

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBCC instructor finds unique way to “treat the troops”

(Dec. 12, 2005 – Lake Worth, FL) A home baked cookie is more than just a cookie: ask any American soldier fighting overseas. On the battlefield, cookies from home mean that somebody cares. Just ask Cheryl Zimmerman, PBCC learning specialist. Like many Americans, she wanted to do something to lighten the load of our soldiers, but had no idea what to do until she read a “Good Housekeeping” article about Jeanette Cram in Hilton Head, S.C. in July.

Zimmerman called “the cookie lady” and asked if she could help. Since then, she’s sent 12-16 boxes of cookies a month along with donations she’s requested from local companies—razors, hot sauce, candy, playing cards and toothpaste. She buys gum on sale for 10 cents a pack and also pays for the cookie ingredients herself. Friends and relatives have helped with money for postage since each box costs \$7.70 to send.

Zimmerman’s colleagues at the Student Learning Center in Lake Worth know how good her cookies are. She sends the soldiers oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip (or M & M’s in the summer) and sugar cookies with colored sprinkles for the holidays. The “cookie lady” in South Carolina sends Zimmerman requests she receives on her Web site, www.treatthetroops.com, and she puts six cookies in a bag for each soldier in the unit and five dozen in a box. The local companies who’ve donated to the cause include American Safety Razor, Albertson’s, Ferrara Pan (the Lemonheads people), Decks ‘R Us, Sauce Crafters and Nassau Candy.

PBCC’s own “cookie mama” (her name choice) could use some help with money for postage (she’ll take postage strips, too) and packs of gum—five flavors, please. Jeanette Cram’s “Treat the Troops” is a 501c3 organization, so contributions are tax deductible. One soldier wrote his wife that her oatmeal raisin cookies were the best he’d ever eaten; other soldiers send her letters and e-mails thanking her. Zimmerman said she’ll keep sending cookies “as long as there’s a war, and soldiers need cookies.” Zimmerman can be reached at Cheryl@madebyme.net or 561-723-2579.

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