

2017 Organization of the Year – Volunteer

Operation Tango Mike

Every third Thursday of every month for past 13 years, 60 care packages get packed with toiletries, snacks, USA items, movies, books, letters from community members of support and love, games, stationary and other items found to be favored by those receiving them. Local volunteers pack the boxes, complete the custom forms write notes, seals and prepare them to be shipped. All of the items that go into the boxes are either donated or bought through fundraising.

The names and addresses of the 60 soldiers are connected to Lake County in the following ways: They are from Lake County, Our community members serving overseas. Someone who lives in Lake County provided the addresses; they are connected to those who live here.

When you first arrive on packing night, Ginny reads the recent thank you letters and updates them with the happenings of what we know our community members who are deployed are doing. Who just joined? Who is retired? Who just got deployed? We take a moment to pray for them all.

This has been the most rewarding volunteer gig I have ever had. We have many amazing organizations that really do amazing things in our community. We are supporting those in our community who are serving our country. We are letting them know we are their backs, while they have ours.

The company I work for donates protein packets to ship in the care packages. We recently received a letter from a soldier who received the pack, he was not the receiver of the care package but it was shared with everyone in his barracks. The gentleman wrote to us to share what it meant to receive something from home. It says something when someone takes the time these days to write and share how much something meant to them and he was not the receiver of the package! 60 packages go out; an infinite number of people are being served!

This organization is touching those that need our support, love and little bit of home. I am very proud of our community for having this organization in existence and supporting it for 13 years.