

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Holidays for Heroes Program Sponsored by the Military Moms Prayer Group

The Military Moms Prayer Group's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Holidays for Heroes program is underway, as organizations throughout the Treasure Coast have jumped on board to help our troops deployed for Christmas and Chanukah.

"We can't let our servicemen and women think that they're forgotten," says Linda Colontrelle, the group's president. "This is the least we can do for those who are sacrificing so much for us."

Now through December 15, sixteen merchants and organizations, from PakMail Beachside, to Christi's Fitness, to the office of Dr. Joyce Desrosiers are hosting displays featuring special "Mailing Kits" that community members can pick up to personalize a gift box to a serviceman or woman. Each kit contains a flat-rate box, a customs form, an address of a deployed soldier, sailor, airman, or marine, and an idea list of items to send in the package. Individuals and families can pick up a kit, fill a box, fill out a customs form and ship the package at the Post Office for \$16.75.

Joyce Desrosiers, owner of Eye Clinic of Vero and Optical Boutique, sets up a rack laden with mailing kits outside her Miracle Mile office to attract passersby. Standing beside the rack is a life-size poster of her son, Justin, who survived a 15-month tour in Iraq during some of the heaviest fighting back in 2006 and is still serving in the Army.

"All those who stop by and pick up a 'mailing kit' say they've never felt so good about the holidays," says Desrosiers. "People appreciate the chance to give directly to one of our heroes from the heart -- without expecting anything in return. That's the true meaning of the holidays."

Since 2006, an estimated 16,000 packages have reached our troops from individuals and groups in Indian River County and beyond through the Holidays for Heroes program. If you have questions about Holidays for Heroes or are interested in joining the Military Moms Prayer Group, call 772-473-2388, or check the Web site: [www.militarymomsprayergroup.com](http://www.militarymomsprayergroup.com)

The Military Moms Prayer Group meets from 5-6 p.m. Thursdays at Christ Church Vero Beach, 925 14<sup>th</sup> Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32960 (behind Outback and beside Vero Bowl). The interdenominational group includes those with relatives in the military and "cheerleaders" who simply have a mom's heart for the troops. New members are always welcome.

**HELP OUR TROOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS:**

**PICK UP A MAILING KIT, FILL AND MAIL A HOLIDAY BOX.** Pick up a mailing kit through December 15 at any of these Vero Beach locations:

Barker Electric Air Conditioning & Heating, 1936 Commerce Avenue  
Christ by the Sea United Methodist Church, 3755 Hwy A1A  
Christ Church Vero Beach, 925 14<sup>th</sup> Lane (behind Outback and near Vero Bowl)  
Christi's Fitness, 1250 Old Dixie Highway  
Collins Insurance,  
Community Church of Vero Beach, 1901 23rd Street  
Cross Fit, 760 8<sup>th</sup> Ct., Suite 4  
Eye Clinic of Vero & Optical Boutique, 634 21<sup>st</sup> St. (Miracle Mile Plaza)  
George E. Warren, Corp  
I'll Never Tell, 3351 Ocean Drive  
Nail Art, 1275 U.S. Highway 1 #5/12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza (behind Carrabas)  
Office of Dr. James Presley, 1000 37<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 105  
PakMail, 505 Beachland Blvd  
Postal Connections, 1275 U.S. Hwy 1 #2/12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza (behind Carrabas)  
Studio 14/Zumba Works, 1962 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Royal Day Spa, 99 Royal Palm Point  
The UPS Store, Treasure Coast Plaza on the Miracle Mile  
Victory Center, the Veteran's Council's storefront at the Indian River Mall (near Macy's)

Do you know a member of the military who is deployed? Contact the Military Moms Prayer Group, and his or her name will be added to the list for prayer and to receive Holidays for Heroes gift boxes: 772-473-2388