

CHOSEN SOLDIER: BEGINNINGS

Upon learning that a former co-worker's son was deployed to Afghanistan, I sent a note expressing support and encouragement to Elaine (Allen's Mom). Afterward I thought perhaps I could do more. I decided I would like to send Allen a package. His Mom was receptive to the idea, and listed items Allen would like to receive. When I told my daughter and grandson (10 years of age) I was shopping for items to ship to a soldier in Kandahar, they wanted to participate in filling the box. Then I thought perhaps my family and friends might be interested and sure enough, they too wanted to send a package overseas. They, in turn, told their friends and co-workers they were sending packages to soldiers in Afghanistan, and subsequently, their peers asked how they could participate..

I contacted Elaine, who asked Allen to supply us with names of soldiers who would enjoy receiving a package of items from home. Allen sent a list of soldier's names that were assigned to sponsors. Interest in the project spread quickly. By word-of-mouth more names of soldiers were sent to me. Sponsors came forward eager to show our troops that Canadians care and want to show their support in a tangible way. Thus the Chosen Soldier project was born.