Providing Emergency Aid to Troops Severely Wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq

Key Programs:
- Emergency Financial Aid
- Partner Appreciation Program
- Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute

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Wounded troops facing bleak Christmas Season desperately need help ★★★★★

With Christmas approaching, requests for emergency financial aid continue to pour in to the Coalition’s office as troops severely wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq find themselves in financial crisis.

Rising food and energy prices are hitting America’s financially strapped military families especially hard. In addition, the long wait for their first government disability check – which now takes more than a year, on average, to arrive – is pushing more and more of these families to the brink of financial collapse.

The good news is that for the fifth year in a row, the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes has launched a special Christmas emergency aid drive to rescue our severely wounded troops facing financial hardships, including utility cutoffs, evictions, car repossessions and a lack of warm clothes and food.

Coalition supporters can look for more information about the challenges faced by these families and how they can help by keeping a close eye on their mailbox for updates from the Coalition’s spokesmen, retired Army Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub and former Army Sgt. Jorge DeLeon.

Those who participate in the Coalition’s 2011 Christmas Emergency Aid Drive will get an opportunity to help seriously injured servicemen like Army Spc. Travis F. of Pitts, Georgia, who suffered a debilitating back injury when a roadside bomb blasted him out of his vehicle while serving in Iraq.

In a letter he sent the Coalition last year, Travis said his children “have had to miss three Christmases because of the financial hardships following his injury. “It’s been hard on the kids because they have had to settle for less so me and their mom can try to make ends meet,” he says.

Fortunately, Travis discovered the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, which rushed him emergency financial aid just in time.

“If it was not for the Coalition, me, my wife, and seven kids would be homeless,” Travis says. “But thanks to them we are not.”

The Coalition’s Christmas emergency aid drive is urgent, says Gen. Singlaub, because the families of hundreds of other severely wounded troops are facing homelessness, hunger, the cutoff of their heat and hot water, and other disasters as the weather turns cold.

“Christmas is the season of hope,” noted Singlaub. “Year after year, wounded troops who are hoping for some kind of miracle turn to the Coalition for help. And year after year, our faithful supporters answer their prayers.

“On behalf of severely wounded heroes like Travis F. and Larry Bostick, whose moving stories appear on this page, I want to express my deep appreciation this Christmas Season to every member of the Coalition’s family of supporters.”
Coalition donors help brighten the lives of severely wounded troops and their families during the Christmas Season

“We will have a Christmas with our $500 gift check. We can’t wait to see our kids’ smiling faces. Wish I could give them more, it’s hard to make them understand.”
— Retired Army Sgt. Gary Wynn, Seminole, Florida

“We were not going to have Christmas because everything was going to bills.”
— Army Sfc. Kevin R., San Angelo, Texas

“The loss of income has affected my ability to take care of bills and needed things for my family’s well being. And this assistance has assured that my family will have a good Christmas. God bless the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes for their help.”
— Retired Army Ssg. Alvin Goodwin, Ekron, Kentucky

During the last Christmas Season, Coalition donors provided $50,000 in Secret Santa Christmas gift checks to severely injured servicemen and women across the country. Our wounded heroes used their $500 to provide Christmas presents for their families and pay for food and other necessities.

Coalition donors have made thousands of Christmas dreams come true for children whose parents have been wounded while serving our country.

Coalition donors can help a severely wounded veteran like Shane Parsons, who lost both legs to a roadside bomb in Iraq, have a Merry Christmas.

Coalition donors have helped brighten the lives of severely wounded troops and their families during the Christmas Season.

Sending Christmas wishes to a serviceman or woman who is wheelchair-bound is a great way to let that hero know you appreciate the sacrifice he or she made and are proud of his or her service to our great country.

Many severely wounded servicemen and women feel helpless at Christmas time because they are unable to provide for their families. (And, of course, their small children don’t understand why.) Thanks to Coalition friends, these brave men and women can give their toddlers a meaningful Christmas holiday season.

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"I would give them a hug and say thanks so much for this. God bless."

— Retired Marine Sgt. Felix Garcia, Palm Coast, Florida

"I have been out of the military for less than a year. Bills were piling up close to Christmas. I received a call from the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes explaining they may be able to help. I was so glad someone was helping the men and women who were at desperate times after coming back from a place we don’t want to remember. The Coalition helped me more than I can ever say. I almost lost my Mom, lights were about to be shut off, and many other bills just kept piling up. The Coalition paid my light bill and helped with my other bills, which helped me manage my home payments. Thanks to the Coalition, I regained control of my life. Thank you."

— Retired Navy PO2 Jose L. Pumarejo, Jacksonville, Florida

"I cannot describe how thankful my family and I are through this critical time. You have been a blessing. I had to quit my job to care for my husband. We have four children and they also want to tell you, ‘Thank you!’ We also want to thank you once again for the $500 check at our hardship time so we could have a Christmas for our family."

— Wife of Marine SSgt. George P., Jacksonville, North Carolina