

SHARE THE LOVE

Kids Can Give Warmth to Troops Overseas

Although Valentine's Day for many can be a time of togetherness, for soldiers living thousands of miles away from their loved ones, it can be an especially lonely holiday. However, with a little creativity and ingenuity, you – and your kids – can get involved and help touch the hearts of many of America's soldiers.

Cards, Letters and More

The week of Valentine's Day has been designated "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" — a perfect

by

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opportunity to show appreciation to wounded soldiers through cards, letters and other items.

The program Valentines for Veterans and Soldiers helps get holiday messages out to troops. Valentines sent to Operation Support Our Troops Illinois (1807 S. Washington St., Ste. 106, #359, Naperville, IL 60565) are given to service members stationed

around the world. For more information, go to www.operationhomefront.org.

The organization Their Angels is challenging people to make as many homemade Valentines as humanly possible to send to the troops. The homemade or purchased cards can be sent to Marva Lyons, 1237 Club Dr., Richmond, CA 94803. Multiple cards should be sent in a large envelope (no candy allowed); it should be able to fit in a quart-size Ziploc bag. Please do not include last names or home addresses if under 18 years old. For



more information, go to www.theinangels.org.

Through the help of at 4 The Troops, Valentine's Day cards and drawings are being gathered across the country to send in care packages. The organization is also accepting handmade Valentine's gifts such as crochet and knitting projects and donations. It asks that participating schools include a cover letter with the name and address. The cards and drawings should not include negative words — such as "dead" or "kill" — or any political sentiments. Mail cards to 4 The Troops, Inc., c/o Anne Galvan-The American Legion Post 280, 179 N. Vinedo Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107. For more information, go to www.4thetroops.net.

A year-round campaign takes place at www.amillionthanks.org. People have the opportunity to send cards, letters and emails. Valentines For Troops is one of the projects the organization puts on during the year. The valentines can be mailed to Lutheran High School, 2222 N. Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92867.

All letters and/or cards are screened

for security reasons. The organizations reserve the right to eliminate messages that are political in nature and that do not reflect a positive tone. Handmade cards are preferred, and bulk mail should be bundled in units of 100 using two rubber bands. Any size card is accepted but do not use glitter on the cards and do not include candy or food; photos must be appropriate.

For tips on making homemade cards, check out www.about.com, www.fineliving.com, www.allcrafts.net and www.americanantiquarian.org. Visitors can find tips ranging from how to make heart frames, red hearts to a butterfly valentine and much more.

Online Valentines

Another way to reach out to soldiers on Valentine's Day is through e-cards found at www.military.com. They can be emailed to a troop in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines. A couple other Web sites that offer a variety of e-cards for the troops are www.militarycard.com and www.123Greetings.com.

Also, Operation Dear Abby enables

troops with Internet access to read the messages on OperationDearAbby.net. And blogs, which are one of the latest ways to communicate online through posted messages on Web sites, can be viewed at www.defendamerica.mil; entries for the troops can be made on www.sandysworldonline.com.

Other Ways to Reach Out

For those who think that the way to a man's or woman's heart is through their stomach, care packages with food items that are shipped according to military and postal regulations can be purchased at www.treatsfortroops.com.

The USO's (United Service Organizations) sole purpose is to link the Americans and the U.S. military in times of peace and war. The nonprofit, congressionally chartered, private organization relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support USO activities, including Operation Heart to Heart. It works with organizations directly and indirectly and to date it has distributed 25,000 valentines. For more information, go to www.uso.org.

**THE TASK AHEAD OF YOU,
IS NEVER AS GREAT
AS THE POWER BEHIND
YOU.**



**BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER.
EPHESIANS 6:10**

Hey Kids! Let's Make Valentines for Our Troops



Join KidzArt to make
Valentines to send to
our Service Men & Women
stationed in Iraq.

Join us at one of these
Round Table Pizza locations:

**Date: February 11
Cost: \$5 per child
Time: 12-3 pm**

Sacramento:

Fair Oaks: 4400 San Juan Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Folsom: 2793 East Bidwell Street #100, Folsom, CA 95630
Elk Grove/Laguna: 5110 Laguna Blvd #119, Elk Grove, CA 95758
HSA P: (916) 974-9700 or email info@kidzart.com

North Sacramento/Placer County

Granite Bay: 6811 Douglas Blvd, Granite Bay, CA 95746
Roseville: 4010 Foothill Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747
Rocklin: 2319 Sunset Blvd, Rocklin, CA 95765
HSA P: (916) 773-7844 or email info@kidzart.com

Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

Special Offer:
All attendees will receive a \$10 voucher
to use towards a future KidzArt class.
For more information about KidzArt
visit: www.KidzArt.com

