida, Bright House Networks Internet Service featured Give2theTroops for the month of December on their homepage.
- Andi was on the air again in December with G. Gordon Liddy's live radio show
- We were also mentioned in President George W. Bush's Radio Address to the Nation on November 27, 2004.

## [SEE OUR PRESS COVERAGE](#)

## TRIBUTE TO THE WOUNDED and FALLEN HEROES

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Harry Newman wrote a beautiful song called "**We Still Have Heroes**" for our wounded and fallen troops and their family members. He is accompanied by many outstanding instrumentalists and vocalists from the Chicago area. We have featured his song on our Special Links Page on our website.

Harry is a strong believer that anyone who would be willing to lay their life on the line for our personal freedom deserves our very best effort in demonstrating gratitude. All the artists involved in this project donated their skills without any financial compensation. They share the same patriotism for our beloved country and are deeply grateful to all those who protect it.

If you know a wounded troop or family member of those wounded or KIA, who would like to receive this CD as a complimentary gift, please contact Andi at info@Give2thetroops.org

[Listen to "We Still Have Heroes"](#)

Wristbands & Magnets

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To help defray the cost of postage to mail our care packages, we are selling "Support Our Troops" nylon wristbands and car magnets.

Special thanks to **Darlene Elmore in California** who has been selling wristbands and magnets for us!

- **Wristbands - \$3.00**
- **Large Magnets - \$6.00**
- **Mini Magnets - \$4.00**

All magnets are MADE IN AMERICA and 100% of the proceeds go to the troops.

Please email me if you would like to purchase any of these or do a fundraiser at your school, church, synagogue, etc. by selling these items.

## Larger Magnets...

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Mini Magnets...



Only have a small space to display your patriotism? Great for your motorcycle or small area on the back of your car!

Contact me if you would like to buy or sell any of these! :-)

Thank you ALL for everything you do to support our troops and their families.

Your support means more than you will ever know...

God Bless you all.

Love,

Andi Grant and the Board of Directors

Please visit our sister charities:

- [our TX Sister Charity, OPERATION LETTERS FROM HOME](#)
- [Our VA Sister Charity, OPERATION FIRST RESPONSE \(Wounded Troops\)](#)
- [our GA Sister Charity, IRAQI BASEBALL](#)
- [our MI Sister charity, USA TROOP CARE](#)

Contact Information

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web: <http://www.give2thetroops.org>

[Forward email](#)

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