



OCC—Care Package Program for Our Troops

By Ryan Orr

OCC was founded in 2002 in an effort to support Southern California troops by building a bridge between our communities and our veterans through education and volunteerism.

It was founded due to negative media coverage, low troop morale, and troop deployment not well established in our communities.

OCC wanted to make a difference and decided that the holiday time was a great place to start with their care package program—to



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monies collected go directly to the troops and their families. Supplies are the only expense.

let our brave men and women know that they were not forgotten. It is a non-profit organization where all



In today's world, community involvement is more important than ever. Too often we see military to military recognition but we find that community involvement needs to change, and we are here to facilitate this process. We need to understand the nature and emotional needs of our returning soldiers and their families here at home. When a soldier returns, he or she faces all the same problems we do with expenses, marital situations, child care, etc. However, we find that they have an entire set of concerns that we have no idea how to



handle.

Our motto, "Freedom Isn't Free" takes into consideration the price our soldiers and their families pay and the cost to serve our soldiers. As it stands today, we have a need for over \$30,000. First, and foremost, we are facing a \$10,000 plus bill for our Christmas shipment to the troops in addition to funding two additional programs as listed below:

1) OCC to become a unifying agency for local troops, families and veterans and connecting them with agencies and resources as they transition from military life back to civilian life.

2) At home assistance: To provide assistance to spouses and children at home while our soldiers are deployed. Many families today struggle to make ends meet while their spouses are deployed. It includes counseling from retired sociologists and psychologists who donate their time.

In an effort to raise funds, we are hosting a golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 4th at the Golf Club at Glen Ivy in Corona. We still have sponsorship packages available as well as room for additional foursomes.

Two additional groups we work with are the Blue Star Mothers (mother's who have a child in the military) and the Military Family Readiness Group, which helps families cope with their child's military career deployment and return. Both are dedicated to providing

support for their respective groups.

Please visit our web site operationcommunitycares.org and become friends with us on Facebook.

Thank you, and God Bless America!

Ryan Orr is a founder of OCC and an assistant vice president of Ticor Tile. Ryan has seven years' experience in the title insurance business and is a resident of Rancho Cucamonga. He is married to Danielle and has two beautiful children, Riley and Bryce. Ryan's commitment to the local area and industry is shown in his efforts with many local organizations. Some examples of them are, but are not limited to: Citrus Valley Association of Realtors, West End Real Estate Professionals, California Association of Mortgage Brokers, Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce, Inland Empire United Way, and Operation Community Cares.