FIRST FRIDAY MAIN LINE



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FIRST FRIDAY MAIN LINE LAUNCHES

"OPERATION ANGEL WINGS"

[ARDMORE, PA] (November 9, 2009) Please join <u>First Friday Main Line</u> and bring smiles to the voiceless victims of the collateral damage of war as

First Friday Main Line remembers the children of war torn Afghanistan this holiday season by launching "Operation Angel Wings".

It all started with an e-mail to Sherry Tillman in response to an invitation sent out in advance of recent First Friday Main Line celebrations. It was from a very special man named Lt. Col. Kenneth Marx, an Army Reserve Battalion Surgeon serving currently in Afghanistan. He was sorry he wouldn't be around for First Friday, but could Sherry direct him to anyone with a large heart that could help him and some fine men and women he currently serves with in the war zone of Afghanistan.

You see, Lt. Col. Marx and others have a simple humanitarian mission: to help the voiceless victims of war, the children and poor of Afghanistan who are literally collateral damage in a war they are living in the middle of. These people have next to nothing and are living in squalid conditions. They need all the basics we take for granted.

So in response, First Friday Main Line is launching "Operation Angel Wings" to help Lt. Col. Marx and his friends. We will be collecting items that U.S. Soldiers can carry in their vehicles while out on patrol. Lt. Col. Marx tells us that one of the stresses of combat tours is to see so many poor and needy and to have nothing to offer them. Basically, even small items are appreciated. Requested items include winter clothing, especially for children: sweaters, fleeces, scarves, gloves, socks, long sleeved athletic clothing. Also towels, small stuffed animals, small toys for boys and girls – think matchbox cars and Beanie Babie sized items, for example. In addition, reading glasses are extremely useful for older Afhans. If donating used items, they must be clean in good repair and gift giving condition. These small lightweight items are easy to ship and easy to carry long distances.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Marx is one of those selfless individuals who has volunteered to serve and to ply his talents as a physician in a war zone. People like him who serve with a higher purpose and embody the true spirit of volunteerism are not only worth emulating, but it is an honor to help them as well. The truth of the matter is, through all the politics of war, we rarely hear about these individuals or these quiet humanitarian efforts.

On Friday, December 4th, 2009 bring your items to be donated and enjoy the <u>original First Friday event</u> on the Main Line! We hope you all will give our holiday 2009 mission true angel wings while enjoying the sounds, sites, and smells of the season in our fabulous villages of Ardmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr! For more details, to become a venue, or a First Friday artist or performer or <u>sponsor</u> please visit www.firstfridaymainline.com! See you on the trolley and please shop locally!