

HUGS--what an awesome name for the non-profit agency whose sole purpose is to send care packages to troops overseas! They desire for the troops to know that people back "home" DO care about what they are doing and appreciate all they do for America, as well as for the country they are serving in.

We had a team of 41 participants that volunteered 248 hours this past weekend, Nov. 14, 2009. Our youngest team member was a 3-year-old. He stuck right with us for 6 hours! He along with his 5 year old and 7 year old siblings helped to decorate the outside of the boxes with stamps. Those troops will know they are loved before they even open the box.

We formed an assembly line and put treats such as tuna, homemade candy, Girl Scout cookies, and socks into each box. We filled the boxes as full as we could get them. We found out that it cost the same to ship the size box they used, no matter how much it weighs, so they fill it to the brim.

While some in the group was putting things in the boxes, others were scattered preparing the things that were going into the boxes for the assembly line. Others were making up "Boo Boo" bags- that held band-aids, cotton balls, aspirin, and q-tips. On the outside they put a sticker that read- "When your mom's not there to kiss it for you".

We had some youth putting together mugs filled with goodies, and a homemade Christmas tree ornament. Once the mug was full, it was placed in a bright colored, homemade stocking cap. The soldiers will give several of their new treasures to the children they are serving. The troops have found this helps the kids know they are friendly and trying to protect them. They have had children forewarn them of bombs that are planted up ahead or have uncovered guns and equipment of the enemy. So, needless to say, our time was well spent in preparing these packages to be shipped over seas.

We had several from our group so moved that they said they were going back next weekend to help on their own.

Thanks for everyone's help. What a blessing you were to so many.

Donna