

Write Letters To Military Personnel!



Who Can You Address Your Letters To:

- Deployed Soldiers - Currently Overseas
- New Recruits - just completed Boot Camp and has sworn to serve 4 + years
- First Responders - serve as a firefighter, a paramedic, or in law enforcement
- Veterans

Letter Writing Tips:

- Start with a salutation
- Express thanks for others' selfless service
- Please do not include the date or year on your letter or card
- Share personal stories or interests
- Use minors **FIRST NAMES ONLY**. If a student, include school name, teacher, and school address on every letter so recipients can write back
- Children too young to write letters? We welcome drawings or paintings; please add a note to the kids; their age
- Be creative and fun! If you are crafty/artsy make a unique design on the front. Or consider stickers to make things pop.

What To Do Next:

- Separate the cards by whom they are addressed to (deployed troop, a new recruit, first responder, veteran)
- Contact the Community Engagement Office via phone (231) 760 - 9993 or email dominique@unitedwaylakeshore.org
- Drop cards off to the United Way of the Lakeshore Office so we can ship them to the correct locations with no cost to you!
- **The office is located at 31 E Clay Ave, Muskegon MI, 49442**





Operation Gratitude has delivered more than 2.1 million Care Packages filled with items donated by grateful Americans and service-friendly companies that want to express their support for Heroes serving overseas and here at home. Together we are working to bridge the civilian-service divide.

Every Operation Gratitude Care Package includes a bundle of letters from the American people, thanking Troops, Veterans, New Recruits, Wounded Heroes and their Caregivers, or First Responders for their service to our country. Care Package recipients tell us these letters, notes, and drawings are the most cherished items in their box.

Holiday cards need to be received two to three months prior to the holidays in order for them to reach our service members on time. Once we receive letters, it takes us time to screen, sort, and collate them for our Care Packages, and then we must factor in shipping time. If your letters will arrive less than two months before the holidays, please send general letters of appreciation (rather than holiday greetings) so they may be used year-round.

Items also needed include letters, scarves, hats, gloves, hygiene product, candy, stuffed animals, paracord bracelets, & cool ties (to cool down necks)

2,107,265
Care Packages Delivered
Since 2003

