



# BLUE STAR MOMS OF MARIN

*Proudly Supporting Our Troops, Their Families And Our Veterans*

1st Quarter 2012

**General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:30pm at the Marin Power Squadron, 789 Hamilton Pkwy, Novato, CA**

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## Presidents' Letter

Greeting from your Co-Presidents! These last few months have been a busy time for the Blue Star Moms of Marin, and we both feel honored to be part of this great organization. You'll see in this newsletter, from care packages for our troops (collections, packings and mailings), to supporting veterans' causes and events, to social activities with our families, to outreach events to spread the word about what we do and how you can help us do it, that we have been energetically working to

fulfill our mission.

All of this activity has been made possible by the efforts of our hard-working members and associate members, led by our Board and our committee chairs, and assisted by the community members who have stepped up to work with us to accomplish our goals. We also have been fortunate to have the support of many local businesses that have helped us with donations and outreach. Thank you to each and every one, who has been a part of our efforts. We are looking

forward to a very productive 2012.

With appreciation,

Barbara Bochner and  
Marilyn Spoja, Co-Presidents



*Marilyn Spoja & Barbara Bochner, Co-Presidents*

## Upcoming Events

**January 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9am Mailing packages and 6:30pm BSM General Meeting. Start the New Year sharing and planning the calendar of activities

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Team Building Program; Packing/ Outreach at Cavallo Point

**January 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Mailing-contact Cathie Becker to assist. [cathiebecker@mac.com](mailto:cathiebecker@mac.com)

**February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
6:30 General Meeting, focus on Veteran's Services; panel presentation and discussion.

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
BSM evening social event in San Rafael - save the date- details coming

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Store Collections, location to be announced, and sorting

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30pm General Meeting and Easter-themed packing

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Mailing-contact Cathie Becker to assist [cathiebecker@mac.com](mailto:cathiebecker@mac.com)

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
6:00pm  
General Meeting at the Power Squadron

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
6:30 General Meeting at the Power Squadron

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
BSM Mother's Day Tea, details TBA

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Memorial Day Celebrations, events TBA



*Donated Girl Scout cookies head for Travis AFB, then Afghanistan.*



Editor: Marilyn P. Spoja  
Design: AVM Graphics



A heart-felt thank you

*Thank you so much for the wonderful care packages. They are arriving at the perfect time as we have been here long enough to be really craving some of the niceties from home. Your selfless efforts brought a lot of smiles to faces that were a little tired from several hard months of work. It really means a lot to us to know that you support us and are willing to spend so much of your valuable time and money to send a little taste of home. Thank you again! Your kindness was a real treat.*  
Sincerely,  
Marcus Williamsen,  
NMCB 5 Ops. Officer

## Adopt a Family

by Robyn Moss

December 20th was such a special day for the Blue Star Moms of Marin!

With the help of Cathie and her son, Sam, we delivered the bounty of very generous donations from the Blue Star Moms to be given to two Iraqi veterans and their families.

We met with Lynn from the V.A. Clinic in Santa Rosa who is the case manager for both families. We were thrilled to meet one of the vets. He is a fine young man who saw some of the worst fighting in Iraq in 2005-2006 and has obviously suffered greatly from this experience. He is currently studying at the J.C. in Santa Rosa to be a paramedic, and each day is a struggle to provide for his family. I will long remember the look on his face when we handed over the donations to him; especially the toys for his two children. He was so appreciative and asked us to pass

on best wishes, thanks and gratitude to all the Blue Star Moms and the supporters who made the donation possible.

We did not get to meet the second family, but Lynn said their situation is even more precarious. They had called the V.A. in the morning pleading for assistance with food. She planned on taking the donations to them immediately after leaving us.

Lynn was overwhelmed and quite emotional about our generosity and also asked that we pass on her heartfelt thanks for the donations. She said she has so many families in her caseload that are in need, and although she realizes that it is not possible to help everyone, thinks we made a great start by helping these two families.

Cathie also delivered additional items donated from the Warm Clothes Drive that got distributed to the needy veterans at a Christmas Party hosted by the

Sonoma County Vet Connect.

Thank you to all the membership and community members for their donations. I think this is a great Christmas story that will cheer the hearts of many!

I will long remember this day and how it felt to know that as Blue Star Moms we can make such a difference to the lives of those serving and to those that have served their country so honorably. It really felt like Christmas!

God Bless all of you and your families and special prayers for our children serving overseas. Keep them safe and well.



BSM Holiday Party, socializing and adopt a family

## PAVA Luncheon

by Lynn Tross

Hello Ladies!

I want to thank the Blue Star Moms of Marin for your support and generous donations for the wounded warriors in the Polytrauma Unit at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and to their families staying at the Fisher House. It is an honor for us to be able to spend time with our wounded warriors and their fami-

lies. It is truly a privilege for us to show our appreciation and gratitude to these Heroes, their families, and the valiant medical staff who care for them.

The Warriors' Watch Riders brought in approximately 12 motorcycles, all flying full-size 3'x5' American flags. The patients who were able to go outside LOVED the motorcycles and being able to hang out with the guys. We were joined

by two moms from the BSMs of San Mateo County, and one mom from the South Bay BSMs.

Towards the end of the lunch, I was summoned over to a table by one of the patients. He thanked me for the lunch and told me that was the best food he has had since he has been in the hospital. His mother stated this was the most she had seen him eat since being

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## Achieving Our Mission

- ✦ Support of the PAVA – Palo Alto VA/Fisher House BBQ in October.
- ✦ Very successful **collections** at the Novato Safeway in early October, as well as facilitated holiday collections by community supporters; including St. James Church of Petaluma in mid-October, the Novato Chamber, Patelco Credit Union, Golden Gate Academy, and Rancho Elementary School.
- ✦ **Outreach events** with the College of Marin Honor Society on 9/11, Military Career Day, and Veterans Day celebration.
- ✦ October and November **packings and subsequent mailings** that enabled us to send hundreds of care packages to the troops, showing them they are not forgotten. Cards and letters, food, Girl Scout Cookies, Halloween candy, toiletries, entertainment, and special holiday treats and decor filled these boxes. We even managed to deliver 108 cases of Girl Scout cookies to Travis AFB to be delivered directly to deserving troops deployed



Novato Rotarians help pack

overseas! Our total mailings to troops tops 3,000 posted.

- ✦ **Special evenings for our moms** to meet and support each other at “Coffees” that occurred in August, October and November.



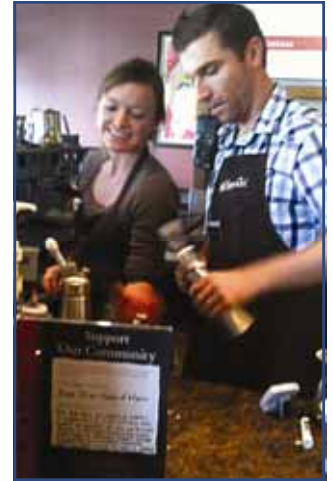
Marilyn Spoja, Barbara Bochner and Barb Travis

- ✦ Participation in **Veterans Day commemorations** at the Marin Civic Center, the Petaluma Veterans Day Parade and the special Novato Elks Dinner honoring our fallen soldiers.
- ✦ **Collecting, storing and distributing toiletries** and bedding for SF veterans.
- ✦ Sorting and packing in early December to fill more than 2800 care packages.



Packed and ready to mail

- ✦ As this year’s Holiday Charity for **Peet’s Coffee** in Greenbrae, we held two outreach and collection days. With generous customer donations and Peet’s matching funds we will receive over \$3500 in cash donations.



Peet’s Coffee in Greenbrae supports BSM as this year’s Holiday Charity.

- ✦ **A Warm Things Drive** at Matt and Jeff’s Car Wash in Novato. Matt and Jeff provided a raffle prize of a \$300 Car Detailing Certificate to help raise additional money to the cash donations collected. Also, many bags of warm things were donated for veterans in need through VetConnect in Sonoma County.
- ✦ Our festive **Holiday Party** included an Adopt a Family collection for two veterans’ families in Santa Rosa.

- ✦ **Connecting Tri Gamma sorority** with Marin Veteran Services to adopt a needy veteran family.
- ✦ Provided “**Send Offs**” and “**Welcome Home**” flags in support for our soldiers.



Blue Star Moms at the Petaluma Veteran’s Day Parade.

## How Can I Help?



Community Members joining in with BSMS

*“Once again, Chris from the sandbox is very grateful and gives Thanks to the Blue Star Moms of Marin for his packages. He ♥ it all!!!”*

*By Marilyn Spoja*

Blue Star Moms of Marin, Chapter 24 of the National organization, Blue Star Mothers of America is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-discriminatory organization.

We are a group of mothers and grandmothers of children serving in our military. Associate members are sisters, aunts, fathers and friends of the military. In addition to many supportive husbands, sons and brothers, we also have many

other interested people and organizations that participate with us in working to accomplish our mission: to support active military with care packages filled with snacks, toiletries, books, small games, and notes of appreciation from home; to support the families of active military providing a supportive environment to talk, get information, and be active with purpose doing our missions; and to support the local veteran organizations in various ways.

Our mission is a huge task, and though we are enthusiastic, we are few in number to accomplish all. To date, the Blue Star Moms of Marin have sent nearly 3,000 care packages to troops since our inception in 2009. Since the end of summer alone, we have packed and sent over 320 care packages.

Easily imagined, this is no small or simple task. Many hours of planning and action are involved from collection drives, to sorting,

organizing the packing, doing the packing, filling out custom forms and mailing labels, and trips to the post office. Blue Star Moms of Marin has often been helped by community members who connect with the value of our mission and the immediate good feeling of doing something positive to aid strangers who are far away in, often very hostile environments, sacrificing themselves for our safety. The community members, adults and children, service organizations, businesses, and individuals asking, “What can we do to help?” An enjoyable portion of our efforts has gone into connecting with these enthusiastic community helpers. We do educational outreach, talking to organizations about us and what we do.

This summer, the Blue Star Moms were a presence at the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show and at the

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## The Heart of a Blue Star Mom

*by Barb Travis*

My mind tells me my child is a **Warrior**  
 My heart remembers him learning to **Walk**  
 My mind tells me my child is highly **Trained**  
 My heart remembers him learning to **Read**  
 My mind tells me my child is fully **Equipped**  
 My heart remembers him forgetting his **Lunch Box**  
 My mind tells me my child has an important **Mission**  
 My heart fears for his **Safety**  
 My mind tells me my child is a **Hero**  
 My heart agrees because he is my **Hero**

Blue Star Moms understand that you can't separate the heart from the mind. While our minds understand and honor the choice of our children, our hearts can never forget a lifetime of memories.

Blessed are the mothers of warriors for their hearts must be that much stronger.



*Barb Travis*

## How Can I Help?

*Continued from page 4*

Military Exhibition at the San Rafael Historical Museum. In the fall, there were the College of Marin Armed Forces Day and collection drives at Safeway and other locations; each an opportunity to explain to the community who we are and what we do. We are so wonderfully received, thanked for what we do, and given offers of help. Most recently in December, Peet's Coffee in Greenbrae selected the Blue Star Moms of Marin as their Holiday Charity. Twice, a team of Blue Star Moms was present at a table at Peet's to field questions about us and to respond to offers of "How can we help?" Also heartwarming were the many "thank you for what you do" comments that made us feel blessed and energized. We were reminded of how our community cares about the troops and the veterans.

The Blue Star Moms offers opportunities to bring recognition and support to the troops, their families, and our veterans. We focus on needs that can be met by giving and participating. We are making connections with numerous service organizations,

businesses, faith-based groups, and individuals who are seeking opportunities to be involved, and to have that good feeling they have participated in something of immediate good. When care package recipients send thanks for boxes received, they always mention the many letters from school children that we include in the care packages. Even young children understand that kind words in a letter make someone feel good. It's something they can do to participate.

As the Blue Star Moms of Marin move forward into 2012, we will continue to encourage community partnerships to enhance our efforts to achieve our mission. We will focus on identifying opportunities

and organizing events to support those opportunities. The Warm Things Drive we did at Matt and Jeff's Car Wash was just one of those chances to let the community at large know "here is a need and this is what you can do." When a soldier comes home, join us in placing flags on the highway overpasses and waving proudly so that soldier knows that he or she is recognized as an individual who served – that's an opportunity!

Follow us on facebook, attend our meetings, and contact us. We will keep uncovering important and worthwhile needs and will be putting those opportunities out there for those who want to help. Many, many thanks to all who have helped and continue to do so.



*Freeway overpass Welcome Home tribute from Blue Star Moms*



*Troops at lunch*

*"My Favorite Marine told me to please thank the Blue Star Moms. He said the packages sent to 3/7 were a 'huuuuuge' hit! The guys found the letters from the school children to be very cute and funny. They want to write back to these kids. He is going to send me all of the letters the guys write and I will give them to whomever got these from the kids at the different schools, so they can receive letters back from my son and his fellow Marines."*

### How to Contact Blue Star Moms of Marin

PO Box 5684, Novato CA 94948-5684 • (415) 258-0437  
 info@bluestarmomsofmarin.org • www.bluestarmomsofmarin.org  
 Follow us on facebook: Blue Star Moms of Marin







Troops at lunch

*“My son called today and told me his favorite thing out of boxes was the scarf! THANK YOU- to the knitting group who takes the time to make them for our soldiers! My soldier “LOVES” (word he said) his scarf and hat! Thanks Blue Star Mom's of Marin for sending my son packages!!”*

## Green Beans Coffee Cup of Joe for a Joe

Chaplains who deliver care packages to deployed troops can testify that one of the most appreciated items in care packages is fresh coffee.

For a mere \$2 a cup or \$5 a bag, you can brighten the spirits of a soldier who has signed up for a cup of coffee, or you can send a cup or bag to your own child!

Just go to [greenbeanscoffee.com](http://greenbeanscoffee.com) and follow the easy instructions. There is no limit on how many cups or bags you can send.

(Green Beans Coffee wrote) Your message and gift of a CUP OF JOE was delivered to a Service Member serving at Phoenix in Afghanistan. They wanted to say thanks and make sure you knew your gift was received. Please see below for their note to you:  
*Thank you so much for taking the*

*time and showing your heart by purchasing this cup of coffee. I'm thankful I'm the recipient of this gift. I pray this time of the year you are able to spend with family and/or friends. Be Blessed, Ben N.*

From a Service Member serving at Camp Arifjan Zone 1 in Kuwait:  
*Thank you for your gift and your thoughts, especially during the holiday season. I hope your Christmas and New Year were bright and full of joy! Shane Brown US Army*

From a Soldier serving at Speicher - North in Iraq:

*Will work for packages*

*Thank you so much, the coffee in the chow hall is awful over here-it actually eats through the cups. I'm a truck driver so just like back home we run on coffee.*

From a Soldier serving at Iraq - South Victory in Iraq:  
*Ma'am, Thank you very much for your kindness. Your thoughts and, of course, the coffee, are much appreciated. Warm Regards, MAJ Laura Heller, United States Forces - Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq*

From a Soldier serving in Qatar:  
*Thank you so much for the cup of joe and thank you for the support. I would like to thank you for all you do every day to keep America the great country it is God bless you and your family and the USA. SSgt David Coolbaugh USAF Iraq.*

## PAVA Luncheon

*Continued from page 2*

him eat since being wounded and she was thrilled. She was very appreciative that her son (who is severely wounded – major head trauma) was able to find some enjoyment! Many patients expressed the same sentiment about the food, so our objective of providing familiar foods, which the patients haven't had in a very long time, was successful.

We had lots of left over food, so we divided it up and sent some

over to the patients and staff at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit, and the rest of the food went to the kitchen at the Fisher House. Over the years, I've noticed that not all the families are able to join us for lunch, but they are so grateful to be able to enjoy the lunch in the privacy of their home at the Fisher House.

Julia and Sharon worked their buns off and were a huge asset to the event. After lunch, they deliv-

ered eight cases of Girl Scout Cookies to Fisher House to be given to the families, and we gave three cases of Girl Scout Cookies to the staff who care for the wounded warriors. It was a wonderful day, and we accomplished our mission of breaking up the usual hospital environment for at least a few hours.

Thanks again for supporting this event!!

## Chaplain's Corner

by Sharon Daugherty, Chaplain for the Blue Star Moms of Marin

I had the privilege of helping serve lunch provided by the Warriors' Watch Riders for the wounded warriors in the Polytrauma Unit at the Palo Alto VA Hospital on October 2nd. After everyone was served, I made a plate for myself and sat down at a table where a young Marine was talking with a veteran Marine from the Warriors' Watch Riders (WWR). I was deeply moved as I listened. The young Marine had lost both of his legs in Afghanistan and was to be transferred in a few weeks to a hospital in Southern California and be fitted with prosthesis. His heart's desire was to continue to serve in the Marines in some capacity.

I can't remember his exact words, but the WWR veteran was telling the young man that he would

always be a Marine...that they are a brotherhood, always there for each other with encouragement and support. As the young man continued sharing about his military service and his accident with the veteran, my mind drifted off on a few journeys of its own.

I thought of the Blue Star Moms who come together because only another Blue Star Mom knows the anxieties, fears, joys, excitement, and pride that we have for our children or military family. Once a Blue Star Mom, always a Blue Star Mom...we are a sisterhood, always there for each other with encouragement and support.

Then I thought about the wounded and fallen troops in this war, friends and family from past wars, and those in our future wars...all willing to lay down their lives for the sake of our freedom.

I've always believed, and often stated, that freedom isn't free and the price has always been blood.

My thoughts turned to *John 13:15* (NASB): **"No greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."** Jesus, God's only son, loved us so much that He laid down his life – paid with His blood – for us so that we may be free from sin and have fellowship with God (see *John 3:16-17*).

Let us not take for granted the price our warriors are paying for the sake of our freedom, and let us not take for granted the price that Jesus paid for the sake of our salvation.



Sharon, Xander and "BB"

*"Jeff said the guys can't thank the BSMs enough for the packages. They were unexpected and filled with such wonderful things....especially the letters and the cards from the BSMs. He said the BSMs made a lot of Marines very, very happy!"*

## Storage Solution

Since our beginning in 2009, our Blue Star Mom chapter has been collecting items for our care packages and Veteran's support.

Initially, we used the Travis Remodeling of Novato warehouse as our location to store donations and for our packing operations – until we grew beyond reasonable demands.

Blue Star Moms of Marin then rented a storage space at Novato Storage. Although we rented one of the largest spaces, we were

packed to the gills and were not allowed to do any packing or sorting on the premises. This increased our volunteer time and efforts to transport to a working location from storage and back again.

This past fall, after numerous searches and inquiries, we were so grateful to learn that the Marin Power Squadron at 789 Hamilton Parkway in Novato, where we have our general and board meetings, was willing to rent to us an adequate storage space for our

needs at an affordable fee. In addition, they have generously offered the adjacent meeting room for us to use for sorting and packing. A huge logistical weight was released.

Marin Power Squadron, we will always be appreciative of your support, helping to sustain our chapter and our mission.

Thank you so very much!

## Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to new Blue Star Moms **Susie Morlock** and **Susie Neuwirth**, and **Dawn Trecker**. Welcome to our new associates **Rachel Pollen** and **Nancy Wylie**.

We currently have 30 Members and 9 Associate Members, for a total of 39. Each and every member is so important to Blue Star Moms of Marin. Some of us are able to participate more regularly than others, but that should never deter those who participate whenever they can. We try to include many activities in order to reach the diversity of interests within our mission. Our group is active and dynamic because of what each member

brings from their own background, current situation, skills, and resources.

While accomplishing our more tangible goals, we nourish and support each other with conversation and fellowship.

Please contact Suzy Rice at [suzy.rice@comcast.net](mailto:suzy.rice@comcast.net) to join or if you think you are not receiving all the communications you should be or have any problems/needs concerning membership. Attending our membership meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Power Squadron at 789 Hamilton Parkway in Novato is also a great

way to start. Check us out on [facebook](#) for current events.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Remember that we encourage and welcome any interested community members to join us.

**MOMS:** For mothers, grandmothers, guardians, or foster parents of current military member or veteran, there is a \$20 annual membership fee. We have a confidential sponsorship fund to help any Mom that cannot pay the \$20 membership fee. Simply email [president@blue-starmomsofmarin.org](mailto:president@blue-starmomsofmarin.org) to receive a membership scholarship.

**ASSOCIATES:** Our Associate membership is **free** to those who are not Moms or Grandmothers of a military member, but who still would like to support our mission and participate to whatever extent they wish.



Steve Countouriotis

## Just the Facts

by Steve Countouriotis

A little bit about the United States Army. The U.S. Army is made up of the Regular Army (active component) and its two reserve components, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Both reserve components are primarily composed of part-time soldiers who train once a month at weekend Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs), and perform two weeks of

Annual Training each year. Both the Regular Army and the Army Reserve are organized under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, while the Army National Guard is organized under Title 32 of the U.S. Code.

The Army National Guard is organized, trained and equipped as a component of the U.S. Army. However, when it is not in federal service, it is under the command of individual state governors. All of

the National Guard units can be brought onto federal active duty by Presidential Order.

As of September 2010, the strength of the Regular Army was reported as being 561,979 soldiers; the Army National Guard's total end-strength was 362,015 soldiers and the U.S. Army Reserve reported 205,281 soldiers for a total of 1,129,275 soldiers.



## To Our Donors

### *Thank You from the Blue Star Moms of Marin*

The Blue Star Moms of Marin has been the grateful beneficiary of support and donations, both large and small, and ranging from money to needed items to useful services. All help us to fulfill our mission and enable us to get the word out to the community about how we can honor our troops, their families and our veterans who do so much in service to our country. Our recent donors:

- The many individuals who have filled our collection boxes these past few months at our numerous outreach events and/or sent us generous checks.
- Organizations and companies who have recently donated funds, including: Alamo Capital, Bradley Electric, California Towing, Herrero Contactors, Lifestyle Lift, Novato Elks Lodge, and Novato Rotary for donations of cash; and Matt and Jeff's Car Wash for the donated raffle prize, and Peet's Coffee & Tea in Bon Air who selected us as their Holiday Charity and are matching donated funds.
- The organizations who sponsored or supported collection drives, including Safeway in Redhill and Novato, St. James Church in

Petaluma, Novato Chamber of Commerce, Patelco Credit Union, Petaluma High School and Rancho Elementary School in Novato. Matt and Jeff's Car Wash in Novato who hosted our Warm Things Drive for Vets, numerous dentist offices who gave dental supplies and Halloween candy to send to troops, and SF hotels who donated bedding and toiletry items for VA service providers.

- We have been greatly supported by the participation of Novato Rotary members, Boy Scout Troops 17 and 42, Girl Scouts, College of Marin Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society and numerous other individuals and groups who have given of their time at collection drives, care package packings and mailings.
- Services were provided by: Marin Power Squadron for meeting and storage; Ghirardo CPA of Novato for accounting support; Ann Moreno of AVM Graphics for designing our Veteran's Day newspaper ads, our new look in the newsletter, and various posters for BSM outreach; and Anne Cook of Anncook.com for designing our newsletter masthead and for redesigning our banner on the

BSM website.

Additionally, we want to continue to thank our original and ongoing supporters including Joe Garbarino and Mario Ghilotti, American Legion Posts 179 and 37, Corinthian Yacht Club, County of Marin, Fairfax Masonic Lodge 556, Friends of Novato, Kiwanis Club of Novato, Knights of Columbus, San Rafael Council 1292, Melissa Bradley Real Estate, Marin County Motorcycle Association, Marin County Retired Officers Wives Club, Marin Republican Women, Marin Volunteer League, Military Officers Association of America, Men in Mission, Native Sons of the Golden West, Novato Chamber of Commerce, Novato Grove Druids #113, Novato Lions Club, Novato Realtor Group, Presidio Yacht Club, Rip City Riders, Rotary Club of Ignacio, Rotary Club of Ross Valley, Rotary Club of Tiburon/Belvedere, Soroptimist International of Novato, Unity in Marin Church, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 547, VFW of Novato Post 7816, Widowed Persons Association of California, as well as corporate and individual donations from supporters throughout Marin County.

THANK YOU! WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

*Dear Blue Star  
Moms of Marin,  
I received the care  
packages today!  
Thank you! With  
everything starting  
to close it makes it  
hard to get things.  
Me and my fellow  
soldiers here were  
very excited to see a  
lot of daily  
necessities and  
goodies that you  
sent. So Thanks  
again!.. without  
supporters like you,  
places like this  
would seem  
so lonely.  
Thanks for  
everything!  
Sincerely,  
SGT Delancey*

## BSM Notes

*Continued from back cover*

**photo board** of all our children in active military service. It is a heartwarming sight to see at our meetings and outreach functions, and it puts a face on the missions we perform. If you have photos of your military children that you would like on the boards, please contact Alberta Buller at

[absea711@yahoo.com](mailto:absea711@yahoo.com) or Andrea Patten at [patten400@yahoo.com](mailto:patten400@yahoo.com).

- **greenbeanscoffee.com:** "Cup of Joe for a Joe." You can go online to purchase a cup of coffee or a bag of coffee beans for a deserving military person on any active military base anywhere in the world. Green Beans Coffee Company serves and supports

our deployed Troops throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and here at home at the U.S. bases.

- **Donation Drop Offs:** Call 415-883-8177 to arrange delivery of donated items to Travis Remodeling at 401-D Bel Marin Keys Boulevard in Novato.



*Proudly Supporting Our Troops, Their Families and Our Veterans*



## Blue Star Moms of Marin

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Novato CA 94948-5684

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[www.bluestarmomsofmarin.org](http://www.bluestarmomsofmarin.org)



*One of the many ways Blue Star Moms of Marin supports our troops.*

## Blue Star Mom Notes

- **facebook:** You can join the Blue Star Moms of Marin on facebook! We have photos and a growing presence of news and upcoming events. We encourage you to check out the site regularly to be up to date, gain useful advice and get connected with the Moms.

- **Cooling Scarves:** These are made primarily by associate member Cynthia Avila for our summer time mailings to troops in the HOT zones. If you would like to help in any way, contact her at [Cynthia.avila@ed.gov](mailto:Cynthia.avila@ed.gov).

- **Knitted Items:** For cold weather packing items, we have a great group of gals who have been knitting warm scarves and helmet liners. You can find instructions for the knitted items on our website [bluestarmomsofmarin.org](http://bluestarmomsofmarin.org) under "how you can help" if you would like to participate with that effort.

- **Pins and Clings:** Want to be recognized as a proud Blue Star Mom of Marin? At each meeting, membership and associate membership pins are available for \$5 each, and clings for your car or home window for \$6 each. Display them

proudly!

- **Logo Wear:** If you would like to order logo wear for the Blue Star Moms of Marin, there are two ways to do it:

1. If you have an item of clothing that you want to have embroidered with our logo, contact Molly McGrath at 415-847-8792.
2. If you want to order new clothing with our logo, you can order items from Lands End Business Outfitters at <http://ces.landsend.com/bsmom>

Wear your logo clothing proudly, especially at outreach events. Everyone will know you are a proud Blue Star Mom of Marin!

- **Speaking Engagements:** Don't forget that you can contact Barb Travis at [btravisbsm@yahoo.com](mailto:btravisbsm@yahoo.com) if you know of a company or organization that you think may have an interest in supporting the Blue Star Moms of Marin, or who just want to find out more information about us. This is an important way to get the word out to the community about who

we are; our mission to support the troops, their families, and our veterans; and opportunities for how they can help.

- **Care Package Recipient Addresses:** Blue Star Moms are regularly packing and sending needed items to active military year round. Though we have a working recipient list, we are always seeking new addresses of active military that are based far from home. If you know of someone who could use a little comfort and care, please contact us at [info@bluestarmomsofmarin.org](mailto:info@bluestarmomsofmarin.org).

In each care package sent, Blue Star Moms include hand-written notes of thanks and cheer from school children, scouts, donors, Moms, and any interested people. The thoughtful notes from strangers add a special spark to each package. If you would like to write a note of thanks to a service member or have a school class who would like to offer notes, please contact Elena Cahill at [ccd150@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccd150@sbcglobal.net).

- Blue Star Moms of Marin maintains a