PETERSBURG, W.Va. - "What a great response we had to our call for articles to fill our boxes we wanted to send to our local troops in Iraq," said Marissa Rogers-Lewis, customer service coordinator for Grant Memorial Hospital. "We had a total of 14 boxes we mailed on August 3. We sent to the seven names we had for local service persons and because we had so many contributions we decided to check the Internet to see if there were any more service men we could send to. We found two more West Virginia names at www.anysoldier.com so we sent them boxes and the other four were arbitrarily selected."

Four of the seven local names were family members of Grant Memorial employees. Paige Mauzy, daughter of GMH employees Brad and Rhonda, was one of the volunteers who helped pack the boxes.

"I think it is important to send care packages to the troops because they are saving our country and are working for it too. They need things just like us and they deserve things like snack foods, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste and many more items."

The other Petersburg Elementary School 6th grader who helped was Hannah Ludwick. "Jenny McKinney also helped us box. The idea came about when Jenny approached me about putting together a box for a man who works at Winchester Medical Center's IS department who was recently deployed overseas," said Rogers-Lewis. "I thought that we could take it a step further by using the hospital's media resources to get not just our employees, but community members involved as well."

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Summit Community Bank Loan Processing and Scan Processing Departments donated four large boxes of items. In addition, North Fork Ruritan donated $50 to the cause. Many other individuals from the community dropped off bags at the hospital for the effort.

The average weight of the boxes was 14 lbs. and the total cost to ship was $168.25. GMH employees and community members donated $145 towards the shipping cost. The hospital picked up the rest of the shipping cost.
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