



One for the troops

A letter from Marine Cpl. Peter Ashline hangs on the wall of Hunzinger Construction Co's construction trailer. "So, how did you find me anyway?" Ashline asks. "I'm not complaining or anything, but I feel so lucky to have all these boxes with tons of great goods sent to me."

In what is an otherwise standard construction site staple, Hunzinger's main trailer at the Johnson Controls Inc. building project in Glendale is decorated with thank you letters received from soldiers. Hunzinger employees donated 4,362 pounds of items to military units overseas this year. Since starting a donations program three years ago, the company sent more than 6 tons of gifts to various military units, Hunzinger said.

In 2007, Army Sgt. Rob Cahalan's unit was stationed in Ramadi, where it focused on rebuilding and humanitarian operations when he received gifts from Hunzinger. "You packed all the right stuff," he wrote to Hunzinger's employees. "Some of the candy and toys we would hand out to Iraqi kids, they loved it!" The trailer holds more than just letters though.

Donation boxes also sit in the company's construction trailer, said Hunzinger spokeswoman Sarah Hunzinger, who is organizing the donation effort. Hunzinger said the program gives employees a reason to strive for a common goal. "We get names from relatives, neighbors, friends," Hunzinger said. "We don't care if they're tied to the company...we're just trying to help."

The most requested information includes beef jerky, and Slim Jims, Crystal Light mix and any personal touches that remind them of home. Hunzinger organizes monthly donations into themes such as Thanksgiving, Halloween or Christmas and includes pictures, letters and decorations such as a bag of acorns. "They love anything that reminds them of home," Hunzinger said.