



## Operation Christmas Spirit 2017 Single Service Member Program

Thank you so much for your interest in “adopting” a single service member (or more) for Christmas through Operation Help a Hero’s **Operation Christmas Spirit** Program. The best part about this facet of our program is that there are zero requirements of donors but 100% appreciation for their efforts.

- YOU get to decide how many single service members you’d like to serve
- YOU get to decide what you’d like to give and how to package the gifts
- YOU get to decide the location of the single service members from our “hub” locations (DC Metro, Camp Lejeune (NC), Fort Sam Houston (TX), or SoCal bases)

**\*\* Please note that we do NOT give you names or wish lists for specific single service members.** The beauty of this project is that we go into the barracks/units and SURPRISE them with your gifts right before Christmas. We have found that it’s the folks we didn’t know were there that need it the most and light up when your efforts reach their hands.

Here’s a checklist and some information that may help:

- ✓ If you haven’t already, **let us know the # of service members you’d like to serve and the location you’d like them distributed.** Location includes:
  - a. Marines and Sailors in SoCal—29 Palms, Pendleton and Mirimar
  - b. Soldiers at Fort Hood, TX
  - c. Airmen and women at Joint Base Andrews in the DC Metro area
  - d. Marines and Sailors at Quantico, Va
  - e. Soldiers at Fort Belvoir, Va
  - f. Marines and Sailors at Camp Lejeune, NC

**\*\* If you don’t pick a location, we will send you information to deliver/mail gifts to the location closest to you.**

- ✓ **Decide what you’d like to do. There is no wrong way to do this.** There will be no expectations, only the joy of an unexpected surprise from people who care. Here are some ideas, things that folks have done in the past to give ideas:
  - a. A stocking: filled with toiletries, candy, snacks and maybe a gift card
  - b. A movie night: popcorn, candy, soda and a movie or movie ticket
  - c. A night out: gift card to restaurant and movie ticket
  - d. Special delivery: a 2 liter of soda, paper plates, napkins, a movie and a gift card to dominos
  - e. The gift of entertainment: itunes, Netflix, gamestop, googleplay, etc., cards, board games, mini golf game, mini basketball hoops, etc.

- f. The gift of making barracks more like home: pillow, twin sheet set, blanket, bath rug, towels, night light, etc.
  - g. A mini-Christmas: a tiny, mini Christmas tree with decorations with a couple of wrapped gifts underneath
  - h. A gift bucket: a wonderful group in California makes gift buckets every year. They fill Lowes buckets with sheets, movie tickets, gift cards, toiletries, tools, etc.
  - i. Gift bag: snacks, drinks, socks, tshirt—whatever you want!
- ✓ Please DO include a card letting service members know who you are and include, if comfortable, a return address. They also love cards from kids, photos of you, and ornaments from your family to remember you.
  - ✓ Mail gifts to arrive by December 15<sup>th</sup> or deliver in person at one of our gift drop off events

We take it from there. Depending on how many single service member gifts we're able to round up, we will split them up amongst units to give out to their troops who won't be with family for the holidays, and in many cases, we hand deliver the gifts to the barracks (ALL BUT Fort Hood) ourselves.

Wendy Ruiz will be coordinating single service member gifts in SoCal, but she is also the Director of our Operation Rack Pack program, a program that welcomes home thousands of single service members with gifts each fall and spring. She has a plethora of ideas if you'd like to reach out to her at [wruiz@operationhelpahero.org](mailto:wruiz@operationhelpahero.org).

Here are just some ideas:

- Towel sets
- Twin sheets
- Pillows
- Gift cards—starbucks, movies, restaurants, itunes, googleplay, gamestop, clothing stores, etc.
- Snack foods: protein bars, microwavable mac n cheese, cookies, etc.
- Toiletries: shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.
- Movies, cards, games, etc.
- Tshirts, socks, robes
- Baseball caps
- Multi-function tools
- Sporting event tickets
- Candy
- Pizza gift cards (most barracks are near Dominos)

Thank you so much for remembering our single men and women in service this holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Team OHH