

Courtesy WPVI-TV Philadelphia

Marine Mom Looks to Bring Holidays to Soldiers

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By Lisa Thomas-Laury

October 16, 2007 (WPVI) -- A Marine mom has good reason to be stocking candy canes, and designing holiday cards before Halloween.

Patty Lewis is determined to bring Xmas to the 1150 marines that were stationed alongside her son in Iraq, even though Corporal Brian Lewis completed his duty there in February. He's now home, studying criminal justice at Montgomery County Community College.

However, Patty is behind schedule, and low on donations to fill the Christmas stockings she hopes to ship out by mid November.

"The brain games ... are great cause they get the guys minds thinking when they are out of combat and back on base," said Patty. "I'd love to get another thousand hand-held games if I could."

She has been successful collecting other donations, like chapstick, toothpaste, and baby wipes, which Brian says are a must in the desert.

Patty's proud of the nationwide effort by her parents group to help the troops in the 3rd battalion, 2nd marine regiment, stay warm on those cold Iraqi nights. Patty says, "We have parents in our battalion across the country, knitting these camouflage scarves."

Many of the men have listed on paper what foods and other items they'd like to receive. Some of the more frequent requests are books - religious ones are among the most popular. Tom Clancey is a favorite author.

Outside, Patty has enough candy canes to fill her Christmas stockings but no stockings yet, and last year, her trailer was nearly full by now.

If you'd like to help this Marine mom reach her goal of filling 1150 Christmas stockings with holiday love, visit her website: <http://www.mom4rmarines.org/>.

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