

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: Adopt-a Platoon, North Central Zone Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES: Adopt-a Platoon is a project that commits to sending care packages once a month to a platoon in the armed services. Showing our support in this manner, not only helps the morale, but helps with little incidentals that are not easy to come by when serving across the seas.

To get a platoon contact Mike Plummer at PLUMMIKE@aol.com. He is a retired Col. at Fort Drum that started the program. He will assign you a platoon. Contact your platoon by email and if possible meet with them before they leave. Your platoon will assign a soldier as your primary contact. Remain in monthly contact with your primary contact by emails and packages every month while they are gone.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best working knowledge of this project.

Name Kathy Wallace Phone (315) – 376-7253
E-mail kwallace22@twcny.rr.com

TIME-FRAME: Time is needed to plan a means to raise funds and collect item donations. Three hours once every month to pack the boxes is needed. The coordinator needs some extra time to stay connected with the soldiers and the PR person needs time to monthly update everyone by email and newsletter. This project continues through the overseas deployment of the platoon.

RESOURCES NEEDED: You will need a plan to raise funds, ours is largely funded by donations. The cost is approximately \$3,000. You have the cost of packaging and shipping and buying incidentals, not donated. You need drop off points for donations such as members' homes throughout the area. It costs about \$100 a month for postage. Our donations are more than enough to cover costs.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share form with each package. Keep the address secure with only 2-3 persons knowing?) Keep the membership informed so donations keep coming in. Try to find out names and birthdates of soldiers in your platoon. We get a list of their 4 favorite snacks, down time activities and preferred reading and music, in order to personalize what you send. Also, we keep informed on any rules of what is not acceptable to send due to the beliefs in some countries they serve in. You need to fill out a customs it.

Come up with an idea that people can rally around. One of our most successful campaigns was "Spur On a Soldier" where people donated money to buy a combat soldier his gold combat dress uniform that he wears with pride. We collected close to \$700 to provide our platoon with 43 gold spurs! The first sergeant of the platoon came up with the idea. Get creative with what you send. We sent a piñata for May 5th and a tub of baseballs for summer. A Christmas tree and stocking for the holidays. Have fun! Don't let your soldiers down! Make the commitment and stick with it.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: It is nice to have a welcome home gathering when the soldiers get back, if you live close enough. Newspaper coverage of gatherings has been a primary publicity forum. Other articles in the beginning of collection to promote the project and e-mails to membership are important PR tools. We have had guest speakers from some platoons before departure or return.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS 4 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project: Church groups, schools, businesses, Red Hat ladies, anyone willing to help support our soldiers.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No This is our third platoon. As long as the soldiers are deployed to a war zone, we will support them. There is a good feeling you get making others feel good. The best gift of all is a long lasting friendship with some of the brave young men and women.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.



The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

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May 5, 2008

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Dear Jennifer:

You asked me at the last Utica Board of Directors to send you a report on the North Central Zone's Adopt-A-Platoon. I had Nellie Mae Schauer, Chairperson of Community Service, write it. She had it reviewed by Katy Wallace, Chairperson of the Adopt-A-Platoon Committee, and by Burt Phillips, who has been in charge of mailing the packages. The completed report is enclosed. It has been a great project. I have a big box of golf balls on my front porch right now to take out to Burt for mailing.

If you have any questions, please free to contact me, Nellie Mae, Kathy or Burt.

Sincerely,



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: Coats For Kids, North Central Zone Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES:

Provide new and gently used winter coats, jackets, sweatshirts for school aged children for free.

CONTACT PERSON:

Name: Douglas and Patricia Dietrich Phone (315) 376-6689

E-mail:

Name: Patty Burke

E-Mail: burkehill@ridgeviewtel.us

TIME-FRAME for the event or project: Five months, Actual Distribution Day, 5 hours, Collection Days, One Farmer's Market Day , Organizations in schools, etc. gave their own timelines for collections and then brought items to the collection sites.

Additional volunteer hours are put in for extras such as sorting through donations and possible cleaning some coats, if soiled, even though we ask them to be clean.

RESOURCES NEEDED: All supplies, time, and sites were donated by members and community organizations. New and used coats donated by members and the public.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)
Please see the reverse side.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: See attached. Newspaper pre and post articles and pictures in local newspapers.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS 2 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: Local Farmer's Markets(collection sites), Lowville Fire Department (distribution site), Local Schools and clubs, Kraft, Inc, TOPS Market (use of parking lot) for collection

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No___ We have done this two consecutive years and are looking to do it every other year to allow a better re-stocking of children's coats.

Please see the reverse for tips on how to have a successful coat drive

Coats for Kids

The North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers Association would like to announce their upcoming **Coats for Kids** project. This chapter includes members in Jefferson and Lewis County.

It is the goal of the project to collect new or clean and gently used winter coats/jackets/sweatshirts for children ages 4-14 in need this winter. Gently used is without rips, broken zippers, or stains. Sizes will vary from 4 to sizes appropriate for young adults. This year's distribution will take place in Lewis County

A **Collection Day** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6th** from 7:30a.m. until 6p.m at the Lowville Plaza parking lot by Ames and 11a.m until 6p.m at the Lyons Falls Farmer's Market at the Lyons Falls Park. Also, monetary donations towards the purchase of new coats for children are appreciated. Checks may be made payable to NCZ NYSRTA and sent to Coats for Kids Project, P.O. Box 136, Glenfield, NY 13343. Please call, Doug or Pat, 376-6689 or Patty, 376-2868 for information or questions.

Distribution of the coats will take place October 27th at the Lowville Fire Hall. Listen to local radio WBRV or check out the Journal and Republican for times.

Thank you for your support in this worthwhile community service project.

Coats for Kids Committee,
Doug and Pat Dietrich, Patty Burke

(This was a copy of submission to school newsletters.)

COATS FOR KIDS

COLLECTION DAY

Lowville Plaza Parking Lot

Lyons Falls Farmer's Market

Tuesday, October 6

7:30 a.m. until 6p.m. Lowville,

11a.m. until 6p.m , Lyons Falls

Bring new or clean, gently, used
coats/jackets/sweatshirts for children
ages 4-14. Cash donations accepted, too.

Sponsored by North Central Zone
New York State Retired Teachers Assoc.

For information

Call 376-6689, Doug or Pat
376-2868, Patty





Community Service



SECOND ANNUAL "COATS for KIDS" PROJECT

Coats for Kids is a project to collect new and clean and gently used winter coats, jackets, and sweatshirts for children of all school ages. We then distribute them to any children in need in the area. Last year over 300 items were given out on the designated Distribution Day. This year we are adding hats and mittens to the list. Also, we are **not** accepting wool items, as they would require expensive dry cleaning. Distribution again will take place in Lewis County only.

The collection dates and centers will be Tuesday, October 5th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lyons Falls Farmer's Market, and Saturday, October 9th from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lowville Farmer's Market.

(We remind donors that the items provided should be clean with no rips or tears. A good guideline would be to think of it as if your child were the recipient. What condition would you want items to be in?)

Distribution Day is set for Tuesday, October 26th from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. again at the Lowville Fire Department which generously donated the use of their facility last year.

Children in need of a winter coat or other items are welcomed to stop by the Fire Hall, accompanied by parent or guardian. If coats are picked up for children not in attendance, the limit is 3 per person, unless otherwise arranged.

Last year our volunteers were retired teachers from Jefferson and Lewis Counties and some local citizens. We are looking for volunteers for one hour slots for each Collection and Distribution site once again this year.

Please contact Patty Burke at 315-376-2868 if you would be able to devote one hour to this special project on any of the three dates—Oct. 5, Oct. 9, or Oct. 26. For any other questions or drop off, you may contact Patty or Doug and Pat Dietrich at 315-376-6689 or 315-681-8935.

(Monetary donations are greatly appreciated, as well, and will be used toward the purchase of additional jackets, hats, and mittens. If you would like to help in this way, please send checks or money orders payable to North Central Zone, NYSRTA to John Gaffney, Treasurer, 119 Colorado Ave., Watertown, NY 13601-3003. Just make a notation on the check that it is for Coats for Kids project.)

We look forward to helping many families again this year!

Pat Dietrich, Community Service Chair

For more Community Service news, see the Adopt-a-Platoon Update on page 4

Membership — Making it Real!



Great attention is being given to the recruitment and retention of NYSRTA members. Like most organizations, enticing young people to "join up" has been a challenge in recent years.

Following an excellent workshop attended by more than 20 individuals on July 28th, led by Bill Armbruster, AARP's Liaison to NYSRTA, zone officers, committee chairs, and other interested members of North Central, Northern, and Central Zones came away with a number of ambitious, yet practical ideas for increasing membership.

A formal work plan has been started and further discussion and action steps will be decided upon this fall.

Patty Burke, Chair

**Requests need to be in well in advance- probably 3 months. We ended up with a \$25 gift card. We are hoping to do better this year, as our request was placed well in advance.

September 10, 2010

Wal*Mart Super Center #5498
7155 State Route 12
Lowville, NY 13367

Dear Ms. Cornell,

The North Central Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers Association would like to announce their upcoming **Coats for Kids** project. This chapter includes members in Jefferson and Lewis County.

It is the goal of the project to collect new or clean and gently used winter coats/jackets/sweatshirts for children ages 4-14 in need this winter. This year's distribution will take place in Lewis County only.

We would like to ask Wal*Mart for their support in this project. With many families facing economic hardship and a Lewis County winter, we want the children to be warmly clothed. Hopefully, the generosity of the public will help with some of this project, however, we would like to request a gift card in the amount of \$200 or any donation you would deem appropriate towards the purchase of new winter coats to help cover any shortcoming of funds needed. Our plan is to purchase as many coats/jackets, as possible, at the Lowville Wal*Mart with available funds. We expect a high volume of need.

Our Collection Day is October 6, 2009 at the Lowville Plaza 7:30 a.m. until 6p.m. and the Lyons Falls Farmers Market from 11a.m. to 6p.m.

We thank you in advance for considering this request. We appreciate any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Douglas Dietrich, Chairman, Coats for Kids
Other Committee members: Patricia Dietrich and Patty Burke

Tel. ~ 376-6689