



Dedication

This book is dedicated to the wonderful USO volunteers who spend countless hours ensuring our service members are taken care of. Without you and your selfless dedication to our troops, the USO would not be able to prosper. Thank you for all your heartfelt dedication and hard work.



Until Every One Comes Home®

Operation USO Care Package

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Operation USO Care Package

Lifting the spirits of our troops as they serve far from home



About this book

The photos featured in this book were taken by Mike Theiler, Ron Sachs and by Oscar De Jesus who also formatted the pictures.



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Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Department of Defense suspended its practice of forwarding correspondence and packages from the American people to "Any Service Member." Operation USO Care Package, created and administered by USO of Metropolitan Washington, provides a way for Americans to show their support by sponsoring USO care packages for troops serving in deployed locations. The care packages contain items requested by the troops, including toiletries, lip balm, sun screen, entertainment items, snacks and a personal message of support.

Since its inception in 2003, Operation USO Care Package has provided nearly 2 million care packages to troops deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Haiti (and other overseas locations). In 2009 alone, USO volunteers stuffed more than 300,000 care packages at events around the United States. In Nov. 2009, the first USO Care Package for Women was introduced to meet the unique needs of deployed female service members. In March 2010, the USO created the Military Family Care Package to help families cope while their loved ones are deployed.



USO of Metropolitan Washington employees are primarily responsible for overseeing the care package program, which is based out of Fort Belvoir.





USO Georgia volunteers celebrate the USO's Birthday by providing deploying troops with USO care packages.





President Obama shows his support for U.S. troops by hosting an Operation USO Care Package stuffing party at the White House in 2009. Joining him in this effort were the Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers and numerous wounded warriors.





The Pittsburgh Steelers volunteered their time to participate in the stuffing party and help prepare care packages.





USO volunteers set up the supplies needed for the stuffing party.





The White House Operation USO Care Package stuffing party commences...

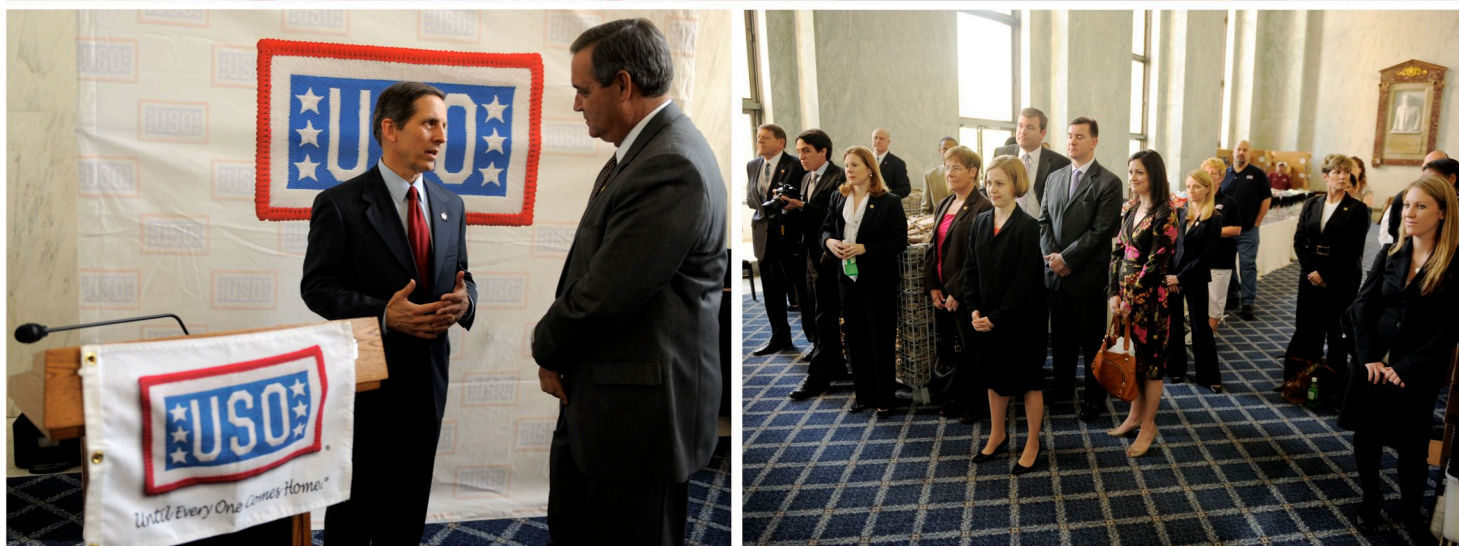








Every year, the USO works with members of its Congressional Caucus to hold an Operation USO Care Package stuffing party on Capitol Hill.



Congressmen Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Jeff Miller (R-FL), along with other members of the USO Congressional Caucus helped kick off the event.





In November 2009, the USO prepared the Operation USO Care Package for Women on Capitol Hill. Second Lady, Dr. Jill Biden & Speaker of the House Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) attended the special kick-off event.



Some of the special items that were provided by sponsoring organizations to be included in the USO Care Packages for women. The USO Care packages for women was made possible by Alisa Marie Beyer and The Benchmarking Company, Avon Products, Inc., Cosmopolitan Magazine, Maybelline New York and other sponsors.









Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Congressman John Hall (D-NY), and Lynne Pace, wife of General Peter Pace, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, USMC (Ret.), all lend a helping hand in stuffing packages.





In March 2010, Dr. Jill Biden helped kick off the Military Family Care Package stuffing party. This event was made possible with the support of the Department of Defense, FedEx, Hallmark Cards, Verizon Communications, Rocketlife, Kodak, Tutor.com, Smoothie King and Publix Super Markets.

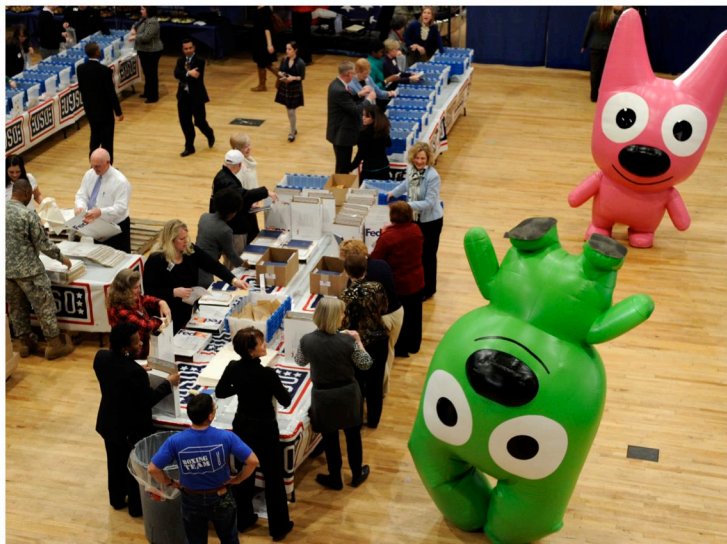
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With Appreciation and Gratitude for Our Military Families

Thank to
God! *W/M*

Thank You!

There is no one else...
Thank you! *Jane M.*

Thank you
for the
love!
J. R.

The Boys -
Thank you
for the
love!
La. Post

Thank you
for the
love!
W/M

Thank you for
the love!
W/M

All of you
Thank you for
the love!
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USO President Sloan Gibson poses for pictures with volunteers as Dr. Jill Biden visits with the service members.



Each year, the USO holds a Military Kids Operation USO Care Package stuffing party during the Month of the Military Child in April.







This event gives the military children the opportunity to show their support for their parents, many of whom are deployed.



Kids enjoyed arts and crafts activities prior to stuffing care packages.









July 2010 marked the very first OUCP event at the Pentagon.

