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## Vets Commission Seeks Donations for Overseas Troops



The Village of Orland Park has provided support for Operation Support Our Troops America for the past 10 years. Each week, OSOT America ships 100 to 150 25 pound care packages to deployed members of the military, paying approximately \$25 per package in postage.

The mission of this non-profit, 501c3 organization is to improve the morale of troops serving in harm's way and supporting returning wounded and military families.

"The Veterans Commission has collection boxes in the lobby of the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall and at the Sportsplex," said Veterans Commission Chair Phil Bell. "We are grateful to the people who have contributed for the last ten years, letting our service men and women know that we are thinking about them back home," he said.

Orland Park's Veterans Commission reports that Operation Support Our Troops America needs items in order to continue to send future care packages, especially with the approaching holidays.

"The response has always been great," said Veterans Commission Secretary Gail Blummer. "We've had churches, scout groups, families, senior groups and individuals contribute to the care package collection," Blummer said.

"The Orland Park Veterans Commission reminds everyone that we still have military in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom who need to know they are not forgotten," Bell said.

Contributions may be delivered to the Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue and the Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street, when the building lobbies are open. Expiration dates should be checked before donating items.

Care package items needed include disposable razors; lotion for men (12 oz or less); tooth paste and tooth brushes; mouth wash (500 ml or less, plastic only); chapstick; instant handwarmers; over the counter cold medications (no liquids); antacids (rolls or small bottles); vitamins (C or multi); cough drops; eye drops; nasal spray; anti-itch or antibiotic cream; Kleenex (purse packets); individually packaged snacks; slim jims/beef jerky; nuts/trail mix (20 oz or less); coffee singles or 1lb bags/cans; individual drink mix packets; crackers (1 lb or less); jelly (32 oz or less, plastic) and single serve oatmeal.

For more information or to coordinate an area collection, call Gail Blummer at 708/403-6203. Further information about Operation Support Our Troops America is available at [www.osotamerica.org](http://www.osotamerica.org).