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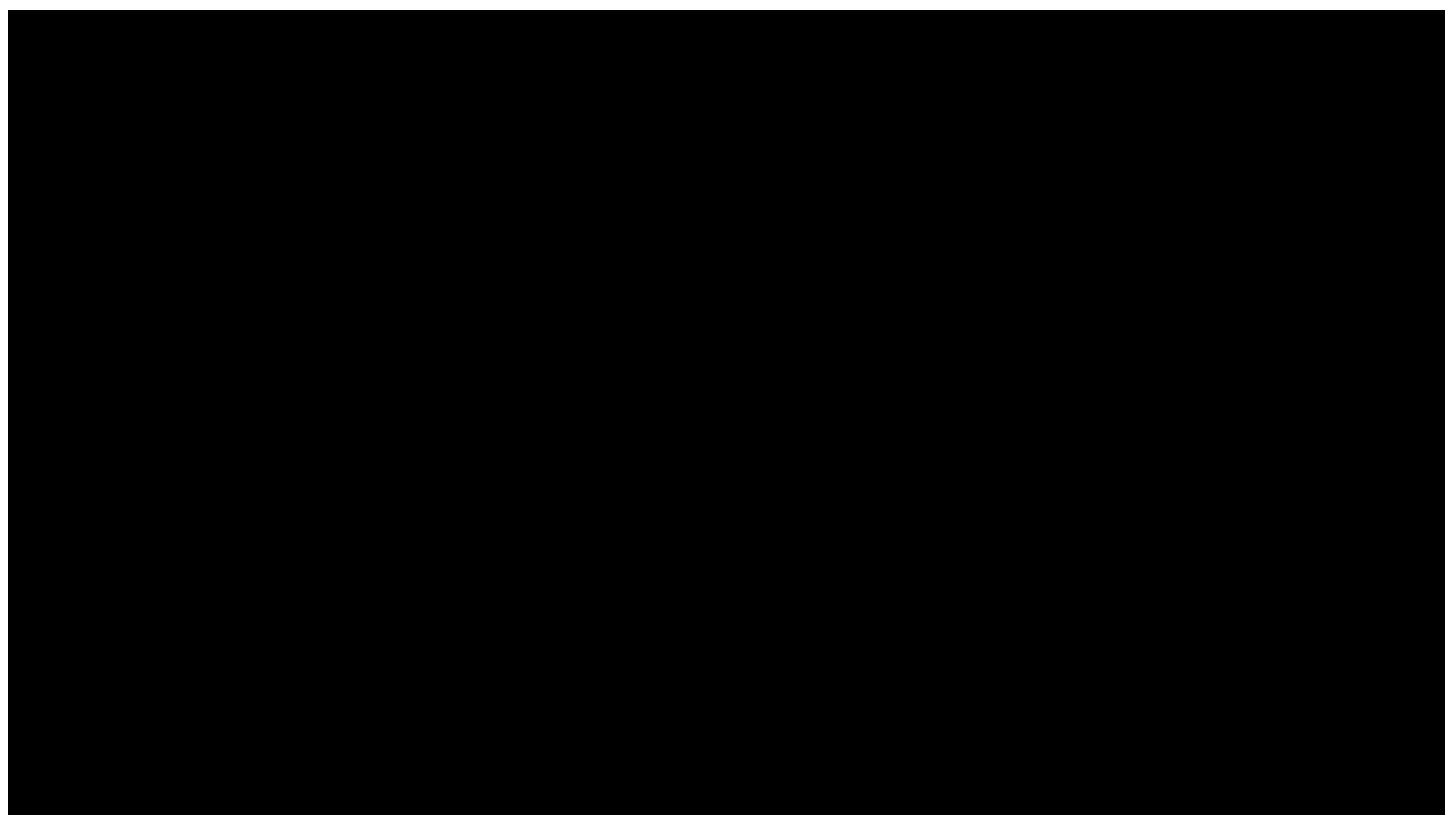
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Volunteer Kansas holds annual 'Presents in a Package' event to send care packages to troops overseas

Friday, November 10th 2023, 7:07 PM EST



WICHITA, Kan. (KAKE) - Set along several tables in the conference room are assembly lines, filling box after box of needed items for Kansan's serving overseas.

"We have our food boxes and each, each soldier will receive more than one box" explains volunteer Paula Ratchford. "They'll usually get like an entertainment box, a Christmas box, toiletry box and a food box."

Dozens of people, like Ratchford, with [Volunteer Kansas](#) spent their Friday morning putting these care packages together. For her, the boxes mean a little more.

"My son happened to be in Afghanistan and my family has a history of military. My father was a Pearl Harbor survivor, my brother was in the Navy, both my grandparents were. I just felt like, my son wasn't home for Christmas either, so I understood how other families were feeling and I just wanted to give back," Ratchford said.

This is the fourth year Volunteer Kansas has held its "Presents in a Package" event. This year, executive director Nola Brown is hoping to put together 300 boxes to send off.

"This little care package that we're putting together for them is just nothing compared to what they do for us each day" Brown told KAKE. "So we want to make sure that they're recognized, and especially during the holidays, whenever they're away from their family and their friends."

Brown say that 50% of troops deployed overseas never receive any sort of care package while they are stationed over there.

Both she and Ratchford hope that something even as small as these boxes can be a light for those getting one.

"We don't want them to feel like they're forgotten," said Brown.

"I guess that love goes in every box that we pack," said Ratchford.

Volunteer Kansas says it could still use donations to help with shipping costs. To donate or find other volunteer opportunities this winter, [visit their website here](#).