NEWS

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16 pallets of donated goods for troops ship out tomorrow

CRESTLINE – An enormously successful countywide effort to collect items for deployed military personnel is drawing to a close, and 16 pallets loaded with donations remain in a county warehouse.

But those lingering contributions won't sit idle for long, thanks to a non-profit organization started by a Crestline couple.

The San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs, which led the program known as "Support Our Troops 2007," is working with Bill and Diane Boone of "Touch of Home: Support 4R Deployed Military, Inc." to get remaining donations to the troops.

"The Boones have created a fantastic organization that will ensure these donations make it to the brave men and women serving overseas in our nation's military," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who proposed county support for the original collection effort.

San Bernardino County employees and residents donated more than 50,000 items, including T-shirts, snacks, DVDs, and hygiene products. The donations were valued at \$250,000.

On **Wednesday, March 12, at 10 a.m.**, Veterans Affairs will transfer the remaining pallets to "Touch of Home," which the Boones started while their daughter was deployed in Iraq. The nonprofit has been providing similar "comfort" items to troops since 2005.

The news media are invited to view the transfer at Lake Gregory Self Storage, located at 555 South Dart Canyon in Crestline. Contact Bill Moseley, Director of Veterans Affairs, at (909) 387-5527 for more information.