



Midlands Non-Profit Organization Supports Troops

(Lexington County) - By the looks of their home, you can tell the Bohlman family is quite patriotic. But might never guess that inside lies the headquarters of "Operation Thank You."

It's a non-profit organization that gets people to sign thank you and get well cards with personal messages. From there, they're sent to thousands of troops around the world.

"We wanted to do something that would give back to our military and our families."

Chaplain Brian Bohlman started the project in 1992. In that time, he's mailed and even hand delivered 40,000 cards to soldiers. Last year, he delivered cards to troops in Germany. He still remembers how appreciative one soldier was. "He said, 'Chaplain this is the best medicine I could have ever received.'" Bohlman explained. "Because of him we decided that we'd keep this project going."

Now, it's even receiving national attention. Brian's efforts were recognized by President George W. Bush. "I never thought I would go from my house to the White House," said Bohlman.

But it's not the praise that Brian treasures; it's the smiles the cards put on the faces of America's bravest.

Bohlman said, "It's a reminder of inspiration. It gives them hope and lets them know someone is thinking about them."

Brian is currently trying to get 150,000 cards signed. His organization will be set up at the Gilbert Peach Festival Wednesday. If you drop by their tent, you can send a personal message to one of America's bravest. Festivities will kick off at the Gilbert Community Park at nine o'clock Wednesday morning.

For more information about "Operation Thank You," visit their website, www.operationthankyou.org.

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