



Blue Star Moms of Marin

P.O. Box 5684
Novato CA 94948-5684
info@bluestarmomsofmarin.org



April 20, 2017

Dear Fellow American:

On behalf of the Blue Star Moms of Marin, our active duty service members, local veterans and their families, we thank you for your support. Throughout the year, donations from individuals like you allow us to send hundreds of care packages worldwide to our troops overseas as well as care for our veterans returning home. We would like to tell you a little about what we do for our many veterans in need through our Adopt-a-Veteran Family program.

Our mission is dear to our hearts:

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, our Marin County chapter is part of the larger, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Our mission--to foster support for our troops, their families, and our veterans--is very personal to each of us because we are mothers to sons and daughters who have served or continue to serve in the military.

Adopt-A-Veteran Family (year-round program):

Throughout the year we purchase gift cards for local veterans and their families who need our help. Our goal is to provide at least \$50 worth of gift cards (Safeway, Target and gas cards) per family. Store gift cards allow these veterans to shop for their needs and for gifts for their loved ones. If you wish to shop for families, please refer the second page of this letter. For privacy reasons, their names are kept confidential.

Welcome Home baskets (year-round program):

Your donations also go toward the creation of "Welcome Home Baskets" for veterans and their families entering or already living in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH). We purchase laundry baskets and fill them with basic household necessities (like kitchen items, cleaning supplies, towels, toiletries, etc.).

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How to donate:

Please send your donation to **Blue Star Moms of Marin (tax ID 80-0348940)**, P.O. Box 5684, Novato, 94948. Your donation will go toward our efforts to support the morale and well-being of our troops and veterans. Blue Star mothers volunteer our time and do not receive any compensation. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be gratefully acknowledged with a letter. If you wish to arrange a drop-off or pick-up of goods or have any questions, please call 415-717-7030. Although we gladly receive donations throughout the year, our deadline to deliver gifts to the local Veterans Administration social workers for our Spring Adopt-a-Veteran Family program is May 5, 2017.

Your support is greatly appreciated,
Blue Star Moms of Marin

P.S. If you know of any service members on deployment, please let us know so we may add them to our mailing list to receive care packages!



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Descriptions of our 2016's Adopt-a-Veteran Family Program

Our local Veterans Administration contacts (social workers) have provided the Blue Star Moms of Marin descriptions of a few of the many veterans this program has helped in the past. For privacy reasons, the names of these veterans and their families are kept confidential. Your monetary donations goes toward the purchase of store gift cards that will allow veterans to shop for their needs or to cover extra expenses for their loved ones..

Please mail your donation to Blue Star Moms of Marin (tax ID 80-0348940), P.O. Box 5684, Novato, 94948. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We will gratefully acknowledge all donations with a letter. If you wish to arrange a drop-off or pick-up of goods, please call 415-717-7030.

Last year we were able to help the following Veterans as well as a long list of others;

1. William, 48, veteran, married, father of two small children. His father died 2 weeks before Christmas and the family had no extra money for anything after covering funeral costs. William was very distraught. William and his wife were very appreciative that their 11-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son were able to have some presents and a Christmas meal. The son was absolutely thrilled with the bike he received (his had been stolen two months before).
2. Jared, 29, young Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran; with wife, infant daughter, and mom in law in the house; they were totally floored, and so thankful. They had barely enough money for Christmas, and Christmas dinner, and the donation "saved us".
3. This family of a disabled grandfather, his son Paul (a veteran and recent widower who has not been able to keep employment) and three grandsons (who lost their mom), aged 6, 11 and 16, would have had next to nothing for Christmas without the help from Blue Star Moms. The grandfather was moved to tears by the generosity of strangers, seeing how much his son had been suffering.
4. A single dad of two teenage boys was so appreciative of the gift cards in time for Christmas. This was the first time he had his own 2-bedroom apartment and could have them over with him over the Christmas holiday. He bought food for the meals and some presents for his sons.
5. In 2016 over the holidays a single mom of a 16-year-old girl were given \$100 in Target gift cards. These funds helped them to buy needed groceries so they could use the money they saved on groceries for utility bills so they could continue to live in their home.
6. Selby, 34, Veteran, wife, infant son, and 8 year old daughter expressed much appreciation; they had to put all their money into fixing the one car they have, so the gifts saved their Christmas.

You can see that your donations of monetary funds and store cards will make a real difference for veterans like these. Thank you so much for your support.