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### Hospital staffers look to help Forgotten Soldiers Outreach

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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. (Photo/David DiPino / October 25, 2011)

As a respiratory therapist, Karen Solaski is used to helping people. So when she saw a TV news story about the dwindling supplies at Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc., she acted quickly.

"I found out that [it] was bare, had no donations trickling in," Solaski said.

Eager to help replenish the organization's shelves, she enlisted two of her co-workers at Delray Medical Center: Education Program Manager Jen Schultz, who is also a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and Volunteer Services Director Becky McCoy. Together, the three pooled their resources and knowledge and received approval to put Forgotten Soldiers Outreach collection boxes through the hospital.

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

Silly String has been used by troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to detect booby traps. Soldiers spray it in rooms before entering in order to find trip wires that are rigged to explosives.

Schultz, a clinical training officer and a member of the 331st Minimal Care U.S. Army Reserve Unit, said the care packages help soldiers stay hydrated and maintain their personal hygiene in the field. .

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

Letters are welcome, too. McCoy said a number of Delray Medical Center staff members have written to the soldiers. "This was a great opportunity for a staff to unite for our soldiers serving abroad," she said. "Many of our employees have family members that are deployed.

"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 <http://www.forgottensoldiers.org>. The Forgotten Soldiers National Operations Center is located at 3550 23rd Ave. in Lake Worth.

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