

****OPERATION GOODY BAG****

Written by:

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One day our computer teacher, Jane Cosco, was working in her classroom, listening to the radio. One PHONE CALL caught Mrs. Cosco's attention. The woman on the radio was asking for help. She told a sad story. The Troops were going to be FORGOTTEN during the holidays and that wasn't fair! The caller's friend was the Director of Recreation for our American troops in Iraq! Budget cuts would mean fewer holiday treats for the soldiers. She gave out her email address on the radio and Mrs. Cosco wrote to her immediately. She thought about the soldiers that make great sacrifices each day to preserve our freedoms and knew that they deserved a wonderful holiday just like those of us at home! She knew the amazing staff and students in our school could do something to help.

We could have shipped large cartons filled with loose candy, but felt we wanted to make the gifts more personal. Long hours went by and the decision was made. The best idea was to use brown lunch bags to put the candy in, just like the Goody Bags we get when we go to a birthday party. It was GENIUS. We started work in November of 2003. We remember how excited we were when we packed the first carton and prepared it for the Post Office. We knew that this was going to lift the troop's spirits greatly. We were extremely eager to put smiles on the soldiers' faces during this time of war. What felt even better was knowing we were about to make a difference in the world.

As the last carton was shipped we felt our job was done but wait . . . there's more! We were totally amazed when the first thank-you note arrived! A few words from that note written in Central Iraq:

"All of you children are truly great American heroes! You are our future. You are the ones that will carry on the traditions of our forefathers. You are the ones that will never allow our freedoms to be taken away. You are our hopes, our dreams and our futures. Thank you so much for the gifts."

As we read these words, we were proud, knowing that we had just brightened up someone's day. This note proved to be our inspiration. Since then, we have shipped over 12,000 Goody Bags to soldiers in Iraq and sailors on 15 Naval ships. We Salute the Troops! You make us proud to be an American! And to brighten your day, we are sending these delicious treats to you.

♥♥♥ENJOY!♥♥♥

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10 Easy Steps to make **GOODY BAGS for the TROOPS**

1



Arrange to collect individually wrapped gum, hard candy, lollipops & mini packs of m&ms.

How much candy do you need? **NO MORE THAN** 5 pieces of candy per bag.
Remember: it is the thought that counts!

2



Color on front side of brown paper lunch bags with patriotic or timely holiday designs

3



Write personal letters of thanks, write poetry and create puzzles

Be specific when identifying your Group Name.
Include first name and **ONLY** last initial of person writing letter.

4



Fill bags with poetry, puzzles, 5 candy/gum treats and a personal letter

5



Fold over top of lunch bag
&
staple "**OPERATION Goody Bag**" story to **BLANK** side of bag

6



Pack neatly in rows in mailing carton, alternating up/down.
DO NOT WRITE on the outside of a carton.

Boxes **MUST BE** 16 x 10 x 12. Cost approx. \$2.00 at Office Depot.

7



Place a cover letter in box on top of bags, describing how **YOU** became involved in this project.
INCLUDE a photo of your group at work and your Group Leader email address

8

Fold box flaps over to secure contents.
DO NOT tape closed. **DO NOT WRITE** on box.

9



Please complete "**Goody Bag Statistics**" form.
Send to "jcosco@paramus.k12.nj.us" so your efforts can be counted!

10

Be Proud of your accomplishments!
You have "Made a Difference in the World"!
You will realize this . . . *with the arrival of your **first*** . . . Thank you note!

