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YELLOWHAMMERING AFGHANISTAN

By Mike Tomberlin

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Passing along generosity

Posted by

[Michael Tomberlin](#) November 09, 2007 6:00 AM



We didn't leave the refugees after our initial visit without a good-faith showing that we are indeed willing to help.

I had boxes of goodie bags with snacks, juice, pencils and paper for the children. We had candy, Beanie Babies and other toys.

The Afghan National Police gave it all away, many of them not able to contain their smiles as they did so.

I also saw smiles among the refugees. I saw hope as well.

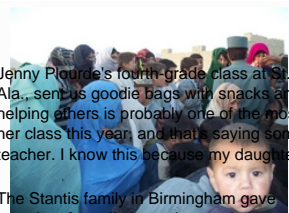


We have now verified there is a need and the refugee families are in fact there. Hopefully, in addition to our own assistance, we can get them some help from the many organizations here in Afghanistan for those experiencing such misfortune.

Until then, many of you who read this blog and support us through AnySoldier.

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Jenny Plourde's fourth-grade class at St. Aloysius Catholic School in Bessemer, Ala., sent us goodie bags with snacks and toys for the children. This life lesson of helping others is probably one of the most valuable things Mrs. Plourde will teach her class this year, and that is saying something seeing as she is an excellent teacher. I know this because my daughter, Flannery, is in her class.

The Stantis family in Birmingham gave us gobs of goodie bags that made it into the hands of some children who need and appreciate them.

Frank and Charlotte Neely of West Point, Miss., did the same on top of their continuing support of the troops here at Camp Vulcan.

Chris and Cindy St. John of Operation: Show Our Love provided us with the stuffed animals we passed out to the children.



Karen Gaspard of Metairie, La., sent us tons of candy we were able to pass out as well.



My own daughters, Flannery and Michaela, went through their toy room and found the things they no longer play with or could bear to part with and sent me two boxes of toys. It is a ritual at our house prior to Christmas each year.

Whereas we usually give those toys to a local charity in Birmingham, this year the

girls wanted to help the Afghan children. I'm so proud of you, girls.

I'm proud and thankful to all of you who did so much for so many. I'm blessed to be involved in passing along your generosity.

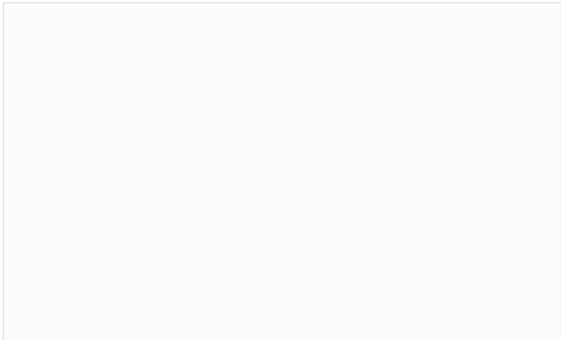
You helped us soldiers solidify a promise that help is on the way.

You helped the Afghan National Police boost their image among the people while at the same time giving them that great feeling that only comes from helping others.

Most importantly, you helped 76 families - through their children - have a better day than they had before and a promise that better days are ahead.



That's nothing short of a miracle considering the despair that was in the same hearts minutes before.





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