

**Operation Hoosier Honor** : November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

After several delays which were beyond our control, today our care packages were shipped. Consequently, I wanted to be certain to give one last final report on this project.

Our goal was for 10 large priority sized boxes to be sent to our men and women serving in Afghanistan. 'We ended up with 15; plus, a separate one containing all the sporting goods! District Gov. VanScoik was blown away.

With all the generosity came a few minor logistics problems (a very good problem to have).

Also, we ended up extra items that would have further confused process of assigning names to each of the clubs. These leftovers were a bit of a hodgepodge of items that really didn't make a good mix to ship out as care packages by themselves. Because of this, Rob Yoder came up with the name of a charity called Guidance Ministries in Elkhart, which he thought would be interested in our odd assortment. Pastor Frank King, the leader of this organization quickly came and picked up the leftovers.

In total we recognized 15 service people individually; provided Frisbees, soccer balls, nerf football and several games which will get used by scores of other military and Afghan civilians; and helped a local charity to boot!

Thanks to all of you who donated whatever you could. Besides the sporting goods I mentioned already, we recieved expensive cigars, magazines, every kind of dental hygiene product imaginable, canned tuna and chicken, powders, lotions, baseballs, bandages, lip balm, chewing gum, beef jerky, and dozens of other things that are too numerous to list. This was an unbelievable show of support by a great many Goshen Rotarians. Thanks again to those who took time to make a donation.

Thanks again, Robin Yoder, Jim Kroemer and Jim Dague and the staff at Goshen Health Systems for your special help in this project. I appreciate it very much.

This project got my attention because it gave us a way to show support for our young men and women. It is easy to forget the sacrifice they make on our behalf. As we sit in our climate controlled offices, cars and homes, they endure some horrific living conditions. Some of them sacrifice limbs, sight, and mobility to protect us. Many of them will lose a friend and some will themselves pay the ultimate sacrifice. How discouraging it must be to wonder if the folks at home have forgotten you. I can assure you that the 15 + young men and women who receive our care packages, will know that Goshen Rotary cares about them and appreciates what they do to keep us safe.

Steve Pettit