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## VFW auxiliary channels comforts of home

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## to soldiers in Iraq

August 20, 2007

BY DIANA KUYPER Special to the News-Sun

ANTIOCH -- Antioch VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 4551 is collecting gifts and necessities requested by troops in Iraq, with the goal to mail 100 packages every month.

"Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Tavern Owners Association of Lake County, we will be able to pay for our August shipment," said project organizer Jeanne Oravetz, whose son, Anthony, returned from Iraq last year.

### Want to help?

Dropoff boxes for Adopt a Package donations are located at the Antioch VFW, 75 North Ave., and Village Hall, 874 Main St.

Donation checks should be made out to Ladies Auxiliary Post 4551, 75 North Ave., Antioch, IL 60002.

For more information about the program contact Auxiliary President Barb Gray at the VFW Post, (847) 395-5393, or Jeanne Oravetz at shaunkelly@sbcglobal.net .

magazines, balloons, flashlights, DVDs, CDs and Slim Jims. They love their Slim Jims, so we try to make sure one gets in each box," Oravetz said.

Other items needed by soldiers include toothbrushes, snacks and microwave meals, hand held games and black-and-white socks. Because of the heat, any item that melts does not ship well, Oravetz said.

Oravetz said the auxiliary's goal is to mail out 100 packages every month. Recipients include area residents and their fellow soldiers and soldiers found through [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com) .

"Anytime someone adopts a package we have the donor fill out a card that is forwarded to the recipient. Some of our donors have already

"We really appreciate what they are doing for our soldiers and Marines who are so far from home," she said of the donation that was presented to the auxiliary Friday. The money will be used to defray the \$895 expense to ship 100 boxes.

The program has been named Adopt a Package, with each donation of \$8.95 paying for the shipment of a box full of the items most requested by men and women serving in Iraq, Oravetz said.

"We have a wish list of the items most often requested including sunscreen, foot powder, batteries (AA and AAA), toaster pastries,

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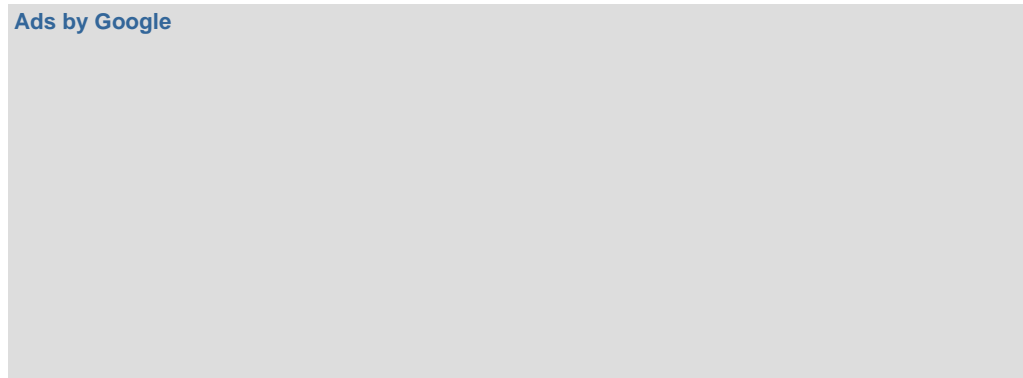
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received thank you notes from soldiers," Oravetz said.

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