



# ABOUT



## OPERATION GRATITUDE

Operation Gratitude is the **largest and most impactful** nonprofit in the country for hands-on volunteerism in support of military, veterans, and first responders.

### **ABOUT US**

---

In March 2003, Operation Gratitude sent its first four care packages to deployed service members in Iraq. Since then, the nonprofit has successfully provided opportunities for millions of Americans to express their appreciation through hands-on volunteerism, and has lifted the spirits of more than 3.3 million deployed troops, recruit graduates, veterans, military families, first responders, and healthcare heroes.

### **WE BELIEVE**

---

Americans want to do their part for the country they love.

Americans across our great country care about those who provide safety, security, and protection for our way of life, and want to show their gratitude to those who have raised their hand to serve and sacrifice for our nation.

Saying “Thank You” and other expressions of gratitude can lift the spirits of both those who give and those who receive.

### **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

---

The volunteers of Operation Gratitude are a generous and spirited network of Americans joined in common cause to say “Thank You” to all who serve our great nation.

Our volunteers embrace many opportunities to fulfill their mission, such as assembling care packages, writing letters, crocheting hats and scarves, making paracord bracelets, and sharing their passion for service with others.

Learn more at [www.OperationGratitude.com](http://www.OperationGratitude.com)



# OUR PROGRAMS

Operation Gratitude has multiple programs that allow grateful Americans everywhere to show appreciation to the military and first responder communities.

## DEPLOYED TROOPS

### *A Connection to Home*

Every year thousands of service members are deployed around the world, separated from family, friends, and the comforts of home. Operation Gratitude's mission is to provide grateful Americans with the opportunity to say "Thank You" to those service members through a wide array of volunteer activities..

At our main facility in Chatsworth, CA, and at organized large-scale assembly events across the nation, our Volunteers assemble hundreds of thousands of Operation Gratitude Care Packages containing handwritten letters of gratitude, plus snack, hygiene, and handmade items. We deliver these packages to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and National Guardsmen serving at home and abroad.

## FIRST RESPONDERS

### *Trained, ready, and responsive to our communities in emergencies*

Regardless of how or when veterans served, Operation Gratitude and its team of volunteers are committed to honoring their service in a very personal way. Our motto is: It is never too late to say "Thank You."

We coordinate with VA hospitals, veterans and nursing homes, Veterans Service Organizations and other best-in-class nonprofits to provide care packages to veterans of all generations. With our actions we let them know that their service and the sacrifices they made are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

## VETERANS

### *Their Service Will Never Be Forgotten*

Regardless of how or when veterans served, Operation Gratitude and its team of volunteers are committed to honoring their service in a very personal way. Our motto is: It is never too late to say "Thank You."

We coordinate with VA hospitals, veterans and nursing homes, Veterans Service Organizations and other best-in-class nonprofits to provide care packages to veterans of all generations. With our actions we let them know that their service and the sacrifices they made are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

## WOUNDED HEROES AND CAREGIVERS

### *Honoring Our Hidden Heroes*

We know the sacrifices made by wounded heroes and, in turn, their caregivers, are monumental and unique. These complex challenges can be isolating and Operation Gratitude seeks to support the needs of this community as they battle the invisible and physical wounds of war.

We recognize the commitment and dedication of wounded heroes and caregivers from all eras, and with our custom designed care packages, acknowledge and show appreciation in a special and personalized way. Together with our partners, we continue to serve this community through care package deliveries.

## MILITARY FAMILIES

### *Standing By Our Brave Young Warriors*

Of 1.9 million Military children, approximately 225,000 will experience the challenge of having a parent/guardian deployed or absent for an extended period of time. We seek to celebrate and support as many of these amazing and resilient children as we can.

Working closely with Family Readiness Groups, our trademarked "Battalion Buddy" bears are hand-filled by volunteers and given to the children of deployed service members. Our cuddly Battalion Buddies wear tags that say "Hi Brave Young Warrior! I am your Battalion Buddy. I am here to cuddle with you while your Mommy or Daddy is away." The Operation Gratitude team and volunteers are often invited to FRG events to hand-deliver these special bears and show our brave young warriors and their parents that a grateful nation stands with them during difficult times.

## HEALTHCARE HEROES

### *They can't stop - we won't stop!*

In March of 2020 while the world faced one of the biggest and most devastating pandemics in over a hundred years we felt it was important to expand our first responder program to include healthcare heroes, as we recognize these brave individuals are also on a battlefield fighting an invisible enemy.

Operation Gratitude leads one of the largest coordinated efforts in the country to support the brave men and women serving on the COVID-19 frontlines, by delivering letters, food, coffee, comfort and hygiene items directly to major city medical centers.

## RECRUIT GRADUATES

### *The First Touch Point*

The Recruit Graduate program is the first of many ways Operation Gratitude impacts individuals across the span of their military career. This program sends a heartfelt message, from grateful Americans everywhere, that the new Service member's decision to serve their country is recognized, valued and will never be forgotten.

Together with devoted local volunteers, we hand-deliver Operation Gratitude care pouches to congratulate our nation's newest service members at boot camp graduations across the country. The Recruit Graduate program serves as the first "touch point" for more than 100,000 recruit graduates annually.

Learn more at [www.OperationGratitude.com](http://www.OperationGratitude.com)