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Local students send holiday cheer overseas

(OTTUMWA) More than 65 care packages are headed overseas to our soldiers for the holidays.

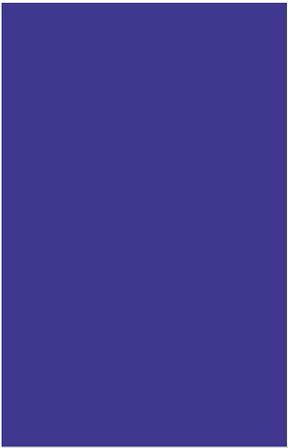
Sixth graders at Wildwood School in Ottumwa started the collection drive about a month ago. The whole school plus Hy-Vee and South Side Rexall Drug helped collect food, notebooks and hygiene products.

Teacher Amber Nelson served in the Army Reserves for eight years and found many of the group's 23 contacts and what they needed online at [anysoldier.com](#).

"Miss Nelson came up with it. She was just thinking first at writing letters and then she went online and looked at how they were living and what they wanted so we came up with the idea of sending care packages to them of what they wanted for like Christmas and everything," said a student.

"I also think they learned a lot from the project. They learned how to address the boxes, they learned how to use the proper letter writing techniques, they learned how to fill out customer forms and they just learned what it was like to do something nice for other people who aren't as good off as they are right now," said Teacher Amber Nelson.

Many people also donated cash to help with the \$500 shipping costs. The sixth graders enjoyed the project so much, they'd like to do a smaller one in the spring.



-- Danielle Wagner, Reporting



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