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Holiday Gifts for Underprivileged Families of Soldiers-2014

Name of program

Holiday Gifts for Underprivileged Families of Soldiers

Year of activity

2014

Name of the report's writer

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Function of the report's writer

CEO – A Warm Home for Every Soldier

Status of program

As we have received the donation from the Matanel Foundation, a month before Rosh Hashana and a month before Pessach, we immediately ordered the food vouchers, in order to prepare the envelopes for the families in need and in order to make sure they all receive them in advance, so that there is enough time to prepare for the holiday. Approximately 160 families (800 people) received vouchers in the amount of 400 NIS for Passover and for Rosh Hashana; altogether a total of 128,000 NIS in vouchers were distributed. (receipts were already sent to your foundation as soon as we bought them.)

The families that received these vouchers were referred to us by Troop Commanders and Company Commanders.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

It is important to note that prior to joining the army many of the combat soldiers helped with supporting their families financially. Once they were drafted by law, their families, who suffer from an extremely low economic state and in many cases are in massive debts, were further devastated economically.

Last summer as Operation "Shuvu Achim" began, followed by "Zuk Eitan", Many of the soldiers who normally work on the weekends during their leave from their base, could not do so because of the war. This led to heavy financial debts for many of their families and as the holidays of Tishrei arrived, many did not have any money at-all to celebrate the holiday. We received requests from all combat units, and the lists of the soldiers whose families were in need were long and heartbreaking. For the first time we even helped families of soldiers from the Reserves –"Miluim", and those families whose sons were injured and hospitalized, because we could not stand the fact that those who were fighting and risking their lives on our behalf, would not have the means to celebrate the holidays.

Evaluation

As mentioned above, we were privileged to be able to help so many families who had absolutely no one else to turn to for help right after the long fighting last summer while their sons/husbands were on the front. We have received many letters who thanked us emphasizing that it was with this help that they were able to celebrate the holiday. We are also happy to inform you that due to our close relationship with the Administrations of the Supermarket chains, we are able to purchase the food vouchers with a discount of 17-18% which is more than 11% higher than any other organization. This enables us to maximize the donation so that many more families can benefit from this support.

Others

A Warm Home for Every Soldier supports the soldiers' families who are in massive economic distress all year long. The commanders in all combat units contact our organization when they recognize a soldier whose family is in massive financial crisis.

As the holidays arrive it is even more important for us to make sure that all families can celebrate the holiday in dignity. In many cases, their sons are on duty during the holiday and we believe that while they are far from their sons and concerned, they should at least be able to properly purchase food for their holiday meals.

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