

Project TLC: Serving Those Who Serve



and

Operation Angel



Contact information for Project Rudolph and Operation Angel

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You can also go to

www.projectrudolph.homestead.com, or
www.operationangel.homestead.com

Project Rudolph

In 2002, then PFC Joseph Campbell, was on a homeland security deployment and spent Christmas out in the field. The American Red Cross provided small care packages for the Soldiers which were distributed by his chain of command. The packages contained socks, gum, a mug and a few other items, but one of the most memorable items was a letter, written to "Any Service Member" by a teenager. "Nathan" wrote about how grateful he was for the service Joe was giving and his willingness to sacrifice time with his family to protect our country, especially on Christmas Day.

Four years later, in 2006, Project Rudolph was created to give deployed service members a bit of holiday cheer. Originally it was intended just to provide gift bags to troops transitioning through one of the largest military airports in the world as they wait for their next flight. Ramstein Airport, located at Ramstein Air Force Base, is an Airport of Embarkation [APOE] in Central Region (Ramstein Air Base) with facilities to fully meet the needs of deploying Army forces. According to the USO between 100-750 military members pass through Ramstein Airport on their way to and from the Middle East each day, including holidays. For many of these service members it is another holiday spent away from family and friends. Some may be returning to their families while others just said goodbye for a year-long deployment.

The goal of Project Rudolph, in conjunction with Operation Angel – is to provide gift bags for not only the military members transitioning through the airport on days leading up to Christmas, but also for active duty Air Force members who work round the clock to keep the air port running smoothly, injured troops at the hospital, injured warriors at transition barracks, deployed Naval and Marines working in Germany and our deployed troops downrange.

In 2006 we were able to reach our goal and were able to provide gift bags to the service members spending their holiday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the largest American hospital outside the United States. LRMC is for troops with serious injuries or illness requiring surgery and hospitalization. About 50 soldiers are hospitalized at any given time and the average stay is under a week before being stabilized and sent on to a military hospital in the US.

Each package we hope to hand out will include five items: (1) decorated brown lunch bags; (2) hand written letters of appreciation from children and adults; (3) a non-breakable Christmas ornament; (4) German and American candy; (5) a candycane; (6) a poem; (7) home baked goods if at all possible..

When we found out that we needed between 500-750 bags to make sure all the military members passing through Ramstein Airport had a bag, we were overwhelmed. We had no idea how we would ever gather than many items.

Ian M. Archibald, a 16-year old from Oakley, Idaho, stepped up to the plate and took on Project Rudolph 2006 as his Eagle Scout Project. By him becoming involved in this project we were able to provide even more cheer to more service members without becoming overwhelmed.

Project Rudolph could not happen without the help of our supporters from around the world. For those of who helped last year, and those who are helping this year, you will never know how much good you are doing this holiday season or how much one of these bags will mean to a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine who is looking at a year away from family and friends.

As a Soldier and the wife of a Soldier we have spent several holidays away from the comforts of home and our families. Receiving a letter, a treat, or a note just showing support, love, and appreciation goes a long way to making a holiday spent away from loved ones a bit more bearable. Project Rudolph makes it possible to provide this support for upwards of 1,250 service members, who will no doubt remember this act of service and love for a long time. To read notes of appreciation for last years recipients, check out our guest book.

www.projectrudolph.homestead.com

www.operationangel.homestead.com

Sincerely,

Sgt. Joseph and Tawny Campbell
Founders of Project Rudolph

Project Rudolph has continued to grow and expand, providing nearly 5,000 gift bags for Christmas 2007!! Our goal for 2008 is 7,000 gift bags!!! Many bags were sent downrange after the needs at the Airforce base and the hospital were met. Requests for Christmas packages were met, but many were not.

Our new goal requires more people to be involved. 7,000 brown paper lunch bags need to be decorated, 22,000 letters need to be written, 7,000 ornaments need to be made or purchased, 7,000 candy canes need to be sent over and many bags of candy need to be donated. The cost of shipping this much also needs to be met.

We hope to involve more communities in this effort through schools, churches, youth groups, clubs, and individual donations. Please help by sharing this information with others so that we may be able to reach our goal. Thousands of lives have been touched through this project. Those receiving, those donating, and those distributing have all had their hearts touched. For some soldiers, this was the only

Christmas gift they received!!!

Project Rudolph Donations

Decorated brown paper lunch bags

Unbreakable ornaments
(5" across or smaller – no foams)

Letters of support
(See letter writing guidelines)

Candy Canes

Bags of individually wrapped candies

Boxes of Brownie and Cookie mixes

and...

Money to cover the cost of shipping

How Project Rudolph can be used In school curriculum

Teachers have enjoyed utilizing Project Rudolph in their classrooms as a fun and meaningful way to enhance the skills their students are being taught. English, penmanship, and letter writing skills are used when having the students write to the soldiers. In fact, a teacher from Utah designed templates to be used for this purpose for grades 1 - 6. (They are included in this handout.)

By decorating brown paper bags with Christmas motifs, Art skills such as coloring, tracing, stenciling, cutting, color and design, are used expressing the imagination of the student. Several soldiers have expressed how much they enjoyed the decorated bags as they reminded them of their own children left at home. We saw many tenderly folding the paper bags and placing them in their pockets to be put safely away at a later date.

Even the very young pre-school and kindergarten students have had fun coloring pictures and signing their name, in place of writing letters.

We encourage the address of the school to be used as a return address. The student's privacy is protected, yet it allows the recipient to be able to respond if they wish. Several soldiers have written back, much to the delight of the students!!

Project Rudolph has also been utilized in the secondary levels of schools. The same English, Writing, and Penmanship skills are enhanced at this level. Students have written letters in computer classes using paper with their school letterhead on it. (Hand written letters are preferred.) Friendly competition between classes has been held to provide funds for shipping. Auxiliary organizations and clubs have written letters of appreciation as part of their service to others.

Graphic design classes can use their skills in designing stationary (Christmas or patriotic) that can be used for the students to write letters on, or tags that can be attached to the ornaments. We hope to have shop and woodworking classes use their skills to cut out wooden and/or metal ornaments using tools such as scroll saws and sanders. Some Tech centers have the use of CNC laser machines as well that can be used to cut out ornaments. (1/8 – ¼ inch thick and no more than 5” across) They can then be given to Art classes for decorating by stain, paint, glitter, or other methods teachers may choose to use. On the back of each ornament, or on an attached tag, “Project Rudolph 2008” should appear. You may also include a school name, if desired.

It is the personal touch of the hand written letters, decorated bags, and hand made ornaments that has set Project Rudolph apart from other gift bags received by military service men and women. Requests were received last year that we could not fill, even though 4,500 bags were distributed!! This year our goal has increased to 7,000 – 7,500 gift bags!!!

Project Rudolph provides something for every student to do that is meaningful, and needed by every soldier currently deployed overseas.

We have heard teachers express that by having their students participate in this project, the students developed a closeness to the war effort and a desire to be more involved. It was no longer just something they saw on the news. It has also been the catalyst that has bonded students of all ages together in a united effort to bring Christmas joy to our service members so far away from home.

***Pictures** should NOT depict killing, shooting, or other graphic images of war. They may contain patriotic images, Christmas images, and pictures of home and family.

***Letters** should NOT mention killing, being wounded, or anything of a political nature. The writer should refrain from mentioning what time of year it is (other than Christmas) as it takes some time for the letters to get to the soldiers. Expressions of appreciation, gratitude, hope, and patriotism are welcome. Students are encouraged to include at least their first name, age, grade, and what town they live in, and what school they attend.

Thank you's from Soldiers

5/07/08 - The Project Rudolph is a wonderful project that I have heard nothing but positive things about since my return from Theater. Several wounded soldiers I met during that time still comment on that program even months after we were there. I too appreciate your service and am glad you can take part in something much more positive than the way soldiers were treated in the past.

Yours, **CPT Matthew Hanson 193rd BLD SJA**

2/20/08 - I was in Landstuhl for Xmas after having a back surgery (non-battle) and I wanted to thank you for your generosity during the season. After surgery 3 weeks ago I finally got through all my paperwork today and saw the little sheet of paper I saved from one of your bags. The group you brought with you on Xmas day to drop off the gifts shows your and their commitments to our injured soldiers and I just wanted you to know your gestures meant a lot to me and many other soldiers I spoke with.

CPT Matthew Hanson 193rd MP BLD SJA

1/3/08 - Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to the project. Thanks to all the children who contributed pictures and cards for the holidays; their efforts truly inspired me and I was reminded that despite being away from our home and families that we are not forgotten by people in the US. Moreover it is very satisfying to know that people in the US support the sacrifices of our military personel. It's a great feeling to find such a bag of gifts places at your door and that people care about you. Bravo Zulu to all who make Project Rudolph a success.

HM1 Patrick Estis, Landstuhl, Germany

12/30/07 - Thank you for making sure we are remembered on Christmas. It is a lonely and angering time being away from your friends and family. It is good to know we are appreciated and remembered.

Leah Oetinger, FOB Delta, Al-Kut, Iraq

12/25/07 - Thank you Project Rudolph for your very generous gift...Everything was wonderful and very motivating...the bags were beautifully decorated as were the ornaments...I am in a medical company supporting coalition forces in Iraq. All the members in my unit were very appreciative and touched by all the goodies and personal warm messages sent by your organization...and the very best detail is that your package arrived unexpectedly on Christmas morning...Thank you for your continued support...and God Bless...Take care,

SSG Andrea Bolton, Iraq

12/24/07 - To all, There is no way to explain the way the each handwritten letter touches the soldiers that receive them. You, all, have accomplished an incredible task as I am not aware of one soldier that has not received a Christmas care package from somewhere/someone. It has a tremendous, positive, effect on morale. I personally want to thank everyone, who love their soldiers, for showing their appreciation and support. You, all, are the reason we do what we do. When you see a soldier, smile at him/her, we like to see happy people.

1SG Richard J. Carter HHB 1/145 FA, Kuwait

12/22/07 - I would like to THANK ALL OF YOU for the Christmas Goodies. I received the other day and as luck would have it, it arrived before Christmas. I loved the little Christmas ornaments that were in bags. We appreciate these gifts and mostly for ALL your support. THANK YOU.

MSG Rea Cichocki

12/22/07 - Thanks for the lovely ornaments and candy. I collected all the ornaments from my fellow soldiers and we decorated a tree for the civilian contractors that work with us. We are trying to make it feel like Christmas over here but it's nothing like being home with family. May all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Tanga K. Green, Balad, Iraq

12/21/07 - Thanks so much! You don't know how much all of this means to all of us here. It makes me proud to be over here and know that we have the support from all over. Even though I can't be home with my babies, I know that I have a reason to be here and receiving the little gift bags really made me feel appreciated and made it feel like the holidays. Everyone here appreciates it. Thanks so much for thinking of us.

SGT Kelly A. Hein

12/21/07 - Thank you very much for the care package. It is nice to get a gift that reminds me how caring people are. The decorated bag reminds me of my children's art work. I am proud that you have taken the time to support us. We are doing our best for our country and so are you.

Emma, Balad, Iraq

12/20/07 - Thank you for the gifts and the ornament. It is such a thoughtful thing that you are doing and it proves that there are good people in this world worth fighting for. Thank you so very much.

James Tabbert, Bagram, Afghanistan

12/16/07 - Thank you very much for your kindness. The gift bags brought a smile to everyone's faces at our Christmas party here in Iraq. I will hang the homemade ornament on my Christmas tree every year!

Maj. Denise McFarland, Mosul, Iraq

12/12/07 - I just received a gift bag with a bunch of goodies! But more importantly, the gift bag had thoughts, prayers and support from the American people in it! It is an Honor to serve people that support this us this way. I have been deployed many times and I have never seen or heard of, much less felt, this much support!! Thank you from all of us in the 86th CSH TF, Mosul, Iraq!!!

SSG Lochman, Mosul, Iraq

12/12/07 - Thank you so much for the goody bags. One of the soldiers here put on a Santa hat and handed everyone the gifts from his pillow case. It really helped bring Christmas cheer. Thanks again.

Lei, Iraq

2/11/07 - Dear Eagle Project team: I would like to express my gratitude to you guys for the Christmas brown bag that I found at my door on Christmas day. It was so nice to find a note with such a warm greetings. I hope you find sometime next year to do the same for another service member. In fact that was the only present that I got last Christmas and I'll keep it to remind me of your good actions on that season. Thank you again.

Almiro Flores-Marquez, Landstuhl, Germany

Guidelines for Letter Writing

Letters CANNOT:

Be dated, or mention time of year

(Some letters don't arrive for months after they are written)

Ask any questions about war, injuries, killing, ect

(Believe it or not, 10% of all letters cannot be delivered
because of this)

Be politically motivated or mention politicians or political
affiliation

Be type written or photocopied

Be in a sealed envelope

(All letters have to be reviewed before being handed out)

Letters CAN:

Be addressed to "Dear Soldier" or "Dear Service Member"

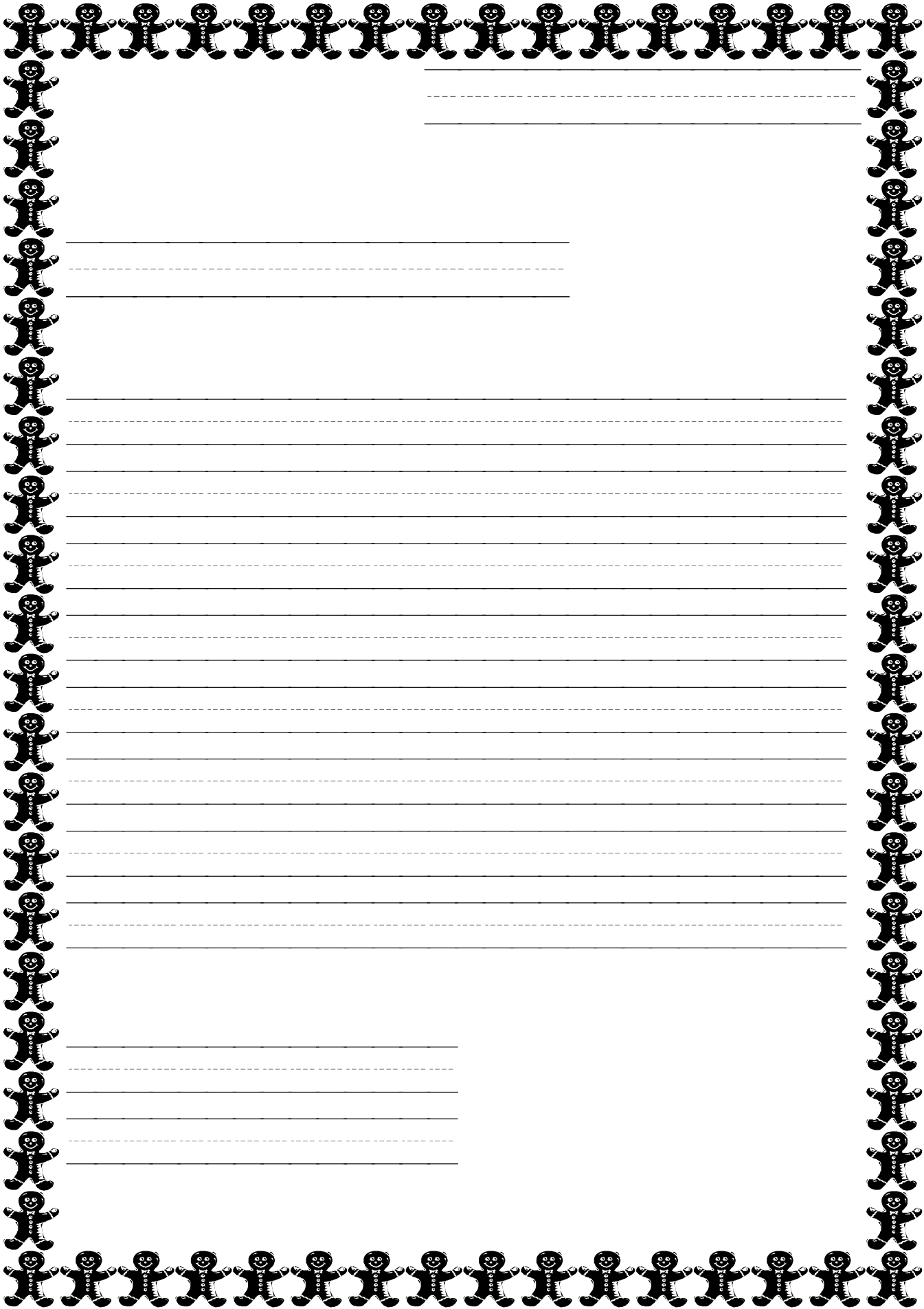
Express support and appreciation

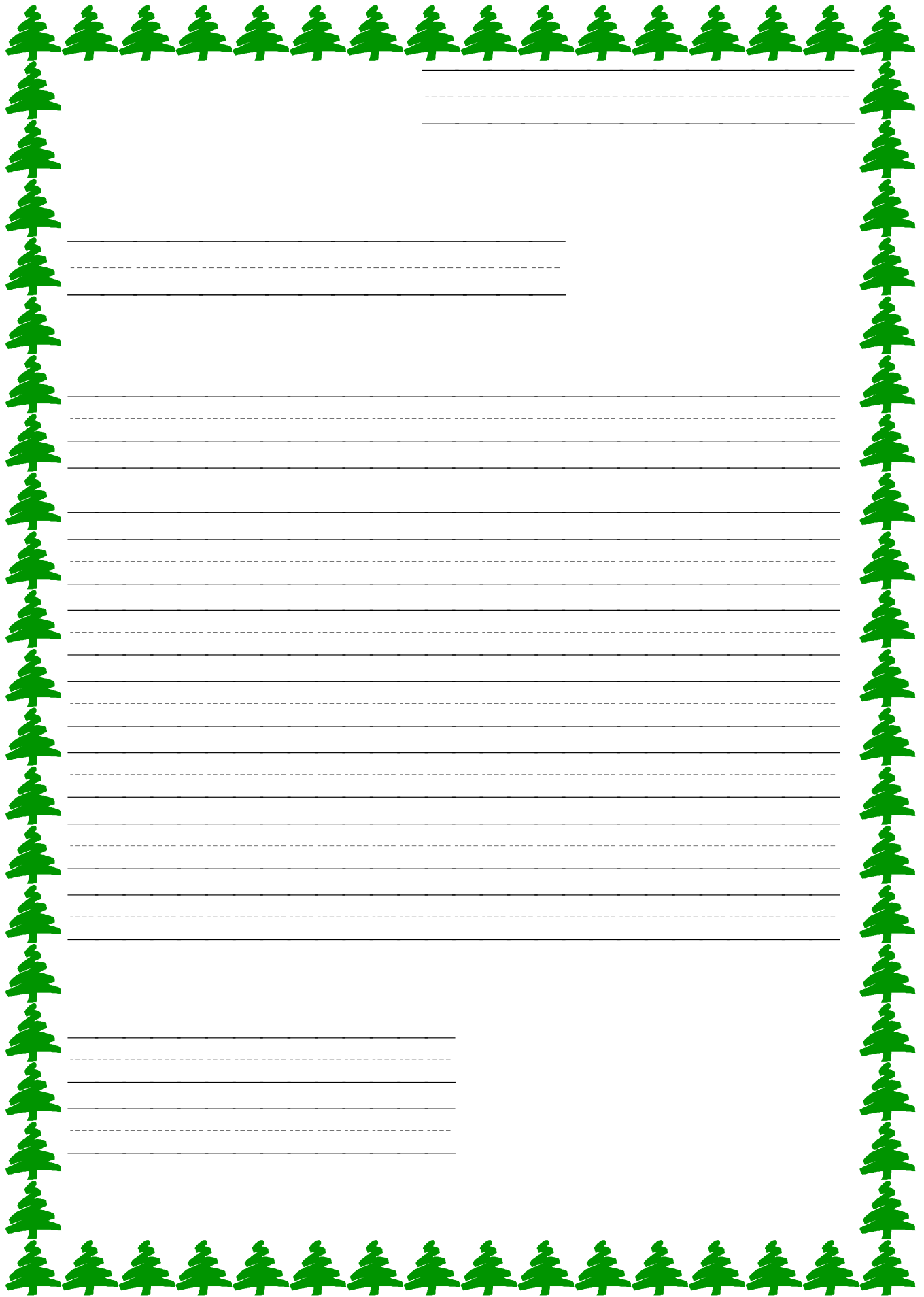
Include a drawing (if from a child)

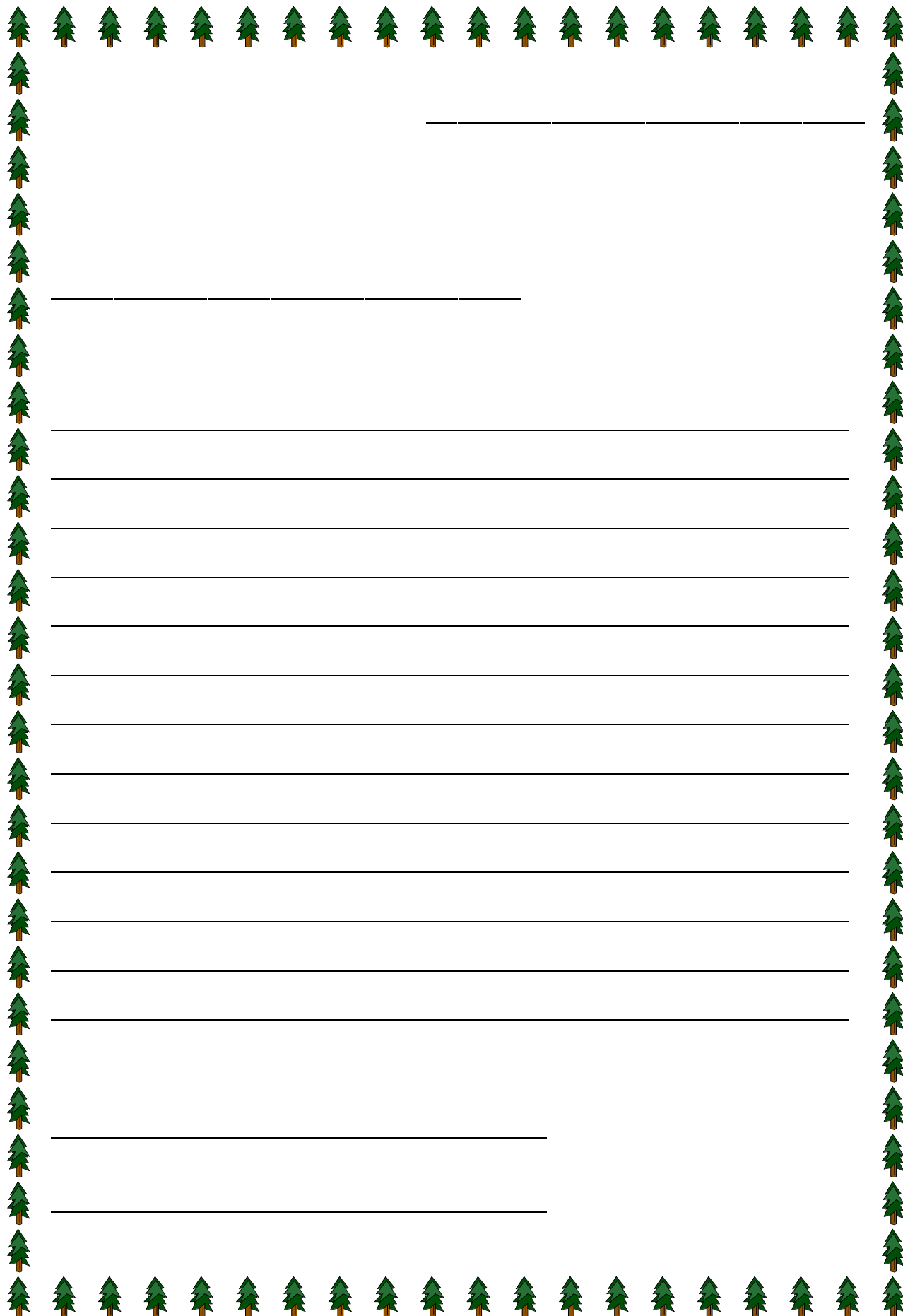
Tell about the writer's family. Life, likes, etc.

Share personal experiences that motivate

Include a return address and name







This letter is a sample letter sent out last year, and could be used as an example of a letter teachers could send to parents explaining Project Rudolph.

October 18, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

To get ready for the holiday season our class will be doing a small service project called Project Rudolph. As part of the regular curriculum, students learn how to write letters. We will be using this skill to write letters to our deployed troops. We will also be using our art expertise to decorate brown paper bags. These letters and bags are just one portion of the entire project, but a very important part! Miss Finley, a second grade teacher at our school will be mailing these letters and bags to Germany on Nov. 20th.

The project coordinator lives in Germany and will be assembling holiday gifts bags. Each bag will contain:

- a brown decorated lunch sack
- a non-breakable Christmas ornament (can be homemade)
- a letter from a child and one from an adult
- a poem about a Soldier's Christmas
- a candy cane
- American candy

If you are interested in contributing to this project by donating, brown paper bags, non-breakable ornaments (can be homemade), candy cane's, American candy (without Halloween decorations), a letter written by an adult, or money donations to help mail these items to Germany, please contact, Tiffany Finley.

see the project website go to:
www.projectrudolph.homestead.com

Contact Info:

tiffany.finley@jordan.k12.ut.us

302-8599 ext. 7625

Thank you for your continued support!



Operation Angel

www.operationangel.homestead.com

On New Years Day 2007 we went to the local military installations here in Germany to hand out gift bags to injured and deployed Service Members. We had gone earlier and the Soldiers had fallen in love with Ceilidha, who called herself the ladybug princess. On New Years Day she wanted to go as a fairy and she danced and sang for the troops. As we were leaving she saw a Soldier who was going for a "walk" in his wheel chair. She asked him how he got hurt and he offered her a sucker. He turned around to head back to his room to get her one and she said she wanted to help, so she pushed him in his chair back down the hall, got the sucker and then pushed him back out of the ward he was in, down the hall and to the elevator.

There is nothing as heart warming as seeing a little Angel pushing a wounded soldier in a wheel chair.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines loved when Ceilidha came to visit. This is why we have decided to continue Operation Angel in the spirit of Project Rudolph,

and hand out "Guardian Angel Bags" to injured service
Ceilidha Campbell pushing wounded soldier

members transitioning through Germany .

I am asking all who can, please write a Thank You letter to "Dear Service member" and please send them to me. We will hand them out weekly to the Service members at the hospital. Thousands pass through there each year with a turn around of only 2-3 days. Please help us continue to be angels to these service members. We will also be accepting monetary donations to help purchase items for the "Guardian Angel Bags" which accompany the letters. Or you, your family or your organization can help put together these bags so we can help cheer even more service members during this tough time in their lives.

Thank You,
Joe, Tawny and Ceilidha Campbell

Items to donate for use in Guardian Angel Bags:

Band-aids

rubber bands

paper clips

Sweet & sour candies

Hershey's hugs and kisses

smiley face stickers

glitter glue sticks

gum

pencil top erasers

white card stock

zip-lock sandwich bags

small craft zip-lock bags

To make these yourself, contact me for instructions
and templates to be used.

Cheri Archibald

208-862-3883

600 S Wilson

208-300-0197

Oakley, Idaho 83346

rca@pmt.org

OPERATION ANGEL DONATIONS

for Wounded soldiers

(Updated Jan 21, 2008)

All donated items must be new, never worn or used!!

Phone cards (60-120 minutes)
Polo shirts L-XL-M-S (in this order)
Long sleeve t-shirts/shirts L-XL-M-S (in this order)
Pajama pants (men's sizes L, XL, M (in this order)
Hanes jersey cotton shorts (black) M, L, XL
Boxer briefs (colors) – M, L
Boxers (colors) – M, L
Men's athletic shoes sizes 13 and up
Men's Slippers (slip-on non-slip) sizes 8-14
Toothbrush holders and soap holders
Ladies "travel size" deodorant
Men's "travel size" deodorant
"Travel size" shaving gel
Nail clippers
Hand-held electronic games
Healthy snack bars, chocolate, candy and gum
CDs (no violent lyrics)
DVDs (no extreme violence or nudity – no VHS tapes)

Monetary donations to operation Angel are always helpful. They are used to help with shipping costs and to purchase items to donate to the hospital and to send downrange.

Send to:

Tawny Campbell
CMR 402 Box 2414
APO AE 09180

208 650 4041
taznjo@hotmail.com

Or contact:

Ray & Cheri Archibald
600 S. Wilson
Oakley, ID 83346

208 862 3883 208 300 0197
rca@pmt.org

Items to send to downrange soldiers

Gum - trident or others with xylitol as it actually cleans.

Razors - Gillette is the favorite as it contains a lubricant which prevents razor burn.

Shaving Lotion for sensitive skin -

Toothbrushes

Mouthwash - med to small bottles that they can carry with them.

Body lotion

Baby wipes - used for several purposes!

Hot Chocolate - individual packets

Socks - black or white only

Jerky

Coffee / tea

Just add water foods - EZ Mac & Cheese, Oatmeal packets, cup-a-soups
as examples

Fruit Snacks

Granola bars, Fruit bars

Hard candy

Phone cards - ATT 60 min

Individual packets of drink flavor mixes

Toys to be given to orphanages and to child patients in downrange hospitals - do not need to be new, but clean and in good condition.

Blankets and Afghans