

Small town pride in troops rubs off

Advertisement

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GLENCOE -- A trip home provided inspiration to get involved.

Katie Sweeney, a Glencoe community-service officer, said a recent visit to family in Galva, Ill., served as motivation for Operation Glencoe Cares.

"There were yellow ribbons everywhere," Sweeney said. "I found out why and was ashamed I didn't know."

The Glencoe Human Relations Forum and Public Safety Department will kick off a drive Saturday to help the troops overseas. Items such as toothpaste, baby wipes and phone cards are needed.

Galva, a small town northeast of Galesburg, is home to an Army National Guard unit, and almost everyone knows a soldier in Iraq or a soldier's family, Sweeney said. Ten men from Galva are stationed in Iraq, and on Sept. 23 five were injured in a car-bomb attack near Baghdad.

"They are a small town, struggling financially," Sweeney said. "We hope to open people's eyes. We live in such a protected community."

Collections will begin at the Pumpkin Day celebration.

Sweeney said the drive would continue as long as the war does. "When the last one comes home, we will stop," she said.

For more information, call 847-835-4112, ext. 148.

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