

Press release

Ref: GCH

Date: 23rd September 2008

'Nightingale Dollybirds' send gifts and messages to troops

Thoughtful residents at Nightingale House sheltered scheme have filled 70 shoeboxes with gifts to send out to our troops in Afghanistan.

Residents Doreen Morehen, Janet Hall, Jean Murray and Joan Cann came up with the idea of supporting the troops at a recent coffee morning and launched an appeal to collect the items. With goodies to fill the boxes being donated by residents in GCH sheltered schemes around the city and by staff at GCH's Southgate House office, the boxes were soon filled.

The shoeboxes are now on their way to the troops following a presentation to representatives from RAF Lyneham Medical Corps at Nightingale House.

Inspired by wartime memories, residents also sent a special box containing a message and photos from the 'Nightingale Dollybirds' and are hoping to hear some news from Afghanistan once the boxes are opened.

Some of the boxes also contained special treats for the RAF sniffer dogs currently working in Afghanistan.

Receiving the boxes on behalf of all Service Personnel who are serving out of area, Warrant Officer Mary Cowley of RAF Lyneham said:

'Receiving these boxes will mean so much to those men and women who are deployed on the front line.'

Living in very rudimentary accommodation where home comforts are few, the packages will be a tremendous morale booster and not only highlight how people feel but also that they have taken the time to show them that they care.'

Mary Cowley's talk to residents also touched on the plight of children in Afghanistan who have been affected by the war, some of whom have never seen a toothbrush or a cuddly toy. Moved by the story, the Nightingale House group are now planning a collection to fill boxes to send to the children for Christmas.

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