

KIWANIS DIVISION 35 SERVICE PROJECT: 3RD ANNUAL BOXES FOR TROOPS

On Thursday, April 11th, over 200 Kiwanis Family members gathered at Williams School in Glendora to assemble over 200 boxes to be shipped to our service men and women in Kuwait. The Kiwanis Clubs of Division 35 consisting of Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Glendora Kiwaniannes, La Puente-Industry, Hacienda Heights, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, Covina-South Hills, West Covina and Walnut Valley as well as their high school and middle school sponsored Key Clubs, KIWINS and Builder's Clubs assembled these boxes to be sent to an Army Base where they will be distributed by the base chaplain. This is the third year the clubs have done this as a Division Project and all 11 clubs participate by collecting everything from toiletries to paperback books; playing cards to DVD's.



This year's event was coordinated by the Division 35 Kiwanis Club's Lt. Governor Elect, Robert Davis of the Glendora Club. He enlisted the help of the division clubs, set goals, and arranged for everyone to meet at Williams School to pack the boxes. The evening began with the presenting of the colors by AMVETS State Color Guard, Irwindale, CA Post 113. Rona Lunde the Division Patriotic Chair arranged this and said this was a natural for our program and that the professional manner in which they performed their duty was simply awesome. The pledge was led by Robert Davis followed by John Fields leading everyone in "America". After everyone was fed by the Glendora Kiwanis Club, the cafeteria of Williams School was turned into an assembly line of gifts to the troops.



Members of the clubs manned their stations as other volunteers carried boxes through a daisy chain of tables collecting such things as toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrushes, magazines,

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lotions, deodorant, sun block, and other items meant to reduce some stress from the soldiers' day-to-day lives as they sacrifice for us back here at home. In addition to the letter sent to each soldier from the Kiwanis Club thanking them for their service, members of the high school and middle school clubs wrote personal letters to the soldiers as well in which they conveyed how proud they are of them for their service. Many of these letters included pictures, poems, and special messages.

Once these boxes were assembled, they were sealed, labeled and loaded into a truck provided by Phil Huisman of the Sheppard's Pantry and taken to the post office the following day for mailing.



Robert Davis, the program chairperson said, "This is one of the greatest things we do each year in Kiwanis. Although our primary purpose is the support of children, we have a duty to support our troops and demonstrate to our youth their importance to our county. There isn't a better way to convey this than to involve them in this program and show them how proud we are of them." Lt. Governor Brad Manning said, "Thanks to all of the Kiwanis members and the sponsored youth of Division 35 who raised funds to collect their items, pay for shipping and devote hours of their time for this cause. This was a team effort and everyone came through with flying colors. They are all Superheroes."