

## Operation Appreciation - Supporting Our Troops

By Henry M. Holden

Every November, the Youth Enjoying Service (Y.E.S.) Ministry, at Resurrection Parish, launches Operation Appreciation to support troops deployed in Afghanistan.

This year, the collection took place on Nov. 4 and 5.

Lorraine Scandariato, director of Religious Education at Resurrection Parish in Randolph first brought the idea to the parish in 2009. In 2014, the Youth Enjoying Service Ministry took over the challenge supported by co-ministers Beth Manzi and Jen Baxter.

Resurrection Parish participates by collecting donated items such as socks, cereal, gum, cookies, playing cards, hand warmers, wet wipes, healthy snacks, beef jerky, tuna, protein bars, CLIF bars and hygiene products such as shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The group then sorts the products, and until last year, assembled the "care" packages.

"The YES Ministry, usually contributes supplies for about 275 individual boxes," said Baxter. "Before last year, we would pack the boxes at church, and then deliver them already packed to Brighton Cromwell



Pictured, from left, are Alex Eglitis, Ray McNamara, Harry Baxter and Sam Jones. Photo by Jen Baxter.

who combines them with other donations, and then ships them all together."

Brighton Cromwell is a certified small business supply chain integrator providing procurement and logistics to the military. Each year they send over 1,000 "care" packages compiled from Operation Appreciation to the troops in Afghanistan.

"Last year, Brighton Cromwell initiated the event where all the charitable organizations and school groups, came together on the same day, and worked on assembling the packages," said Baxter. "They organize a town-wide collection. Last year was the first time they organized the event

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### Operation Appreciation...

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where we put 800 packages together at their Canfield Avenue facility. This year, we will be putting together care packages at Brighton Cromwell on December 2."

Last year, high school seniors Jack McConvery and Jack Daleo organized the event and were chairing it.

"But these young men went off to college this year," said Baxter, "so, the torch was passed along," to their siblings.

Jim McConvery and Andrew Daleo, the younger brothers of the pair, will be taking over in organizing the effort.

"I've been doing this since my freshman year," said the 16-year-old Jim McConvery. "I am a junior in high school now, and originally my older brother Jack and his friend Jack Daleo

chaired Operation Appreciation. So, I took over along with Andrew Daleo, when they left."

Also in the picture this year to help chair the event is Abby McConvery, Jim's sister. A freshman who has volunteered in two prior years, Abby will be co-chairing with her brother Jim and Andrew Daleo.

"We also like to make sure that each box contains a hand-made craft and a card or two," said Jim McConvery "We write the greeting cards, and encourage parishioners when they come to mass to sign a card. We take raw stock paper and markers and craft items and create nice designs.

"We all feel this is a worthwhile effort to be involved in, and we have the side benefit of having fun doing it," he said.

### Butt Out...

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increase acidity in the body making withdrawal symptoms worse.

- Increase fruits and veggies! Leafy greens and carrots can help decrease acidity in the body, reducing the withdrawal symptoms.

- Drink fresh fruit and vegetable juices to help flush out nicotinic acid from the blood and balance blood sugar.

- Exercise! Exercising helps to reduce stress and promote relaxation... more than cigarettes can!

- Save the money you used to spend on buying cigarettes for something special!

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