



News tips: Call Andy DuBois at (936) 442-3419, fax to (936) 756-6729, or e-mail: couriernews@hcnonline.com

Project sends hugs (and cookies) to soldiers overseas

BY KASSIA MICEK
COURIER STAFF

To bring a little taste of home to soldiers fighting overseas, one local company is sending gourmet chocolate chip cookies to them wrapped in a hug.

Montgomery-based CCBG Inc., which stands for Chocolate Chips by George, is taking pledges and will send the cookies to soldiers in time for Christmas.

"Our goal is to send 1 million hugs," said Marlene Summers, CCBG Inc. president. "We're sending hugs through the cookies."

Since September, CCBG Inc. has collected enough to send 3,600 cookies.

"This is going to be an ongoing project," Summers said. "We'll keep this going until we send 1 million."

Summers came in contact with a young soldier before he deployed to Iraq with the National Guard. Months later, the soldier sent an e-mail to Summers about how morale

was low overseas because soldiers felt forgotten.

"I thought to myself, 'What can I do to let them know we care and want them all to come home safely?'" Summers said.

That's when the project was born. However, the project originally evolved from care package of Summers' grandmother, Loretta Dale.

Dale, who is now deceased, used to send Summers cookies when she was in college.

The joy Summers felt when she received her grandmother's baked goods always lingered in her mind and she wanted soldiers to feel the same way.

Summers' grandmother also lost her only son, Jimmy, in World War II. When Summers was 7, she took her uncle's Purple Heart and Silver Star with her to school for show and tell.

Her grandmother's care packages evolved and became Hugs From Grammy. The project is "just to share a hug and tell them we care," Sum-

mers said.

Anyone can call Summers to order a cookie.

The cookies are 5-inch gourmet cookies. For every \$1 cookie purchase, one cookie will be sent to a soldier.

Customers can donate their cookie, so two cookies will be sent to soldiers. CCBG Inc. will come to group events to sell cookies, where, again, for every cookie sold, one cookie will go to a soldier. Monetary donations will be accepted.

Orders can be mailed to Hugs From Grammy, P.O. Box 1202, Montgomery, TX 77356. Make checks payable to Hugs From Grammy.

For more information about the project, visit the Web site www.chocolatechipsbygeorge.com/Soldier_Project.htm, send an e-mail to Summers at chocchip@chocolatechipsbygeorge.com or call her at (888) 400-6940 or (936) 597-8529.

Kassia Micek can be reached at kmicek@mail.hcnonline.net.



Staff photo by Nick Cene

Marlene Summers, president of CCBG, Inc., has spearheaded the Hugs From Grammy project, which is seeking to send one million hugs through chocolate chip cookies to soldiers in Iraq. The cookies are being sold for \$1 and are available via (888) 400-6940 or at the Bentwater Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 22, and the 27th Annual Junior League Holiday Mart in The Woodlands.