

Nurturing Connections

No Activities

June 16-30

Book Club, 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm



All are welcome to a time of bonding, lively discussion, and building friendships. Contact bookclub@uucg.org.

Boy Scout Troop 99, Mondays at 7:00 pm



UUCG hosts this troop for boys grades 6-11. They meet in the Playhouse, and child care is provided for younger siblings during the parent meetings. Contact Maryjane Stout or Don Graff.

The Oak Grove Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)



CUUPS meets about every 3 weeks on Saturdays with a potluck dinner at 5:00 pm and program at 7:00 pm. Child care is provided. Contact CUUPS@uucg.org for more details.

Covenant Groups



Covenant Group participants build connections as they delve deep into our monthly themes at 8 gatherings over 4 months. Groups are limited to 10 participants. The next series begins in August. Go to www.uucg.org and click on "Register for Events" to sign-up. Contact Carol at CovenantGroupTeam@uucg.org.

Gwinnett: Understanding Secular Truths (GUST)



2nd Mondays at 7:00 pm
GUST supports programs that explore atheism, skepticism, and secular humanism and works to encourage community and friendships. Visit <http://brights.meetup.com/295/> or contact Dylan at gust@uucg.org

Men's Breakfast, 3rd Saturdays at 8:00 am



Men are invited to gather at Eagles Landing Café and Grill at 3001 River Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30044 at the corner of Oak Rd. and River Dr. Contact Doug at mensbreakfast@uucg.org.

Potluck Lunch, 3rd Sundays



Our 3rd Sunday potluck lunch is a great opportunity for food, fun, and friendship. Bring a generous quantity of a favorite recipe to share. Label dishes with information for special diets (vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, contains nuts, etc.).

SAGE (Seniors Aging with Grace and Enthusiasm)



Join other UUCG seniors for special events. Contact info@uucg.org to be added to the SAGE email group.

Spiral Scouts, 2nd Sundays at 12:30 pm



For children ages 3-12 and their families, this earth-based scout program encourages young people to co-create their programs. Meet in the Treehouse after the worship service. Contact CUUPS@uucg.org.

Tai Chi, Thursdays from 7:00—8:30 pm



All ages and levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and flat soft shoes or sock feet. Contact Rob at taichi@uucg.org.

UU101 & UU102, June 10, 12:30 pm



Join us after the service for the UU101 Visitor Orientation in the Library. To learn about the path to membership come to the Pastor's Parlor for our UU102 program. Childcare provided.

Walkers Group



Walks are planned by group participants. Contact Wally at walkers@uucg.org to learn more about upcoming walks with UUCG friends and to be added to the group's e-mail list.

Yoga, Wednesdays, 6:00 pm



Yoga brings balance to the body, mind, and spirit through breath and movement. This class is for all ages and skill levels and includes pose modifications. First class is free, then 7-session pass is \$70, or drop-in for \$15. JoAnn has been practicing yoga for 8 years and is registered with Yoga Alliance. Call JoAnn at 770-789-0785 to register.

Youth Group



Discussion the first Sunday of the month at 10:00. Planning meetings on the 3rd Sunday after Worship and during the potluck lunch.

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org
Cell: 678-558-48434
Appointments scheduled at:
revtaddeo.acuityscheduling.com

Building Open

Sunday 9:30-12:30
Tuesday 10:00-3:30
Friday 10:00-3:00
or by appointment at
770-717-7913

Theresa Waldrop president@uucg.org
Sharon Yun admin@uucg.org, syun@uucg.org
Christiana McQuain cmcquain@uucg.org
Michael Parker mparker@uucg.org
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
LaTreisha McKay, lmckay@uucg.org



The gnuus

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists

June 2018 newsletter for UUCG



June Theme: Wisdom
"Wisdom, after all, is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling."
- Sue Monk Kidd

Sundays at UUCG

10:00 am Faith Development

11:00 am Worship Service

June 3

Words of Wisdom?

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Daniel Bailey, Worship Associate

June 10

Wisdom for All Ages

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Lorena Griffin, Worship Associate
UU101 and UU102

June 17 and June 24: No Worship Services

July 1

Self-Evident Truths

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate

July 8

Freedom in Forgiveness

A Service of Compassionate Presence
Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate

July 15

Finding Personal Liberty

Lydia Patrick, Service Leader
Pot-luck Luncheon

June plate contributions are shared equally with HoPe: Hispanic Organization Promoting Education.
www.hopestrong.org

Assisted Listening Devices Available

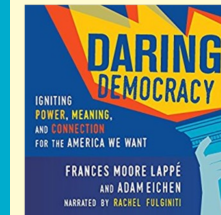


Wheelchair Accessible



Welcoming Congregation

Daring Democracy



Sunday, June 3
10:00 am

Discussion of the
UUA Common
Read for
2017-2018

New Adult/Young Adult Potluck Meet and Greet



June 3
5pm – 8pm
Hosted by Rev. Taddeo
Register on the
UUCG Website

Register

UU 101 and UU 102

Sunday, June 10

After Service

UU 101: Visitor
Orientation in Library

UU 102: Path to
Membership Class in
Pastor's Parlor



Have Some Furlough Fun! UUCG Closed June 16-30



Invite your friends to do something fun together, and ask each person to contribute \$\$\$ to UUCG's "No Furlough in 2019" FUNraiser!

Biggest Event in Our Faith Movement June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO



Watch Online!

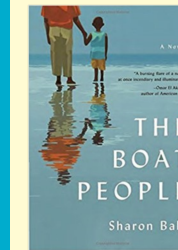
www.uua.org/ga

Southeast UU Summer Institute July 15-21 in Cullowhee, NC



Join Rev. Taddeo
and UU friends for a
mountain retreat.
Programs for all ages and
interests.
Family Friendly!
Registration now open
classes do fill up
www.SUUSI.org

Book Club



Tuesday,
July 24th
7:00 pm

All welcome!

Save the Date: Sept 28-29 Annual Yard Sale



Spring Cleaning?
Summer Projects?

This can be a great time to identify items for the UUCG Yard Sale!

Visit www.uucg.org & select "Calendar of Events" for details
Send your news to Announcements at uucg.org by noon on Tuesdays.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044
770-717-7913 • www.uucg.org
Visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events"



We are becoming a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space.
We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections
and community within our wall and beyond.

Stewardship

Funding Our Vision

- **Annual Pledge.** Our shared ministry is funded by the generous gifts of members and friends. Gifts of 2% or more of net income helps UUCG in becoming a strong and vital faith community.
- **Birthday Club.** Give a dollar for every year you're celebrating on your birthday to grow our Endowment Fund. Write "Birthday Club" on the memo line.
- **Amazon.** Visit www.uucg.org and click on the Amazon link at the bottom. UUCG will receive 4% or more of your purchase.
- **Kroger Rewards.** Visit www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com to register your Kroger Plus Card. You keep all your points & Kroger gives to UUCG based on your purchases. Select "My Account" to login and add UUCG (19343).
- **Planet Green Recycle.** Place unwanted or used electronics in the bin in the Lounge for UUCG to submit for funds: inkjet cartridges, laser/toner cartridges, cell phones/pagers & accessories, GPS & radar detectors, mobile hot spots, calculators, eBook readers, iPods/MP3 players, digital/video cameras, PDAs, iPads/tablets, video game consoles & handhelds, video games & accessories.
- **Blue Boat Bargains.** Visit our store on e-Bay or make a donation to UUCG when you shop on e-Bay or donate items for UUCG to sell on e-Bay.
- **UUCG Sales.** Contributions for Fair trade coffee, chocolate, and cocoa at the Equal Exchange cabinet, books and jewelry and other items from our Bookstore, artwork from the gallery, and CDs from the Tech Team all benefit the UUCG operating budget.

Faith in Action...Living Our Values

Give Away the Plate



UUCG shares the Sunday morning offering with selected non-profit groups as a way to expand our ministry in the wider community. The 2nd quarter plate recipient is HoPe: Hispanic Organization Promoting Education. UUCG members, youth, friends, and staff can nominate an organization. Contact giveawaytheplate@uucg.org to nominate an organization you believe is aligned with our values and vision.

Yarns from the Heart Care Shawl Ministry, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10:00



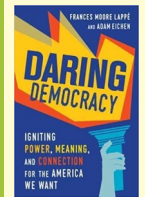
Knitters, crocheters, quilters and other fiber artists gather to create prayer shawls, lap blankets, baby blankets, hats, scarves, and other gifts for members, friends, and the wider community. Join us! Contact yarnsfromtheheart@uucg.org.

Racial Equity Organizing Team



is seeking more people to support our work in becoming a more radically welcoming congregation for people of color, indigenous peoples, and people of all ethnicities. We host workshops, movies, and book discussions, and encourage participation in local interfaith events that promote racial equity. Contact Reverend Taddeo at revtaddeo@uucg.org.

Social Justice Book Discussion, June 3, 10:00 AM: Daring Democracy



Join us before the service on Sunday, June 3 for a discussion of the UUA Common Read for 2017-2018, **Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want** by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen. This is a provocative and inspiring text. A copy is available in the UU library.

Building a New Welcoming Congregation Team



In 2014, UUCG completed the initial work of becoming an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation, but the work doesn't stop when the poster goes on the wall. As new people join, and more ways of understanding the continuums of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual identity emerge, there is always more to learn about being a truly Welcoming Congregation. Rev. Taddeo is creating a new team to continue the work of living into our vision to be a radically welcoming sanctuary. Contact Reverend Taddeo at revtaddeo@uucg.org.

The Climate Ribbon Project



On Earth Day, we created a Climate Ribbon banner during the worship service that is now installed outside the entrance of our building. Ribbons can be added throughout the month of May. Choose a cloth ribbon from the basket in the foyer, and write your answer to the question: "What do you love and hope to never lose to climate chaos?" Put completed ribbons in the basket provided and they will be added at the end of the month. Contact RevTaddeo@uucg.org.

Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Community Yard Sale September 28-29



Cleaning out the basement? Going through the closets to trade out winter wear for summer wear? Tidying up the toy box? Redecorating and replacing furniture? Put those gently used items that no longer fit, are no longer needed, or no longer fun and set them aside for our annual yard sale. Bag them and tag them for delivery to UUCG at the end of September for our Annual Community Yard Sale. It's a great way to keep things out of the landfills and make them available to people who might be looking for that special treasure you have to share.

Congregational News

Introducing Sharon Yun: New Office Administrator



Please welcome Sharon Yun in her new role as the UUCG Office Administrator. Sharon is a member of UUCG since November 2016, and has been a member of our Child Care Provider Staff Team since May 2017, and will continue to be part of this team. Many of you may already know Sharon through this role, or as one of our volunteer leaders in our Covenant Group program and Spiral Scouts, or as a participant in CUUPS and other UUCG activities. Sharon brings a wide range of experiences to this new role on our staff team: Business Manager, Entrepreneur, Administrative Assistant, Church Secretary, and Event Coordinator, to name just a sampling of the background she brings to this new role. Sharon had two weeks of intensive training with Laura, and she is excited and ready to serve our congregation! You may contact her at admin@uucg.org.

Words of Wisdom, Barbara Stahnke, UUCG Treasurer

As you may now know, one of my favorite quotes about money is from Dan Hotchkiss, "there is no goal so purely spiritual that it requires no money and no action so financial as to lack ethical or spiritual implications." We are all making choices daily on where we put our money that impacts our world. I personally have committed a major part of my giving to UUCG; I also give to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Black Lives of UU, political campaigns, and Black women in need as assigned by my Black women accountability partners. I try to spend my money appropriately in purchasing groceries, clothing and major expenditures. I am working on learning about my personal finances as well as major economic decision making to better inform my money decision making.

So, money decision making is important spiritual work for me. Keeping current with my pledge to UUCG so that UUCG is there to feed me in my spiritual development and activities helps me grow spiritually. Feeding my community of love that calls me to live out my values in the larger world feeds my acknowledgement of the need to budget for UUCG in my expenditures. Knowing that UUCG needs my money to be there for now and for the next generation of folks in Gwinnett that need a liberal spiritual home.

The timing of the income is important as well. Our budget was balanced on a refinance that included operational dollars. That refinance is going slower than anticipated. We have successfully maintained our ability to pay staff and bills through the generous prepayment of pledge dollars by several members and friends. However, we are going into the summer months where UUCG income drops off as members and friends take summer vacations and are absent from church as well. We additionally have some members and friends who are behind in their planned giving.

Three things come to mind:

- *If you are having challenges in your life, we are a community of support and love - FIRST, please talk to Rev. Jan or a Board member to let us know so we can provide that support and love.*
- *If you have just forgotten to pay toward your pledge, I hope you will take this call to bring your pledge current.*
- *If you are able to pay toward your pledge in advance of summer vacation, we would be grateful for that consideration.*
- *If there are other considerations about your relationship with UUCG, please reach out to Rev. Jan or to a member of the Board of Trustees.*

I am so grateful to this community for the confidence that I have developed in my faith through our practice of courage, compassion and curiosity. In trust, compassion and inquiry, I submit this article to our GNUUS.

Music & Art Choir

Rehearsal Tuesdays,
7:00 pm *No Rehearsals in June
Warm-up, Sundays,
10:15 am

If you enjoy singing with others, drop in on Tuesday night for rehearsal and then warm-up with the choir on Sunday before the worship service. Contact our Choir Director, Michael Parker, at mparker@uucg.org.

Music Night

1st & 3rd Mondays,
6:00 pm

People of all ages and music abilities practice, perform, and share musical gifts. Bring your music stand, instrument and music. Contact Barbara at bstahnke@comcast.net.

Me2 Orchestra

Thursdays, 7:00 pm

Are you a musician who plays classical music and is interested in erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness? Contact Jen at 1blonde.violin@gmail.com.

Jam Night

If you would like to see a UU House Band or interested musicians gather to play rock and folk rock periodically, contact Ben at jammight@uucg.org.

Art Gallery

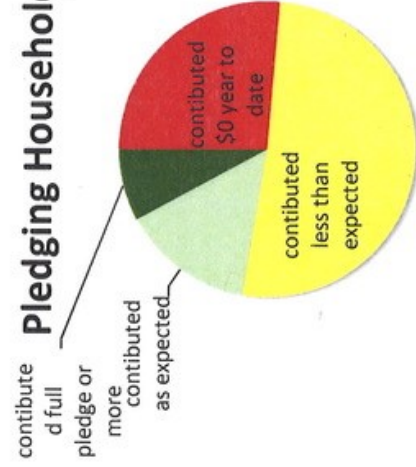
Enjoy the beautiful selections of art on display in our sanctuary and foyer, all created by local artists. A portion of the proceeds of art sales benefits UUCG. Contact Diana Dice at dpdice@hotmail.com.

UUCG Financials for Apr '18

Pledge Income

Pledged income of \$125188 exceeds budgeted income of \$120000
 \$300 from 2 household(s) that have given beyond their pledge for 2018.
 11 household(s) are on track to meet their pledge having already given \$15722.
 20 household(s) pledged but no contribution received yet. Expected to date: \$6247
 39 household(s) made a pledge and are behind. Expected an additional \$4893
 Excluding prepaid pledges, pledge income year to date is short of expectations by \$ -8829
 Including prepaid pledges, pledge income year to date is \$12954 from expected.

Pledging Households



Balance Sheet Notes

2019 Reserve from 2018 Fundraising at \$1962.86
 Minister's Discretionary Account matches Minister's Discretionary Fund
 Reserve account does not cover Reserve funds
 Primary account covers short term liabilities, taxes, and special funds
 In addition, primary account can cover 67% of next month's bills before any additional income rece
 Fixed assets are unchanged from beginning of year.
 Long term liabilities have decreased from start of year

Cash from Refinance, Campaign, or Cell Tower Proceeds

\$0.00

Staff Expense Notes

Minister utilized 40% of professional expenses year to date
 Minister salary and other benefits less than or equal to budget
 Combined other staff is -10% lower than expected with an even distribution.

Building Expense Notes

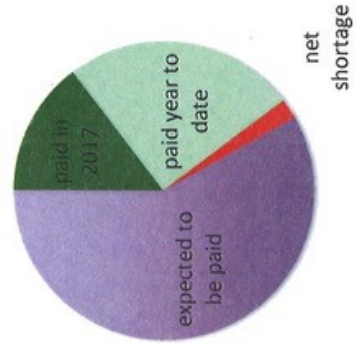
Debt Service exceeds expectations
 Gas, electric, water, garbage, pest expense -4% lower or \$-101 than expected.
 Cleaning & maintenance for building and grounds 21% higher or \$199 than expected.
 Funds to build capital reserve exceeds expectations

Programs, Dues, and Office Expense Notes

19 of 19 programs are within their annual budget
 Dues paid: %
 Phone, copier, and office expenses are 10% higher or \$168 than expected.

2018.04 Dashboard

Pledge Income



5/11/2018

Fostering Spiritual Growth...

June Theme: Wisdom

Worship Services, Sundays at 11:00 am



Our services are led by our minister, the Reverend Jan Taddeo, and our inspiring team of Service Leaders and Worship Associates. This is our sacred time to gather in our cherished space to recall our true selves, reflect on the meaning of our lives, and explore questions of ultimacy together. All ages are welcome in our worship services, and child care is available for the youngest if desired. During the summer, there is no religious exploration program. Children 8 and over are encouraged to be with their parents in the service. Contact RevTaddeo@uucg.org.

June 3 *Words of Wisdom?*, Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

What makes words wise? Perhaps wisdom lies in the heart and mind of the beholder. In this service we'll explore the prophetic words from many sources, many from within our own congregation.

June 10 *Wisdom for All Ages*, Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

In this service we explore the storybook world that holds wisdom of the ages for all ages.

June 17 and June 24: No Worship Services due to the Furlough

July 1 *Self-Evident Truths*, Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." A lot to unpack ... we'll just touch on a few of the ideas in the U.S. Declaration of Independence signed by some of our Unitarian ancestors.

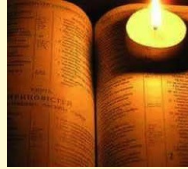
July 8 *Freedom in Forgiveness*, Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

Liberty can be ours when we lay our burdens down through the gift of forgiveness we give ourselves. In this Service of Compassionate Presence we'll offer healing energy for one another for all that we carry on our hearts.

July 15 *Finding Personal Liberty*, Lydia Patrick, Service Leader

Moving from self-doubt to self determination — Making your spiritual journey count.

The Seekers, Third Sundays at 12:30 pm



Join us to explore the great religious texts of the world through our Unitarian Universalist lens. We have no prescribed theology and honor each person's spiritual path toward enlightenment, comfort, and reason. If you have an interest in theological writings and would like to share your views in an open, accepting environment, join us! Grab a plate of food at the poluck and gather with us in the Laboratory.

The New Moon Women's Circle, June 15, 6:30 pm



We meet monthly on the Friday closest to the New Moon. Open to cis and trans women and nonbinary people who are comfortable in a space focused on the divine feminine. We share in a ceremony handed down from the Chumash tradition that includes several rounds of ritual including rattling, drumming, prayer, meditation, song, and food. The purpose of this group is to celebrate the divine feminine and join our energy for the healing of self, family, community and earth. Contact Paige at paigevernar@gmail.com.

Two Hands Sangha, Sundays, 6:00 pm



The Two Hands Sangha Mindfulness and Meditation Community invites members and friends of UUCG to its Sunday evening meditation practice. Love offerings are appreciated, but not required. Visit www.twohandssangha.org.

Sunday Morning Faith Development Programs...

June Theme: Wisdom

June 3, 10:00am *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen Join us for a discussion on the UUA Common Read for 2017-2018, a highly relevant and inspiring book for our times.

June 10, 10:00am *Spiritual Practices with Sherree Bailey*
Come learn about Chokmah, the Sphere of Wisdom, and How to build your own Paradise. Chokmah is the Second Sephira, associated with the Zodiac and the Planet Neptune, the scent of musk, the Goddess Maat, and the primary creative force which manifests all things.

June 17 and 24: UUCG Closed

July 1 & 15, 10:00am: *The Corruption of Our Democracy*
Join us for conversation and programs related to our 2016-2020 UUA Congregational Study Action Issue which challenges us to reconsider how we understand, participate and engage in democratic living.

July 8, 10:00am: *Spiritual Practices*

Coming of Age for Teens 13—15 Years Old

Early Elementary Program begins again on August 12. During the summer children ages 5 and over are encouraged to be in the worship service. Childcare is available for children 7 and under. As youth transition from childhood towards young adulthood, this program provides a supportive space for them to explore their values and identity, as well as theology, spirituality and UU history through the arts,

The Board Walk... Theresa Waldrop, Board President

Laying the Groundwork for the Year Ahead - and a Thank You to All

Dear Friends, our program year is fast drawing to a close, and I just want to say how grateful I am to everyone for making it another successful year. We have accomplished so much! Among them:

- Welcoming back Rev. Jan from sabbatical, and all that meant to successfully reintegrate her back into our programs and committees.
- Working on where we want to be one, three and five years from now, and all the meetings that went into that, in person, online, and during our worship service. Bill Benshoof has put a lot of work into collating your ideas, so please look for the document he's put together with so much care in our annual report: <https://www.uucg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018.05.20-Annual-Report.pdf>
- Making the first, crucial steps toward a policy-based governance model that is intended to break log-jams in decision-making and free up your board to become more visionary.
- Moving to a more realistic budget that puts fundraising proceeds into the coming year's budget. No more funny numbers.

These are just a few of the heavy-lifting highlights!

Of course, we have much more work to do to realize our dreams, but we are well on our way. Thank you, every one of you, for everything you have done and continue to do, for our beloved community.

I am so honored to have been able to serve as your President for this program year.

Theresa



May 17, 2018

Unitarian Congregation of Gwinnet
Attn: Sara Heath
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, 30044

Dear Sara,

On behalf of Operation Gratitude and the heroes who receive our care packages, I thank you for your generous donation of 10 hats, 18 scarves and your dedication to our mission. Your contribution will enable us to send over **250,000 'chock full' Care Packages** this year to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to Veterans, New Recruits, First Responders, Wounded Heroes and their Care Givers.

With the help of caring Americans like you, since our inception in 2003, we have sent more than **2 Million Operation Gratitude Care Packages** containing snacks, hygiene products, entertainment and hand-made items, and personal letters of appreciation. These expressions of love and concern from fellow citizens offer our Military & First Responders a much-deserved **"Thank You For Your Service"** and are always greeted with enthusiasm and great appreciation.

As one Navy Sailor and New York Police Department Officer recently wrote:

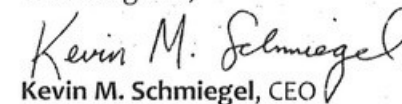
"Every box, every piece of paper, every cloth, every book, every pen, every pencil, every notebook, every brush, every tooth paste, every shower gel, every puzzle, every magazine, every letter, every piece of candy..... means a lot to us when we are away from home. It gives us Hope, Confidence, Happiness, Strength & Pride that somebody think about us, that someone is there for us. Thank You all. God Bless America."

To read all the current letters of thanks from our recipients and to see their photos with your Operation Gratitude care packages, please "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude and "follow" us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/OpGratitude, Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/opgratitude> and Instagram: <https://instagram.com/opgratitude/>

On December 9, 2017 we celebrated the delivery of our **Two Millionth Care Package** - all made possible by your support! I hope you'll visit our Social Media sites to see pictures of the event!

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. Every single donation we receive furthers our mission of saying "Thank You" to those who serve. The recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. As a 20-year Marine and the new CEO of this amazing organization, I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for Operation Gratitude. You are truly making a difference!

Warm regards,


Kevin M. Schmiegel, CEO

Operation Gratitude has been granted non-profit status under Section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS Code. Your contribution to this organization is fully deductible in accordance with applicable law for federal income tax purposes as no goods or services were provided in exchange.