



# OPERATION GRATITUDE

SENDING CARE PACKAGES TO U.S. MILITARY



December 31, 2012

Hilldale Dental  
Attn: Dr. Fred Jaeger  
4414 Regent Street  
Madison, WI 53705

Greetings from the Armory!

On behalf of **Operation Gratitude** and the United States Military members who receive our care packages, I thank you for your support of our Halloween Candy Drive and generous donation of 84 lbs of candy, assorted items and 1 letter. Your contribution will enable us to send over **100,000 'chock full' Care Packages** this year to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to Veterans, Wounded Warriors and First Responders.

With the help of supporters nationwide since 2003, we have sent more than 900,000 care packages containing snacks, personal care necessities, entertainment items and letters from appreciative Americans. The hundreds of letters we have received from the troops (which can be read in the Mail Call section of our website) attest to the positive and lasting impact of your kindness. As **Lt. General Raymond T. Odierno**, Commanding, wrote in response to receiving his own care package from Operation Gratitude:

*"I would like to thank you not only for the package I received from OPERATION GRATITUDE, but also for all you do for each of the dedicated men and women who serve our great nation. I am truly humbled by the support you, your volunteers, and your generous sponsors have shown those who sacrifice so much for our country. Though our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines may protect our freedom, its people like all of you that give them the extra motivation to do the incredible job they do every day. Thank you once again, and God bless you all."*

In this 10th year of operation, we will assemble our **One Millionth Care Package!** We hope you will join us on **December 7, 2013** at our Van Nuys facility to celebrate this milestone - made possible by your support. We will send more details about this exciting event in the next few months.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. You play an integral role in putting smiles on the faces of tens of thousands of our troops, and in military parlance, your support is a "force multiplier" to the ultimate mission. The brave members of the U.S. Military who receive your generosity will remember your kindness forever. And we will always be appreciative of your generosity and encouragement.

With much fondness,

**Carolyn Blashek**  
President/Founder

p.s. To read the most current letters of thanks from our troops and see photos of them with your Operation Gratitude care packages, please "Like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude](http://www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude) and "follow" us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/OpGratitude](http://www.twitter.com/OpGratitude) and Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/opgratitude>. Visit our website: [www.OperationGratitude.com](http://www.OperationGratitude.com) where you can also join our **March to a Million** (care packages) campaign! Thank you for your continued interest.

p.p.s. Enclosed are '10 Easy Ways to Help' cards. Please help us spread our word by sharing with friends and family!

Operation Gratitude has been granted non-profit status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Your contribution to this organization is fully deductible in accordance with applicable law for federal income tax purposes as no goods or services were provided in exchange.