

# MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -



[Summer 2016 Newsletter](#)

[MaryJoBrown.org](http://MaryJoBrown.org)

Hello everyone!! We hope you have been enjoying this sun-drenched summer doing what makes you happiest. With the first week of August already behind us, it's time for our Board to get ready for a busy final four months of 2016.

**CATCHING UP** In June, Pat and Sharon shopped for our July 4<sup>th</sup> care package shipment. Because the names we drew from Hero Box were for smaller groups, we were able to sponsor two Marine squadrons as well as an individual Marine. In our correspondence with them, one Marine mentioned that now that deployed troops are not the lead story on broadcast news, that packages have not been as plentiful. This encourages us to continue this important project. I would like to share with you some of the emails that we received from these Marines so you can see, first-hand, how much they appreciate these packages that are made possible through your generosity:

*Good afternoon Sharon,*

*Thank you so much for sending the package. It's a lot of things and I will share them with the Marines and Sailors in my unit. Above all I can't thank you enough for the flag. After the last seven plus years of service, the time I've taken off to visit home doesn't add up to year. I wanted that flag to remind me where I come from and the people who are still there. I intend to take it everywhere I go. Again thank you and the people you work with.*

*Respectfully,*

*Sgt Robert E. Deis USMC*

Sharon,

*I just got your package in the mail and wanted to say **THANK YOU** for the seriously awesome care package and the nice note! Whenever we get packages here, it feels a little like Christmas morning. I think over time military folks often feel disconnected from the American public, but even for rough and tough Marines, the letters and packages that we receive from people like you mean a lot, so thank you! I've already dug in to the goodies and spread the goodness with my team and have already made my first cup of coffee here. Thank you for the books as well. They definitely help keep my brain sharp. We're officially well into summer here. I checked the temperature earlier today here and it was at 117! Hope you are staying cool. Thank you again, and I hope you and everyone at the Mary Jo Brown Foundation are doing well.*

All best,

David

## **AUGUST – SPECIAL DATES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, August 20** Due to a scheduling conflict with our Annual Luau, Board members and some of our supporters are unable to attend the Country Heals Walk for Tufts Medical Center this year. Please join us for a walk around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield for an honorary walk. Signing up on the Country Heals site as a “virtual walker” is FREE! There will be a celebratory BBQ afterward for those participating. For details please contact Christina Brown at 781-775-3755, or email to [Christina@maryjobrown.org](mailto:Christina@maryjobrown.org).

**Sunday, August 21** Look for us at the Wilmington Farmer’s Market (10AM to 1PM) located on Swain Green at the Wilmington Town Common and say hello to Christina, Terri and Marcy. They will be there to promote the Foundation and our programs, advertise our Kindness Campaign and hand out Foundation merchandise. Bring a friend and help us grow!!

**CLOTHING AND TEXTILES DRIVE** Over the next few weeks, you can "free" yourself of some of your excess soft goods\*, and support the Epilepsy Foundation and the Mary Jo Brown Foundation at the same time!

At the request of supporters, we are bringing back the soft goods drive and will be collecting items until August 28<sup>th</sup>. You may drop off items to 34 Concord Street in Wilmington (on the porch please), or email [Christina@maryjobrown.org](mailto:Christina@maryjobrown.org) or [Sharon@maryjobrown.org](mailto:Sharon@maryjobrown.org) if you have a large number of bags/boxes so we may arrange a pickup. Please try to use kitchen size trash bags and smaller boxes to make it easier

for us to handle as we have to help load the truck. Those large black bags are a struggle when filled.

During our last drive, we collected about 1500 lbs. in just a matter of two weeks which translated to \$300, comfortably covering our 4th of July Care Packages for the troops!

With a little more notice, we hope to do even better this time around and fund more worthy projects!

We will also provide receipts for tax purposes, so it's a win-win!

\*Soft goods = clothing, shoes, and accessories (handbags, scarves, jewelry - including single gloves, socks, and mittens) as well as household items like blankets, sheets, comforters, potholders, dish towels, tablecloths, cloth napkins, towels, curtains, and chair covers.

**KINDNESS CAMPAIGN** We are pleased at the response we have had thus far for nominations for our 2016 contest. Deadline to enter is September 1<sup>st</sup>. It's not too late!! If you or someone you know has a young boy or girl who meets our criteria, PLEASE fill out the forms that are available on our website. Thanks!!

## **OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INDOOR LUAU—SUNDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 3PM -7PM**

This year promises to be our best one—we are so overwhelmed and excited at the number and quality of donations that we have received for our silent auction in just the first week since requests were mailed out!!

Tickets will be ready for purchase as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope that you will join us for another great afternoon of food, fun, and friendship. Join us as we present our Kindness Campaign finalists and award one of them with a trip for 4 to Disney! Make some take home memories in our photo-booth. Start your holiday shopping at our silent auction. Watch your inbox for ticketing info.

That's all for now---and, as always:

**MAY ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!**