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All the best, from around the country

Carefully Wrapped

By KEVIN J. DWYER
The Enterprise 12/11/2004



Dave Ryan/The Enterprise

Greg Green, center, and his wife, Kathy, are members of MarineParents.com and the family business, A-1 Glass, is a center for the national care package program. The first wave of items is coming in and Green is putting them in his office until more come in and can be assembled for delivery to Marines overseas.

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Sitting in the corner of Greg Green's office is a pile of boxes filled with toothpaste, shaving cream, batteries and other items designed to make the lives of Marines deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan just a little easier.

Although it now represents a modest beginning, Green expects the MarineParents.com Care Package Project, dedicated to the memory of Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Larsen, will expand quickly during the coming weeks and months.

"We're just getting off the ground, but my e-mail inbox is overflowing with people from across the country wanting to donate," said Green, 45.

Larsen, 19, of Wheaton, Ill., was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 9. Green said Larsen's parents asked that anyone wishing to honor their son donate money to MarineParents.com to support the care package project.

Green is the owner of A-1 Glass in Beaumont and his son, Daniel, is a Marine infantryman serving with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Iraq. Lance Cpl. Daniel Green, 21, has received two Purple Heart medals for wounds received in combat.

The boxes of comfort items sitting in his office were donated by the students of

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www.marineparents.com/usmc/carepkg-project-default.asp

Basile High School in Basile, La., Green said.

"They got it packaged in individual deals for us with batteries, snacks and toothpaste -- toiletries are always popular," Green said of the students' donations.

Also, a radio station in Portland, Ore., has offered to donate either 1,700 packs or cartons of cigarettes, but Green said he still is trying to determine if 1,700 or 17,000 packs of cigarettes will be showing up at his door.

For a Marine to receive a care package through the program, Green said the Marine's family or friends must register him or her on the MarineParents.com Web site.

"The family or friends will submit a name and address and we'll start sending them a care package a month," Green said. "This is going to last for a while. The obvious hope is that it won't last too long."

Green said he became involved with the organization the same day he dropped off his son on his way to boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. That afternoon, Green said he came home and got on the Internet to learn more about the Marine Corps and found the MarineParents.com site.

"Like the Marines, these people take care of one another," said Kathy Green, his wife.

Greg Green said when Daniel headed for San Diego on Oct. 29, 2003, he had no clue what the Marine Corps was all about, but it was obvious where he would end up.

"It's been so long, two generations I guess, since parents sent their children off to war," Green said. "For parents, it becomes a big part of your life and in times like these, you live with the fear and uncertainty."

Green expects in the near future he will have to expand the program to other volunteers located around the country.

"There's no way I'll be able to do this and maintain it all by myself," Green said. "I suspect by next week I'll need a warehouse for all of it, based on the e-mails."

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