

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Disney VolunteEars Support USA Cares

They comfort Americas post 9/11 Combat Injured Troops through "Operation Lap Wrap"

Radcliff, KY USA Cares began in March 2003 by offering assistance to post 9/11 military personnel and their families who were suffering financial hardship due to their service.

Operation Lap Wrap is one of many programs that are available for volunteer's around the nation to show their support for our military. When talking to Karen Kawanami from Disney Worldwide Outreach in California, Kim Moorman, Director of Business Development at USA Cares, mentioned Operation Lap Wrap to her as something their volunteers could help with. Kim went on to tell the story of how Operation Lap Wrap was started. While Cecelia Jeffery, a USA Cares employee was visiting a hospital talking to soldiers she noticed that some of the soldiers were going outside without their shirts on, instead they were placed over their laps.

When she asked a nurse about this she was told that when soldiers go outside and it is seen they have no legs, visitors tend to stare. They felt it was more acceptable to be seen without shirts than without limbs. Thus Cecelia got the correct dimensions and went to work to start the Operation Lap Wrap program. Upon hearing this, Karen immediately put the word out to all their Disney VolunteEars and Blanketeers nationwide knowing it was something her team would want to support.



The Disney Blanketeers together in ABC's New York Office

Adrienne White, Manager of Disney VolunteEars in New York, remarked "Karen Turrisi from our office arranged with Cheryl Bruce from yours [USA Cares] to have 23 beautifully packaged and personally crochet blankets sent to your offices today in Radcliff, KY for the 'Operation Lap Wrap' program. May they be enjoyed by the many deserving and courageous military personnel that benefit from your wonderful program. Thanks so much for sharing your story and for the opportunity of our cast to be a part of this effort -- we were happy to help!"

Apparently, Disney's VolunteEar's and Blanketeers agree with Walt Disney when he said "The greatest moments in life are not concerned with selfish achievements, but rather with the things we do for other people."

About USA Cares

USA Cares is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that helps post 9/11 military families bear the burdens of service with financial and advocacy support. Its mission: To help with basic needs during financial crisis, to assist combat injured Veterans and their families and to prevent private military home foreclosures and evictions. In five years, USA Cares has received more than 14,000 requests and distributed more than \$5.6 million in grants. Military families anywhere in America can apply for assistance through the USA Cares web site, <http://www.usacares.org/> or by calling 1-800-773-0387. For more information on USA Cares contact John Revell, jrevell@usacares.org or (270) 352-5451.

USA Cares “Operation Lap Wrap” distributes blankets made by volunteer individuals and organizations to military hospitals, Warrior Transition Units and other locations where members of any US Military Service may reside for recuperation and care. More information on the program can be found at www.usacares.org under the Volunteer/Projects tab. Thanks go out to all of the participants who have contributed to the program and now to ABC’s Disney Worldwide Outreach VolunteEar and Blanketeers.

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