



Christian Parley / The Fresno Bee Rose Komar, who works in a dental office, is starting a campaign to send holiday packages to U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. A donation site is in the office of Tulare dentist Dr. Edward Urbina.

More photos

Practical Christmas gifts on this Santa's list Soldier's aunt in Visalia collects presents to be sent to military stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan.

By Erik Lacayo / The Bee 11/17/06 04:43:27

TULARE — For Lance Cpl. Daniel Dominguez's birthday, his aunt sent him compact discs and the game Pictionary.

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Rose Komar of Visalia regularly sends care packages to her nephew, a Farmersville native who is stationed in Fallujah, Iraq.

"He loves hot Cheetos," Komar said. "I also sent him some Christmas cards."

It was while preparing a care package for her 20-year-old nephew that Komar decided to collect items to send care packages to other soldiers for the holidays.

Komar said many soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan need practical items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and snacks.

Komar said she also wants to send the soldiers CDs, DVDs and games for the holidays.

Donations for care packages may be sent to Edward Urbina, D.D.S. Inc., 952 N. Cherry St., Tulare, CA 93274.

Donations may include: hand and feet warmers, small journals, baby wipes, hand sanitizers, razors, shaving cream, foot powder, body wash, small flashlights, lotion, eyedrops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, batteries, shampoo, mouthwash, socks, CDs, DVDs, magazines, board games, packaged snacks, Christmas cards and decorations, Beanie Babies, books and feminine hygiene products.

For more information, call Rose Komar at (559) 686-0044.

"They don't want to be forgotten," Komar said. "A lot of them want something that will remind them of home."

Komar and her co-workers have already collected a few items at their office in Tulare.

Komar is a dental assistant at the office of Dr. Edward Urbina, where a portrait of Dominguez is displayed near a donation box in the lobby.

Urbina said if the small lobby can't hold all the items, there is enough room in the office's garage.

"I don't mind filling up the garage," he said.

Urbina said holiday items must be sent by Dec. 14 so the care packages can be received by Christmas.

People can also donate items after Dec. 14 because they will continue to send packages to the troops after the holidays, he said.

Komar said she browsed AnySoldier.com to find out what some of the soldiers need. The Web site posts letters from troops describing what they need.

Some even ask for items like teddy bears that they can give out to Iraqi children, she said.

There are many troops who won't be receiving anything for the holidays, Komar said.

"We want to let them know someone is thinking about them and care," Urbina said. The reporter can be reached at elacayo@fresnobee.comor (559) 622-2421.

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Christian Parley / The Fresno Bee
Rose Komar's idea of shipping Christmas packages
to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan stems from
packages she regularly sends to nephew Daniel
Dominguez.

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