



December 31, 2013

Growing Smiles
2012 S. Tollgate Road, #212
Bel Air, MD 21015

Greetings from the Armory!

On behalf of **Operation Gratitude** and the Military recipients of our care packages, I thank you for your support of our Halloween Candy Drive and generous donation of 466 lbs of candy, 31 toothbrushes, toiletries and many letters. Your contribution will enable us to send over **100,000 'chock full' Care Packages** this year to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Warriors and their Care Givers.

With the help of supporters nationwide since 2003, we have sent more than **One Million Operation Gratitude Care Packages** containing snacks, hygiene products, entertainment and hand-made items, and personal letters from appreciative Americans. These expressions of love and concern from fellow citizens offer our Military & Veterans a much-deserved **"Thank You For Your Service"** and are always greeted with enthusiasm and great appreciation.

As one Private First Class wrote:

"It's Christmas morning over here in Kuwait, and your box is the only present I got to open today and let me tell you -- I was all smiles and teared up a couple times with what those wonderful, beautiful kids wrote. It's hard being away from my wife and two daughters but your words and gifts and support make it a little easier. I got so excited over the Beanie Baby and I LOVE the hand-knit scarf--very touching. Please keep doing what you're doing. It means the world to all of us over here on this side of the world! And the individual label made it really heartfelt and special! I thank you very much for what you all do. God bless and Merry Christmas!"

I hope you saw the coverage of our **One Millionth Care Package** celebration and delivery—all made possible by your support. Please join us as we start our March to the 2nd Million Care Packages!

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. Every single donation we receive furthers our mission of saying "Thank You" to those who serve. The recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. And I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for **Operation Gratitude**.

With much fondness,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Blashek".

Carolyn Blashek
President/Founder

p.s. To read the most current letters of thanks from our troops and see photos of them with your Operation Gratitude care packages, please "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude and "follow" us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/OpGratitude and Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/opgratitude>.

Operation Gratitude has been granted non-profit status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Your contribution to this organization is fully deductible in accordance with applicable law for federal income tax purposes as no goods or services were provided in exchange.

