

**OPERATION SHOEBOX JAN – DEC 2011  
A DEMONSTRATION OF CARE AND SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS  
AND LIONS LIVING BY OUR MOTTO OF “WE SERVE”**

The Lions of Massachusetts District 33S once again demonstrated in tangible ways, such as donations of items and monetary gifts, their care and support of our troops. During 2011 we sent care packages to Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps personnel primarily stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait but also to the Pacific area of operations such as Okinawa, Hawaii, and Korea. By the end of November, we had stopped sending items to Iraq because of the “drawdown” of troops and the return of troops to the states. Through our efforts, we have made a positive difference in the lives of so many military personnel.

The following is a list of the recipients of our care packages during 2011:

Aston, Michael	Iburg, Melanie	Pearson, Callum *
Barrera, Luis *	Jenkins, Will	Pearson, David
Barrows, Derrick	Joukov, Maria	Potter, David
Begin, Richard	Karl, Derek	Priano, Michael
Belmore, Michael *	Keaton, Nathaniel	Primiano, Michael
Benner, Chris	Kerkes, Marty	Primo, James
Berberan, William	Kurt, Tom *	Primo, John
Boucher, Robert	Laplan, Daniel	Psmitite, A
Carbaugh, Heidi	LaRochelle, Jason	Race, Jason
Casey, John	Lemon, Mark	Regina, John
Chiano, William	Levesque, Nicholas	Reidy, Daniel *
Clerkin, Daniel	Mahoney, John	Rollins, Eric
Connor, Sean	Mancuso, Paul	Sacchetti, Adam
Cutroneo, Tlaloc	Marquardt, John	Sharpton, Robert
Delgado, Richard	Maxon, Peter	Simmons, John B
Dixon, Kevin	Miggins, Josh	Simpson, William
Ebbs, Timothy	Morton, David	Sirois, Donald
Genz, Scott	Mueller, Andrew	Stewart, Brian
Grelish, Sean	Nadeau, Ian	Sullivan, Brian
Haidal, Mathew *	Naughton, Harold	Sullivan, Bryon
Hatcher, Bartholomew	Nilson, David	Sullivan, Dan
Hayes, Gregory	Nuygen, Johnny	Timmons, Michael
Higgins, Lawrence	Iburg, Melanie	Wardell, Atresha
Hillman, Bonnie	Oliveira, Adam *	White, Mathew

\*At their location for 2 different shipments

Our efforts on behalf of the troops are acknowledged and appreciated. Many notes of thanks from the troops have been received and carry the same basic theme of “thanks for remembering us”. For example:

“...I received some of your care packages. I'm currently stationed in Kabul Afghanistan. I truly appreciate everything you did for me and what you do for soldiers who are deployed. It definitely helps to bring out a smile on our faces.”

“...Hello to the entire Lions District...thank you for the care package. My tour here is almost done - only 42 days left in country. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> and last deployment. I'll be retiring with 27years this spring. We do appreciate all the support from back home. Thank you for all you do.” SFC Robert J. Boucher

In addition, during the year we supported 2 special requests from soldiers stationed in Afghanistan. One request addressed the need for school supplies: pencils, notebooks, old backpacks and pens for the Lashkar Gah Primary School. The other request was for toys for a day care center established near Kabul to allow women the opportunity to attend school and better their lives - for themselves, their children and families. District 33S responded to both requests with an outpouring of support. Over 325 pounds of school supplies were sent to the school and over 40 children's toys and clothing were sent to support the day care center. Lions monetary donations allowed us to cover all the postage for mailing the school supplies and also for the shipment of toys, stuffed animals etc for a day care center in Kabul.

The success of Operation Shoebox is the result of many Lions' efforts – the Lions who provided us with names of military members, the clubs who promoted and collected items, the clubs that donated money for the mailing, the Raynham King Philip Lions Club and Lakeville Lions Club for use of their halls and storage of items for packing, the Lions who participated in packing all the boxes and helped unload the trucks at various post offices. Our success could only have been accomplished by our Lions working together to support the troops.

Operation Shoebox is the District 33S Lions way of showing our men and women in uniform that they are not forgotten and to thank them and their families for the sacrifices they are making on our behalf. It is truly gratifying to realize that what we do to support the troops is so greatly appreciated by those who serve.

Once again Lions of District 33S have demonstrated our commitment to our motto of "We Serve".

PDG Joe Rizzo