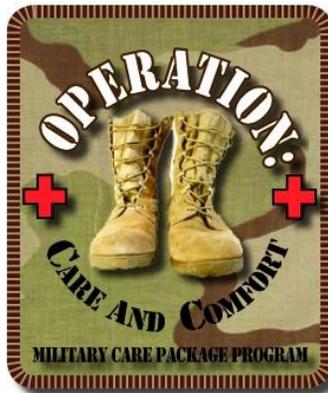


# Operation Care Packages to the Middle East

Mission Accomplished! "Operation Care Packages to the Middle East" was a big success!

Late October and early November 2016 Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary partnered with the Dana Point 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment Support Group, the Dana Hills Interact Club, and Don Juan Avila Elementary School to send love in-country to our Marines who were part of a SPMAGTF (Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force). With a matching grant from the District and MBSR the postage for 175 care packages were mailed to our Marines in harms' way in the Middle East.



## Operation Care and Comfort

Here were the strategic steps:

### Step #1

Students from the **Dana Hills Interact Club** and the **Don Juan Avila Elementary School** stood outside of Walmart to collect goodies for the Troops. Walmart Patrons were given shopping lists of goodies so items could be purchased to include in the care packages; including hygiene items, food treats, socks and other favorite and most needed things.



Attention Walmart Shoppers!



Don Juan Avila Elementary School Students

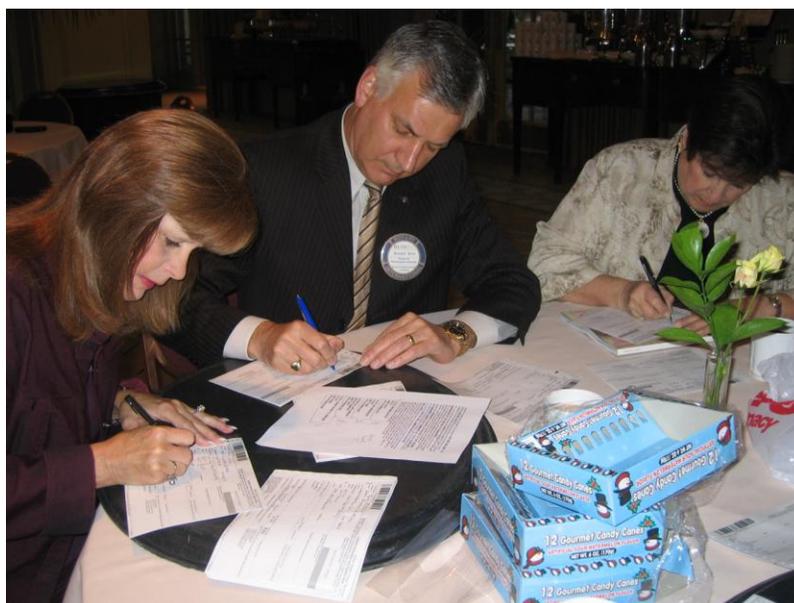


Dana Hills Interact Club

## Step #2

Then the packing party!

Rotarians were in abundance either packing or labeling. Between donations, and efforts that day, The project from beginning to end had nearly 100% Club member participation making this mission a resounding success.



Filling Out Customs Forms

### Step #3 Cards from Kids



A special addition to the boxes was the heartfelt cards from kids. Many of our Warriors are away from their children and families for the holidays. The extra special cards from our kids put a smile on the faces of our Marines. Thank you to the Don Juan Avila School 5<sup>th</sup> grade for providing the cards and the heart and soul to our packages to Afghanistan.

## Step #4 Packaging Party



Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotarians have hosted care packaging parties for many years. Goodies are sent across the miles as a "Thank You" to the Troops for their service and sacrifices. These acts of kindness are aimed at keeping up the morale of our Troops; many of whom are in unsafe and crude circumstances. Good wishes from home mean so much! Rotarians represent a grateful community and without their support, the mission could not be accomplished.

## Step #5

### Care Packages Received in the Middle East



Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary has been honored to serve our Military since 2007. Rotarians and Military share the ideal of "Service Above Self." It makes perfect sense that this commonality bonds our service life together. These men and women fighting for our freedom and the families left behind sacrifice more than most people realize. Our Rotary club willingly devotes substantial time and talent to achieve the highest ideal of service we can perform for our active duty 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment and their families.

This Rotary project provided lessons outside the classroom for our Elementary School children and High School Interactors. It gave every student an American history lesson about our servicemen and women who left their families to serve their country bravely a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. It reminds us all about the honor and integrity of those who fight heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans.

Thank you MBSR Rotarians and District 5320 for being part of the solution and truly making a difference!

Semper Fidelis

Terry Rifkin, Past President Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary  
President, Dana Point 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment Support Group