



Broadmoor Students
Send Soldiers
Gum and Gratitude

Lake County Board
of DD / Deepwood





Mentor Public Library

Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood



Library dedicates month of November to send support to troops

Patrons to donate packages of chewing gum for troops serving overseas

The Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch and the Headlands Branch of the Mentor Public Library will be the drop-off point to send a holiday greeting from home to a troop serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Letters and packs of chewing gum will be collected at both branches from Nov. 2 through Nov. 30. The items will be sent and shared by the troop for the holiday season.

Five years ago, MOL Branch Manager Kim Sidorick, started a children's program at Mentor Public Library to send letters of support to a troop of her relative serving in Iraq. The rewarding experience encouraged Sidorick to restart the program at the branches.

Headlands Branch Manager Darlene Workman said the gum brings flavor and moisture to the mouths of troops serving in a dry and hot climate. Two years ago, the chewing gum and letters were sent to her son U.S. Army Sgt. Nick Workman's troop serving in Iraq.

"He appreciated the generosity and thoughts of the American public," Workman said of her son. "He also knew it was from his hometown, which meant a lot."

Sidorick said the support from local businesses and patrons last year helped the library collect about 1,500 packs of gum. Packs of gum were sent overseas to three soldiers from the Mentor area and their troops serving in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

"Most of this all came from the neighborhood," she said. "It's a great feeling to know the people around here are supporting those overseas. There are some people who might not support the war and some who might not even have a job, but they are willing to support the troops."

Workman said if the library collects enough boxes of gum, the "wealth" will again be divided and shared with her son's troop and to other fellow soldiers from the area.

She said the support last year "warmed her heart" because the public not only supported the men and women in the military, but "they also supported our children."

For more information on the Support a Troop drop-off points, contact Sidorick or Workman at (440) 257-2512 or (440)257-2000.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

U.S. Army Sgt. Nick Workman, serving at a combat outpost in Afghanistan, appreciates the boxes of chewing gum and letters sent to his troop by the Mentor Public Library. Last year, the public dropped off 1,500 packages of chewing gum and letters at the Mentor-on-the-Lake and Headland Branches of Mentor Public Library. November has been dedicated as Support A Troop month to provide the public the opportunity to drop of chewing gum and holiday greetings.



Support Our Troops Social Studies Project for LEEP Students

Broadmoor Teacher Laurie Kuenzig and her students saw a newspaper article about the program and decided to make their contribution part of a class project and field trip to "thank our troops for their service and bravery."

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Mentor Public Library Welcomes Broadmoor Students

Kim Sidorick, MOL Branch Manager and founder of Support Our Troops program accepted letters and over 2100 packages of chewing gum and mints from the students.

Darlene Workman, manager of the Library's Headlands branch, and mother, said her son appreciates the community's efforts. "It was nice for him to know that his neighbors and friends care about what he is doing," she said. "It gave him a little piece of home."



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A special thanks to volunteer Cathy Genelius for connecting LEEP and the Library



“Our class loved the idea of making this program a class project and field trip to be able to thank our troops for their service and bravery. In conjunction, we have held classes about freedom and what the troops do for us to help ensure we are safe and free.” Cathy Genelius

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Letters to Soldiers



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Student Letters will be sent to area soldiers stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq

If they could not write the letter they used pictures of sign language and icons or clip art to express their gratitude.



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- Each student read their letter at the media event.
- They used sign language, a touch talker and an I-Pad© to express their gratitude.

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Smiling for the Camera



- Everyone had an opportunity to interact with the camera man.
- The students and teachers enjoyed telling their story expressing support to the troops.

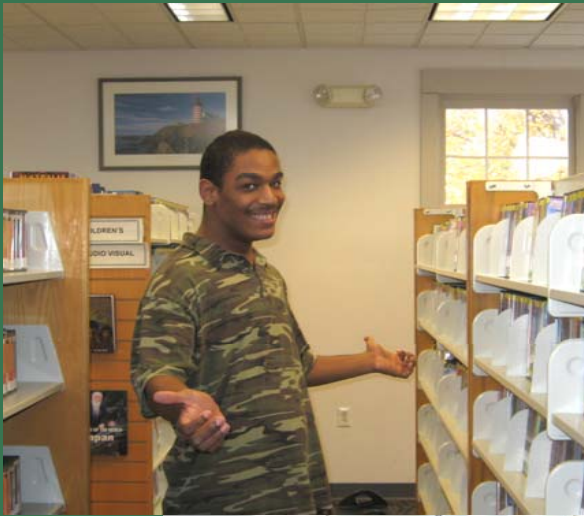
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Thank you! Mentor Public Library &



Broadmoor Students, Their Families,
Faculty and Staff

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