



SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE: SERVICE PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT OHH'S PROGRAMS

OHH's programs are designed to support every population effected by deployment and active duty service – active duty while home, deployed and returning; loved ones effected by deployment; children of deployed service members; new and expecting mommies; units effected by deployment; families in crisis; and single service members. The overview below explains each program and those we serve through each effort.

Program	Population served	What we do
Comfort for the Caregiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouses, girlfriends, fiancés of deployed service members • Mothers of deployed service members • Children of deployed service members • Service members overseas (comfort in knowing their loved ones are being taken care of) 	<p>Comfort for the Caregiver is a ladies night of pampering offered to wives, fiancés, girlfriends and mothers of deployed service members. We offer these caregivers, who shoulder so much on the home front, a night of good food, spa services, exciting raffle prizes and TLC. Those with children can rest easy as we offer a “mini Camp JOY” for their kids so they can enjoy the evening knowing their kids are having fun, too.</p>
Homecoming support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service members returning from deployment • Spouses • Parents of service members • Loved ones and relatives of returning service members • Children waiting on mommy and daddy to come home • The unit leadership, taking pressure off of homecoming planning 	<p>OHH offers homecoming support to units depending on their needs. We assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner parties • Homecoming crafts, activity tables • Goody bags and games for waiting children • Raffle prizes for waiting families • Goodies for single Marines returning • Professional photographers who try to capture homecoming moments for families to keep • Food and fresh baked goods for those waiting and those returning

<p>OHH Baby Showers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and expecting Mommies • Deployed Daddies (taking care of mom on the home front and taking pressure off overseas) • Siblings 	<p>Our baby shower program is running 10 years strong, our baby showers focus entirely on deployed units. We offer a day of respite and pampering for new and expecting mommies while their husbands are deployed. We offer a catered lunch, baby gift baskets, mommy gift bags, diaper/wipe bags, raffle prizes, games with prizes, massages and more. Our #1 goal of our baby showers is to unite and pamper moms going through similar challenges and help them take a day for themselves and build a support system.</p>
<p>OHH Camp JOY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with a deployed parent • The parent “single parenting” on the home front • The deployed service member (knowing his/her family is being taken care of to focus on mission) 	<p>OHH Camp JOY was originally called “Mom’s Day Off Kiddie Camp”, but we have served father’s on the home front too. This is a 5 hour fun-filled kiddie Camp, giving mom/dad on the home front a 5 hour break to take care of him/herself. The camp offers arts, crafts, outdoor play, a fun carnival, lunch, pretend play, movie time and more.</p>
<p>Operation Bedtime Stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service members about to deploy • Children of deployed service members • Spouses of deployed service members 	<p>Started in 2005, our Operation Bedtime Stories program gives service members about to deploy a way to “secretly” record personal messages and read bedtime stories to their children on video. Within two weeks of the service member’s deployment, we mail out a surprise package to mom/dad on the homefront and the kids. The package includes: video of Mom/Dad, copies of any books read on video, hand written notes and instant photos of the deployed hero, a box of chocolates for mom/dad and more. We believe these packages arrive during the most challenging weeks of deployment, right when the separation in “fresh.”</p>
<p>Operation Christmas Spirit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families of active duty service members • Single Marines • Unit Christmas Parties 	<p>Our Operation Christmas Spirit program, started in 2004, focuses on four aspects of military Christmas: the families, the single folks, units as a whole and those in</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families in crisis 	<p>need of emergency help. Through this program, we fulfill Christmas wish lists of 100+ local military families as an act of appreciation (NOT charity) at the holidays. We give Christmas gifts to the single Marines in different units and we host crafts and toy giveaways at unit Christmas parties. Finally, we also help – through gift cards support—families in crisis from bases all over the United States.</p>
<p>Operation Enduring Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families in emergency or crisis situations Units seeking help for families that aren't being served by some of the larger organizations 	<p>Our Operation Enduring Support program is a year 'round program specifically designed for families in crisis situations. We work quietly and respectfully behind the scenes to help families with financial, spiritual, emotional, health and crisis needs when they often can find no where else to turn.</p>
<p>Operation Rack Pack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single service members Parents of single service members who cannot be present at the homecomings Active duty "Brothers" (in knowing their returning brothers will be taken care of) The civilian community – we are quite confident this project fulfills a need for our community to connect with and learn more about what it means to serve. Through acts of service, our heroes know they are appreciated, and the community that helps gets a better understanding of WHY they should be appreciated. 	<p>This is our "signature" project, going 10+ years strong. We unite the community at large in service of young, single returning service members. Through this program, we prepare a hero's welcome in the barracks of returning heroes, leaving messages of support and gifts of appreciation to await them.</p>

OPERATION RACK PACK: WELCOME HOME YOUNG, SINGLE SERVICE MEMBERS

- **Create towel rolls** to be placed on returning service members' beds (Roll a towel with wash cloth tie it with patriotic, red, yellow or blue ribbon.)
- **Create hand towel rolls** to be placed in service members' bathrooms (Tie a hand towel with hand soap, mouth wash, lotion or tissue box using patriotic, red, yellow or blue ribbon.)
- **Decorate welcome home bags** to be placed on service members' beds (Paint or color "welcome home" and "thank you" sentiments on bags provided by OHH in bright colors... leave some room at the top for the bag to be sealed shut.)
- **Decorate welcome home posters** to be hung in barracks rooms for returning service members (Any size poster will do; the more colorful and heartfelt the better. If they're Marines... don't call them soldiers!)
- **Write welcome home letters** to be included in our barracks bags (Write a thank you note to a Marine/Sailor for his/her homecoming. Leave the card/letter unsealed as we do have to monitor what we put in the bags.)
- **Create "kitchen kits"** to be placed on the microwaves in returning service members' barracks rooms (Fill baggies with paper plates, plastic ware, napkins, condiments and place them in small decorated boxes with microwaveable food)
- **Create "entertainment packs"** to be placed on the night stands in each barracks room (Assemble a magazine, a DVD movie, a pack of microwave popcorn, and a deck of playing cards in gallon baggies labeled with a welcome home sticker)
- **Make fresh baked goods** to have waiting for returning Marines and Sailors (Bake and assemble baggies or treat sacks with 2-6 cookies/brownies/treats in each.)
- **Create meals in a box for barracks rooms shared by 1-3 Marines/ Sailors** (For example, a sandwich kits, Italian dinners, breakfast boxes, etc.) The men/women in the barracks have access to a microwave in their rooms, and the new barracks have communal kitchens. The best meals are ones they can make in their rooms.
- **Assemble laundry pod kits** for each Marine/Sailor. One of the first things service members want to do when home is laundry. We've found the Tide laundry "pods" are a cost effective way to give each guy/gal the ability to do laundry. (Put 2-4 laundry pods and 2-4 dryer sheets into a baggie for each Marine. Add sticker label with pod directions, and you're done!)

OHH BABY SHOWERS: SHOWERS FOR EXPECTING MOMMIES DURING DEPLOYMENT

- **Make baby blankets** to be placed in mommy diaper bags (Any kind of homemade blanket is appreciated. We especially like the no-sew, tied fleece blankets in baby patterns.)

- **Create “pamper mommy” bags** to be given to the mommies at our showers (We give them small white gift bags with items to pamper mommy in the hospital. We usually include things like a \$10-\$20 Target gift card, socks, note/thank you cards, lip balm, lotion, candy, chocolate, and other things for moms to use in the hospital, etc.)
- **Assemble Baby Baskets** with baby basics from our wish list. (We provide each mommy with a laundry basket full of baby basics. If your group would be interested in adopting a baby or two, a great idea is to have each member bring in an item from the wish list and to assemble baby baskets together. A fun idea is to include a parenting book with a hand written bit of advice from each group member.) If your group is interested, we’ll send along our official wish list for baby baskets to get started.
- **Make baby themed candies/cookies** to be used as table goodies.
- **Create picture ready scrapbook pages** for mommies to mail out to their husbands or keep for themselves with our instant photo booth.
- **Create your own themed price is right game as a group** (Collect 10-15 items with a theme to use as our Price is Right baby game. Create a list of items with prices listed from most expensive to least expensive) Themes we’ve used – bath time, bedtime, baby on the go, etc.
- **Help us put together baby prayer bears** (Baby prayers are tied to teddy bears with ribbon.)
- **Create baby-themed centerpieces** (Create diaper cakes, fun baby themed baskets/items we can tie balloons to, etc.)
- **Create baby music mix CDs for mommies/babies to listen to at home.** (Burn CDs with 10-12 baby/nursery songs to include in our mommy bags.)
- **Help us collect and dedicate baby books** (Collect new/gently used books for baby, place dedication stickers inside books, and include your own personal note to mom on a bookmark message.)
- **Put together words of wisdom for our mommies** (Collect new/gently used parenting books and have members of your group use index cards to mark pages with personal messages/place hold good ideas.)
- **Assemble diaper bags** for mommies. We try to give each mommy a diaper bag filled with diapers, wipes, a baby blanket and other small travel accessories. (Collect diapers, wipes, diaper bags and other small baby items, and have fun filling the diaper bags with goodies) A fun idea is to have each member of your group write a “traveling with baby tip” on an index card. Attach the cards to a binder ring and attach to the diaper.

OHH CAMP JOY/ MOM'S DAY OFF: HELP US GIVE "DEPLOYMENT SINGLE" MOMS A DAY OFF AND THEIR KIDS A FUN DAY THEY WON'T FORGET

- **Help us prep for our "nail and beauty spa" (for little girls) activity** (Make ribbon-tied hair bands or handmade hair accessories for beauty kits – to be placed in goody bags with nail polish, lip gloss and other fun items.)
- **Help us prepare craft kits** (Prepare baggies/boxes with premade craft activities geared toward the following age groups. We have some ideas, but we're open to new ideas and craft kits your group would like to assemble!) Our camps have children grouped by age:
 - Infants, 2-3 year olds, 4-5 year olds, 6-7 year olds, 8-12 year olds
- **Help us prepare goody bags** for the kids participating in the camp. (Prepare goody bags with treats, small prizes, etc.)
- **Help us "stylize" camp t-shirts** (Cut, tie, bead up t-shirts for the older kids at the camp.)
- **Prepare healthy snacks for our camps** (Prepare trays of healthy snacks to serve at our camps. Trays would need to be delivered the night before or morning of the camp.)
- **Create "Mom's (or Dad's) Day Off gifts** for parents to take after signing in their kids. All of the children we serve have a deployed parent; this means it is VERY likely this is the first real break their parent on the home front has had during the deployment. Help us create small gifts to send them off for their day of relaxation. Great ideas include movie tickets with candy, lotions, chocolates, nail polish kits, small gift cards, etc.
- **Help us create Christmas Crafts and Small Presents for Mom and Dad.** Our end of year OHH Camp JOY will have the theme of "Winter Wonderland." What mom and dad won't know is that their kids will spend a portion of the day shopping for and creating Christmas gifts for their parents. We could use your help collecting small items to include in our "Candy Cane Lane" store for kids. Ornaments, frames, fun things to do as a family, baked goods, etc. -- anything you think a child would like to "buy" for her/her parents.
- **Create a library in a box.** Our campers are broken up by age (3months-18 months, 2-3 year olds, 4-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds). Each group will have 20-25 kids. Help us prepare a small library of books for the kids to read during circle time, quiet time and then take as a special treat at the end of the day.
- **Help us find fun discounts and things for moms/dads to do with some time to themselves.** We are always looking for fun discounted offers to share with moms and dads as they say goodbye to the kids and decide what they will do with some precious time to themselves.

OPERATION BEDTIME STORIES: DEPLOYING PARENTS' MESSAGES AND BEDTIME STORIES FOR THEIR KIDS ON DVD AND SENT AS SURPRISE PACKAGES

- **Help us collect and prepare children's books** for service members to read on video to their children. (Collect picture books, help us put dedication sticker labels inside the books (we will give these to you), and sort the books according to age and gender for us.)
- **Create instant picture ready scrapbook pages** for deploying parents to include in their packages with the picture we take at the event.
- **Collect disposable cameras** for deploying service members to send to their kids to document their time apart. Include a personal note to the service member attached to the camera.
- **Collect boxes of chocolates and cards** for deploying service members to include in their care packages for their spouses.
- **Host a garage/yard sale with proceeds to put towards postage.**
- **Collect \$5-\$25 gift cards and fun surprises for mom/dad on the homefront.** Each Operation Bedtime Stories project, we host a contest—either “Why my loved one is the TRUE hero” or “A Diamond in the Rough”. Both contests allow Marines/Sailors to write about a spouse, parent, child or loved one that inspires them. As military men and women, the culture they are in often lends to being closed with emotions. This contest gives them an opportunity to say the unsaid. We mail out ALL of the entries to the person they entered and give prizes to the “top entries” (SHHHHH!!! We actually give a small gift to everyone because ALL of their stories are special). It's amazing how this simple portion of this project really reaches loved ones right when they need it!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS TO LOCAL MILITARY FAMILIES IN NEED OVER THE HOLIDAYS AND YOUNG, SINGLE SERVICE MEMBERS IN THE BARRACKS

- **Create holiday crafts** to include in our Christmas themed baskets for each of our “adopted” families.
- **Create holiday movie packs for each family** (Collect holiday movies and popcorn packs to assemble as movie packs tied with ribbon.)
- **Make holiday throw blankets** (Create holiday blankets in neutral holiday patterns – red, green, blue or cream—for the families to use year round. We like the no-sew, tie fleece blankets, but any sort of homemade blanket is a treasure!)
- **Create holiday meal boxes** (Get your small group to assemble a readymade holiday meal for our adopted families.)

- **Host a gift card drive**, enabling our adopted families to purchase needed items for themselves.
- **Make a home cooked meal** for a Marine/Sailor living in the barracks. We'll arrange for a special delivery of your meal on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.
- **Create holiday decorations** to hang in the barracks to create a holiday feel for our young service members who often stay local for the holidays.
- **Host a holiday party toy drive** (Ask your guests instead of bringing a host/hostess gift to bring a toy for a local military family.)
- **Adopt a family and/or create an "Angel Tree"** with one of our family wish lists. Our goal is to provide 3 gifts per family member, items for the whole family to enjoy and gift cards to enable each family to purchase needed items and gifts of their own.

OPERATION ENDURING SUPPORT: CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL MILITARY FAMILIES

- **Create "kitchen in a box" packages** for us to give to families in emergency situations (Box up a pot, a pan, paper/plastic ware and kitchen basics for families starting from scratch.)
- **Create "bathroom in a box" packages** for us to give families in emergency situations (Box up towels, toiletry items, etc. to assist families starting from scratch.)
- **Host a yard/ sale** with proceeds to put towards our Operation Enduring Support emergency assistance fund.
- **Host a party** and ask guests to bring grocery, gas and Babies R 'Us gift cards in lieu of a host/hostess gift.
- **Make blankets** to be given to families in emergency situations. We've assisted families who have lost their homes, moved into homes with nothing or lost everything due to debt. Handmade blankets add a personal touch for families who have lost everything or have nothing to lose.
- **Backpacks with toiletry necessities and school materials.** Almost every family we support through this program has small children. In the midst of tragedy, something as simple as a love-filled back pack and bring joy and light into the lives of small children. Fill up a backpack with dollar store toys, toiletries, arts and craft supplies and make a difference. We also use these for hospital visits.
- **Gift the gift of freedom – GAS!** You'd be surprised how many families we serve – dealing with illness, hospital visits, traumatic injury—and their greatest challenge is feeling trapped by finances. With gas prices as high as they are, there are families that are limited in how much they can see each other simply because they cannot afford gas. Host a drive, bake sale, grocery store collection and focus on gas cards. It WILL make a difference and give freedom to those limited by resources to travel freely.

COMFORT FOR THE CAREGIVER: A LADIES' NIGHT OF PAMPERING FOR THOSE PROVIDING CARE ON THE HOME FRONT

- **Create pampering goody bags for the ladies participating in the night.** Military spouses and parents have to be “tough as nails” sometimes to survive the military lifestyle, but that doesn’t mean they want to look tough! Help us create simple goody bags for participants with perfumed lotions, nail polish and other beauty products. We shoot for each goody bag to be worth \$10-\$15.
- **Create a fun craft for the kids to do at our mini-camp.** We highlight some fun ideas on our Pinterest page: <http://pinterest.com/ohhvolunteer/comfort-for-the-caregiver-event/> Pick a craft and create a readymade craft box of one of our age groups (baby, preschool, school age, and middle school)
- **Host a yard/ bake sale** with proceeds to put towards our Comfort for the Caregiver event. Proceeds would be used for dinner and supplies needed for the evening.
- **Share some talent.** If you or someone you know has a special talent that might relax, pamper or share joy with these ladies or kiddos, please let us know. We are particularly looking for spa professionals, nail technicians, musicians, artists, photographers, yoga instructors and more to volunteer their time and talents.
- **Create holiday-themed homemade gifts.** Our next Comfort for the Caregiver is in November. This is perfect timing for kids to get to secretly “shop” for small trinkets and gifts for their parents for Christmas.
- **Assemble small pre-made care packages for families to take and mail to loved ones.** Fill a shoe box or flat rate mailer with goodies for a care package. We will have a care package station for participants. Kids will get to decorate their own cards for deployed mom or dad, and with your help, they can grab a care package to mail it in.
- **Bake or make a “café” treat.** At the end of the night, once the ladies are good and relaxed, we transform the reception area into a night time “café” with coffee drinks and sweets for the ladies to enjoy during a raffle. We could always use sweet treats for the café and to take to go.

As you can see, there are many ways to contribute to OHH’s projects behind the scenes and at a time and location that works best for you/your group. We would love to have you involved and contributing in a way that speaks to your heart.

Questions? Please feel free to contact us. Email Cindy Farnum, volunteer and community service coordinator, at cfarnum@operationhelpahero.com or Sarah Quail our “Social” and Marketing coordinator at sarahquail110@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration!