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Trio of Delray Medical Center staffers helping to fill empty Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc. warehouse

> Posted by DAve DiPino on October 20, 2011 at 11:29 AM

As a respiratory therapist Karen Solaski is used to helping people, so when she saw a TV news story about Forgotten Soldiers' empty warehouse, she acted quickly.

"I found out that the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc. Lake Worth was bare, had no donations trickling in," she said.

Solaski asked Delray Medical Center co-workers education program manager Jen Schultz, who's also a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and volunteer services director Becky McCoy to help.



U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Jen Schultz, volunteer services director Becky McCoy and Karen Solaski, a respiratory therapist at the hospital, show one of two Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc. collection bins they were able to display at Delray Medical Center.

Together the three employees have pooled their resources and knowledge to receive approval to put Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc. collection boxes through the hospital.

"We asked our staff to bring in food items, personal items, snacks and even Silly String," Schultz said.

The trio couldn't confirm or deny the novelty item was being used by soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to test for traps.

Schultz, a clinical training officer and a member of the 331st Minimal Care U.S. Army Reserve Unit, said other important daily issues for soldiers is keeping hydrated and being out in the field. That's where care packages with certain items like sanitary wipes can come in big time.

Schultz has been in the U.S. Army Reserve since 2004, and regularly trains soldiers that are sent overseas.

“Each soldier is supplied but there are only so much of certain supplies in different areas where soldiers are stationed. Care packages, especially from strangers puts smiles on our soldiers' faces,” Schultz said.

“We have staff that wrote letters to our troops; this was a great opportunity for a staff to unite for our soldiers serving abroad. Many of our employees have family members that are deployed,” McCoy said.

“A lot of our patients are World War II veterans; they’ve also donated items and love to see the boxes staged around the hospital.”

For more information call 561-369-2933 or visit forgottensoldiers.org, Forgotten Soldiers National Operations Center is at 3550 23rd Ave. in Lake Worth.