



photos by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Packing personal items and food for the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia are (from left) Liz Zynda, the Rev. George Hack, Judy Parran and Bar-

bara Darish. They are members of the new Farmington-area chapter of Friends of Freedom.

A touch of home

Local Friends of Freedom group sends packages to those in Gulf

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

JUDY PARRAN, Barbara Darish and Liz Zynda don't have children or relatives fighting in the Persian Gulf. But their hearts are with the soldiers. And so are their efforts.

"I don't want them to come back like they did from Vietnam," said Parran, who two weeks ago began the Farmington-area chapter of Friends of Freedom.

The three Farmington Hills residents don't want a repeat of that war's aftermath when American soldiers came home to find little support or respect for their efforts.

They are concerned about the troops and believe the troops need to know Americans — regardless of their political leanings — care about them.

To that end, the three Farmington Hills residents — with the help of the Rev. George Hack and members of the Farmington Hills Church of Christ — are giving their support by sending them a little bit of home in packages of food, books and personal items.

"We have men in our congregation who were in Vietnam and who were treated badly. That's why we got involved," said Hack, a Redford Township resident.

THE ORGANIZATION, originally begun by Berkley resident Laura Crarney — who has a son and son-in-law in the Persian Gulf — is collecting monetary donations and grocery store items.

THE GULF

WAR

Hitting Home

Wednesday afternoon Parran's kitchen table was filled with the best examples of what is sent to the troops. Nuts, candy, gum, juice in boxes, soup, crackers, cookies and fruit cups top the grocery items.

Personal items needed are toilet paper, facial tissue, toothpaste, lip balm, sun screen, bandages, Q-Tips and toothpicks. And believe it or not, sanitary napkins and tampons also are requested. The sanitary napkins have come in handy as bandages.

And then there's the kind of things anyone would need to pass away the hours and make life a little more like home: Frisbees, travel games, paperback books and magazines, playing cards and stationery.

"I just wanted to do something," said Parran, who called WJBK-TV 2 to see what could be done to show support for the troops. "They told me about Friends of Freedom."

MEANWHILE, Darish was feeling pretty much the same. She called the Livonia chapter of Friends of Freedom and was directed to Parran, who asked Zynda, a friend and neighbor for help.

"I wanted to let the troops know we're supporting them," said Zynda, one of the 90-100 congregants of

Hack's church on 11 Mile, between Drake and Halsted.

"We have a board with soldiers' names. We are writing to them. But we wanted to do something else," Hack said.

With that, the small but determined group went to work. Over the last two weeks, they've earned the blessings of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils. Church of Christ congregations have decorated — with flags and soldiers names and addresses — drop boxes for donations.

The group has been doing its own shopping for the effort. Darish was "bound and determined" to buy as many AA batteries as she could find.

They have contacted companies and stores in the area for help with either monetary donations or donations of books and other items.

WITHIN TWO weeks or so, the donations collected by the Farmington-area chapter will — like other Friends of Freedom chapters — be taken to a warehouse in Livonia to be packaged for overseas shipment.

The church's goal is to have 100 drop boxes around the community. Parran has written information included in a folder that is being distributed to interested residents and companies. Thank-you letters will be mailed to contributing companies.

"We want to do this as personally as we can," Parran said.

People have given soldiers' names to the Church of Christ so "blind" packages without specific names are not sent overseas. Interestingly, the group has found there aren't a lot of soldiers and soldiers from the Farmington area in the Persian Gulf.

"All we're asking from people is to give one tube of toothpaste or things like that," Parran said.

Anyone interested in helping or donating to the Friends of Freedom effort may call the Church of Christ during business hours or leave a message on the answering machine, 477-5033.



Farmington Hills resident Judy Parran (right) wanted to show her support for U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf. So she called WJBK-TV 2 for

information. They told her about Friends of Freedom. Barbara Darish felt the same way. And a Farmington-area chapter was formed.

Drop box locations

The Farmington area chapter of the Friends of Freedom have the following drop boxes for donations to be sent to American troops in the Persian Gulf:

- Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile
- Farmington Hills police headquarters, 31665 11 Mile

- Farmington Hills fire headquarters, 28711 Drake Road
- Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty
- Farmington Hills Church of Christ, 36500 11 Mile
- Farmington Hills fire stations at 35725 Nine Mile, 28225 Middle belt, 21420 Wheeler

Bus law still confusing drivers

A new state law that went into effect in August, coupled with an ongoing enforcement policy in Farmington Hills, is apparently confusing motorists who don't know when to stop, or not to stop, for school buses.

The important thing, said Sgt. Ray Cranston, is for drivers to stop for red flashing lights as they always have.

But some drivers are not getting the message.

"Is it that the lights are confusing them, or are they not being as observant? I just don't know," said Cranston, who heads the traffic section for the Farmington Hills police. They have processed 48 complaints and issued 23 tickets for the current school year to drivers who do not

stop.

"We're still getting complaints," Cranston added.

Eighty-four drivers received tickets during the 1989-90 school year, he said.

The new state law allows individual school districts, if they prefer, to use only flashing yellow lights on some main roads, allowing traffic to continue by during a bus stop.

BUT MANY districts, including Farmington, use the flashing yellows to caution drivers to slow down and warn them that the bus will be stopping within 200 feet. For all 2,000 Farmington-area stops, they turn on the traditional red flashing lights for each stop, which means drivers are

required to stop.

Drivers should be aware they could encounter the yellow flashing system within the boundaries of other school districts. The new law was designed to keep traffic moving on main thoroughfares.

Farmington Hills police have worked with Farmington bus drivers for the past two years in an effort to enforce the laws requiring drivers to stop on red flashers.

Drivers take the license numbers of violators and turn them over to police who then issue tickets. Cranston said the effort has been stepped up, because state law now allows them to accept reports via facsimile machines, which helps them process tickets faster.

BACKYARD

STRIPES AND APPLIQUES

Let's hear a big hello
by the fireplace
toddlers and kids
looking so neat
and nautical
blue white cotton
stripes, polka dots
and stars - leotards
Garden top dress
Santitas dress
for boys, flannel
shorts set
2T-4T \$16
Two piece shorts
set 2-6 \$16
Overalls set
ages 2T-4T \$16

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

• BURGLARIES REPORTED

Three burglaries were reported in Farmington last week, with thieves netting more than \$2,000 in jewelry and appliances.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, two of the incidents occurred on Tall Pine on Feb. 19 sometime during the day. At one, a man's watch valued at \$400 was taken and at the second a TV,

VCR and knives valued at \$1,125 were stolen.

A third incident occurred on Broadview Feb. 21, where a TV and VCR valued at \$600 were stolen.

In all three incidents, bedrooms were ransacked and door jams were damaged.

• THEFTS REPORTED

A 1991 Jeep Cherokee valued at \$16,000 was reported stolen from the Echo Valley Condominiums on 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Feb. 18.

A stereo CD player, speakers, roller skates and CD discs valued at

\$4,000 were reported stolen from a 1991 Mercury Capri at Diamond Forest Apartments, 23190 Halsted, Feb. 18-19.

A watch valued at \$100 was reported stolen from the Powerhouse Gym, 24385 Halsted, Feb. 9.

• DAMAGE REPORTED

An incident at Kensington Manor Apartments in Farmington Feb. 19 caused \$50 in damage to an apartment door jamb. In a separate incident, the sliding door to another Kensington apartment was shot at and broken with a bb gun Feb. 19-20.