

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

MARIA VRAZOU
APOSTOLOS ANDRIANOPOULOS
NIKOLETTA VEA
NIKOS LINAS
DIMITRIS KWSTANTINIDIS



## What is Operation Christmas Spirit?

Operation Christmas Spirit is Operation Help a Hero's annual project, going 18 years strong, which supports military families, single service members and unit morale boosting events during the holiday season. We provide opportunities for the community to Spread the Spirit of Christmas and joy of the holiday season to our troops who sacrifice so much for our country.



#### **Their Mission**

Operation Help A Hero is a 501 public charity dedicated to the well-being and care of our American military members. Our programs support military units and families as they prepare for separation, while they endure the challenges of deployment, and as they transition back to the US. Our projects uplift our military heroes and send a clear message of support to their entire family. Operation Help A Hero connects communities with service members and provides real opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those who serve our country. We are an ALL VOLUNTEER organization; all board members and directors volunteer their time to focus donations on the military heroes they serve. Every cent contributed to Operation Help A Hero is used to serve our military community, and every project is based on real needs.





#### Their team

We are an ALL VOLUNTEER (no one is paid) organization consists of community leaders, business owners, military spouses, and military family members. Our advisor team includes active duty service members who volunteer their time, wounded warriors to give us perspective, retirees, and single service members.





Here's what they accomplished in 2020 despite the pandemic





### **Projects**













## **OHH Baby! Showers**

Imagine the joy, the excitement, the anxiety and the hormones and add pregnancy to that the stress related to having a loved one deployed. Our military's warrior mommies-to-be often endure the and downs of pregnancy alone, and miles away from family. This is precisely why OHH Baby Showers work unite new and expecting mommies during deployment. An afternoon of pampering, a catered lunch, games, photography opportunities, access to labor/delivery professionals, and unbelievable raffle prizes are just a part of the day planned to celebrate and thank these warrior mommies-to-be. the mommies In end. these will not only walk away with gifts, full bellies, photos for daddy larger baby items to lighten the financial and burden of raising a baby, they will also walk away with a support system.

OHH Baby Shower

Mission: to pamper our
military heroes' new
and expecting mommies
while their husbands
proudly serve our
country overseas.

Our next baby shower: September 18th for 2/1 and 3/5



We provide a 5-hour block of fun for kids with deployed parents, and Mom/Dad gets a much-needed break.

OHH Camp JOY gives children, dealing with a parent deployed, an opportunity to be around members of the community who appreciate the sacrifice they make and adults to serve as mentors. Our hope is that every camp is so special, so fun, and so filled with JOY that each child will spend the day focused on the celebration not the separation.



- Art/craft activities
- Carnival games
- Indoor games
- Outdoor games
- Sporting activities
- Movie time
- Pretend play
- Age appropriate play areas
- Story time
- ·Hands-on play

OUR NEXT CAMP JOY; Feb 2021, Camp Pendleton



MISSION: To let the brave, young men and women of our Armed Forces know the sacrifices they've made on our behalf are appreciated. Through gifts and sentiments of gratitude left in their barracks rooms (on their racks/beds), we hope to surprise young, single service members returning from deployment to barracks rooms. We will provide them with a clean room, presents to show our appreciation, a fridge full of refreshments, necessities to help them clean up, welcome home signs, and more. Our goal is for each hero to know that others appreciate his/her service. Ideally, they will be able to come home with the ability to take a shower, put on clean clothes, get some dinner and enjoy some pampering without having to go into storage or to the store. We want to pamper them with gifts just when they think they've been forgotten.



## Operation Rack Pack

Our Current Wish List and Most Needed Items....

- + Toiletries needed: shave cream, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, hand soap, toothbrushes, razors, and shower gel.
- +Towel sets: towels and wash cloths, hand towels separate for bathrooms.
- \*Socks (black crew or white no show preferred) and Tees (Men's M-XL most needed, plain or graphic tees)
- \*Entertainment items: playing cards, charging cords, usb hubs, small games, itunes, movie tickets, netflix, google play/Xbox gift cards, blue ray movies, puzzle books.
- \* Food items: granola and protein bars, mac n cheese cups, noodle or ramen cups, microwaveable foods, chips, candy, cookies, crackers, trail mix, nuts, poptarts, microwaveable popcorn, soft tuna packs, whisps, etc.
- \* Drink items: protein drinks, instant coffee (like via), energy drinks, sports drinks, electrolyte drinks, waters.
- \* Wishes if we have enough for all: Domino's gift cards, uber gift cards, hair cut coupons, misc items like sunglasses, echo dots, charging stations, bath mats, twin XL sheets, pillow cases, travel mugs, hand soap, air fresheners.

## Operation Enduring Support

Operation Enduring Support is our program created to assist active duty families in crisis. Our primary focus is to provide DIRECT assistance in the form of GOODS, COMMUNITY HELP, GIFT CARDS, AND IN SOME CASES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE paid directly to utilities, airlines, companies whenever possible or directly into memorial or college funds of survivors of disasters.

In addition to donations at ready to assist families in crisis, we often help in other ways:

- Diapers, wipes
- Clothing
- School supplies
- Household goods
- Childcare in emergency situations
- Maintenance
- Airfare for funerals, hospital visits
- Referrals and assistance to find programs that may help,
- Grocery assistance
- Gas assistance
- Gently used furniture and appliances in emergency situations
- Connections with non-military affiliated spiritual counselors



## Comfort for the Caregiver

Our Comfort for the Caregiver program gives an opportunity for the community to offer their time and special talents during a night of pampering and TLC for caregivers on the homefront. For these events, we host an evening including:

- a catered dinner
- massages
- mani-pedis
- photography
- hair cuts and styles
- spray tanning
- raffle prizes
- · coffee and desserts
- relaxation yoga

and more... but only because people who care donate their time!









Ways to help this Christmas through Operation Christmas Spirit









#### 1. "Adopt" a Family

Spread the Spirit of Christmas to military families. You'll receive a family's wish list to fulfill and express your appreciation for their service.

#### 2. Host an Angel Tree

Use an Angel Tree to collect gift cards, toys, single service member gifts or wish list items for your "adopted" family.

#### 3. Collect Gift Cards

Help us collect gift cards for families in need, unit Christmas parties and single service members.





#### 4. Donate Online

Donate online and let us do the shopping for you or use where needed most as we near Christmas.

#### 5. Host a Toy Drive

Set up a toy collection to benefit military children. Toys donated to OHH are used to help families and unit Christmas parties.





## - Thanks! ~







**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** 



#### Resources

 https://www.operationhelpahero.org/operationchristmas-spirit.html