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News

Neighborhood group shows love for troops

By NORMA MARTINEZ, *Managing Editor*

American service personnel stationed overseas have been the beneficiaries of 95 care packages sent to them thanks to the efforts of a local group of residents, a campaign spearheaded by one of their own.

Bahia Bay resident Carla Reed explained the drive was started after she was at the local post office and noted a woman addressing several boxes. Apparently the boxes were care packages being sent to soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, etc.

Reed said she was interested in doing the same thing and the woman gave her the website www.anysoldier.com. It features addresses of servicemen and women overseas, explains how to send packages to them, and also allows messages to be sent from troops.

Reed then took matters into her own hands, emailed all the residents in the Bahia Bay

subdivision and the project took off from there. Items such as lip balm, sunscreen, insect repellent, cleaning wipes, paperback books, etc. began to be collected.

Collections went so well, they were able to send 34 boxes of paperback books to troops. Resident Jana Corkill's kindergarten class wrote letters and also donated enough items for two packages.

Reed's daughter's coworkers in Austin sent a box of goodies and donated funds for postage.

When others heard about the project, they also were willing to help and the donations continued to come in allowing the residents to send their latest shipment of boxes Thursday, May 5. With the aforementioned shipments, the Bahia Bay residents have sent a total of 95 boxes since April 4.

Reed said they also are especially grateful to the Rockport GI Forum and the American Legion which provided postage for about half of the boxes.

Reed also noted although they are going to take a break for a couple of months, they are gathering names and addresses of any local deployed personnel so when they are ready to send out the next round, they can include them on the list.

Anyone with an address should send it to: Bahia Bay Residents, Soldiers Packages. P.



Bahia Bay residents and representatives from the Rockport GI Forum are loaded up and ready to head to the post office to mail care packages to American servicemen and women. The project was initiated by Bahia Bay resident Carla Reed. **Photo by Norma martinez**

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Reed pointed out the conditions are so harsh overseas, local troops use up their supplies very quickly. They are still in need of the aforementioned items, which the residents will collect when they are ready to send out more packages.

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