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| **Happy New Year everyone!****Here, it is. 2019. Hard to believe, isn’t it? Resolutions, here we come. Didn’t make one? Its not too late to consider giving us a hand as we are always in need of volunteers. Don’t have time? Food gifts and monetary donations are always welcome! Please call Cliff at 518-260-9922. And as always, “God bless our troops!”.** |

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**ur Monthly Meeting was be held at our building (4281 Rte. 50, Wilton) on Monday, January 7th at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in helping our deployed soldiers or volunteering, come on down! We can always use the help!**

 ***Package Update:***

Well, our busy package season is over. The gifts, stockings and food items, have all been sent. The soldiers have opened the packages and shared with one another. And all were given a little glimpse of home. In beginning of December, we sent over 255 boxes overseas with a cost of $4,341.68. Yes, over $4000.00! And, once again, the U.S. Postal Service will be raising its rates. At the end of January, you, me and OAS will be paying more to send letters and packages. So, here we go again. Are you thinking of a donating? Please do! We not only welcome monetary donations but food, snacks, books, and personal products!

***A letter from the Chairman:***

January 4, 2019

 This year has been an outstanding year once again for Operation Adopt a Soldier. We have achieved many goals, sent over 2000 packages, and have held many events. And we have held ourselves to a high standard while doing so. Because of the dedicated volunteers we have had, and have today, I can say is it is YOU that made OAAS what it has become. And I, THANK YOU!!! I never dreamed that the one package I sent to my son, back in 2003, would change my life. And now, 16 years later, I can not imagine my life without OAAS.

As I mentioned, OAAS has sent out over 2000 packages to our troops this year. And that is 2000 smiles we put on the faces of our soldiers and Marines that are fighting for our freedom. We have spent thousands of dollars in postage to send these packages, and it’s worth every penny. As matter of fact, it’s worth millions to have a soldier, or Marine, smile when they get a package from us.

OAAS has received many requests from soldiers to be adopted and we have done just that. Also, we have adopted many soldiers’ families here at home. We have helped them cope with the loss of their soldier or Marine. We have finished projects for wounded soldiers. And we have made sure that their families have had Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. It’s not just about sending packages. It’s about making sure that those who are away from home, protecting and caring for America, are having their families cared for while they are gone.

 As we go into the New Year, I can only hope that all our soldiers and Marines come home. But we know that will not happen. Some will return. Some will leave. And some will have no place to go, and no jobs waiting for them. And OAAS will be there for them.

 Because of this, I would like to official kick off our new dream - construction of our own building. It is the hopes and dreams of OAAS’s Board of Directors, and volunteer staff, to have a new building that will help transitioning soldiers and Marines by giving them a safe and healthy place to visit. The building will also give OAAS an efficient space for packing and mailing those boxes, and a place to hold fund raising events. For this to become a reality, we need the help of the public, news media and others. We have dedicated volunteers but could always use more. We have room on our Board of Directors for those who can help us achieve our new building goals.

Let me again thank ALL of our volunteers. They have dedicated hundreds of hours to OAAS. Thank you, to our soldiers and Marines. And a BIG thank you to all the people who have donated to OAAS. Without you, OAAS would not be what it is today. You should all stand tall and say, “I STAND BEHIND OUR SOLDIERS BY HELPING OAAS”. Once again, THANK YOU, have a very wonderful New Year, and as always, “GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS!”

 Sincerely yours,

 Cliff Seguin

Chairman

***Save the Dates:***

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**Annual Golf Tournament**

**Save the Date ~**

**June 1, 2019**

For details call Tim at 518-791-5270 or email ratherbgolfing247@roadruner.com



***Ways to Donate:***

Want to Donate? Listed below are several easy ways.

We are always in need of items to send overseas. Done with the new book? Cleaning out your kitchen cabinet of impulse buys? On a diet for the new year? Consider donating them to OAS. A few of the many items that are requested by our soldiers stationed overseas: toothpaste, wet wipes, lotions, books, stationary, hard candy, deodorant, chaps tick, spaghetto’s, razors, gum, journals, pens, magazines, Q-tips, sun screen, band-aids, trail mix, etc. See our website for a detailed list.



* Amazon Smile: Shop on Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and they will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by you. And remember in November Amazon starts their Black Friday Deals!
* Drop us a Check in the mail. Our address is:

Operation Adopt a Solder

4281 Rt. 50

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

* Gather food, personal products, books, and DVDs from your friends and coworkers and drop them off at our building. For a complete list of items needed go to our website.
* GE Matching Gifts Program: Available to GE employees and retirees in their personal donations to charities. Donate $25 or more and then register your gift on the matching gifts web site that is available via GEBENEFITS.COM under the additional benefits heading. First timers must register their email address and receive confirmation. Forward this to Cliff at wiseeagle1@yahoo.com and he’ll watch for your check. Not computer savvy? Then call 1-800-305-0669 and have your SSo# ready to register by telephone.

## **Volunteer**

Bored with life? Feel like you should be giving back? Then look no farther! We are always looking for volunteers to help with our events and pack ups. Don’t have time? Then donations are always good too, lol! Each package we send overseas costs of $15.00 in postage. Yes, $15!! Then multiply that by the number of packages we send. Cost of doing “business”. And Yikes!! So, every dollar counts!

Just hit up our improved website,

[www.operationadoptasoldier.org t](http://www.operationadoptasoldier.org/)o donate or learn how to volunteer!

And remember!

You can always follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat or Find Us on Instagram!

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