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Yellow Ribbon Support Group Collection

Creator: Mac and Pat McCoy
Dates: 2003-2013
Quantity: 4.5 linear feet, 7 boxes
Acquisition: Donated by Mac and Pat McCoy, February 4, 2014
Identification: PMML ID# 800172, OCLC# 952342242, Call# PAPERS 00158
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Biographical Note

The Yellow Ribbon Support Group was founded in March 2003 by Mac and Pat McCoy. They founded the group in support of their son, Rick McCoy, a Green Beret and Staff Sergeant with the 20th Special Forces Group.

The grass-roots organization was operated out of Palatine, Illinois. Regular volunteers, along with special events volunteers, would assemble care packages to send to United States troops overseas. Included in the care packages were items such as toothpaste, eye drops, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, snacks and candy, blankets, toilet paper, playing cards, and items for military canines. They partnered with the Girl Scouts for Operation Cookie Drop, which sent boxes of Girl Scout cookies, and Mary Kay consultants for Operation Sunscreen, which sent sunscreen and lip protector to the troops.

They also partnered with animal groups and veterinarians to send items for the overseas military canines. By the time the organization shut down due to the slowed economy in November 2013, about 28,000 boxes were sent to the troops.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Yellow Ribbon Support Group Collection consists of email correspondence; the group's administrative files; thank you letters, cards, emails, and postcards; newspaper articles; photographs and printed pictures; patches and pins; care package materials; plaques and certificates; a prayer rug; a tablecloth used at events; and stuffed animals. The majority of the collection's papers arrived each in file folders labeled by members of the Yellow Ribbon Support Group or binders arranged by group members. Many of these items had metal staples or tape holding them together or into binders, which was removed by staff. The photographs and artifacts such as the stuffed animals, patches, and plaques were received loose within various boxes. The sample care package originally contained perishable food items and leaking bottles, which were thrown away.

Arrangement

A large portion of the collection, consisting mostly of the group's papers, was arranged within labeled folders and binders that had been arranged by members of the Yellow Ribbon Support Group. Original folders titles and order was kept when arranging these items within new folders. A smaller portion of the collection was in boxes in no discernible order upon arrival. These items were arranged by staff. The collection consists of four series:

Series One: Organizational Files

This series consists of the files Mr. and Mrs. McCoy kept on the Yellow Ribbon Support Group's various contacts. The majority of this series is correspondence, but it also includes articles on the Yellow Ribbon Support Group and the United States troops, bulletins, and other information on the companies, schools, volunteers, community events, and programs the Yellow Ribbon Support Group partnered with for over 10 years. Folders have been arranged alphabetically according to the file names they were given by the Yellow Ribbon Support Group. Original order has been maintained for material within each folder.

Series Two: Administrative Information

This series consists of the administrative information it took to run the Yellow Ribbon Support Group. Included are annual meeting agendas and notes, different versions of the care package information packets, award certificates to and from the Yellow Ribbon Support Group, templates for fundraising letters, material pertaining to the development of their logo and website, and flyers for their Christmas party.

Series Three: Binders and Displays

This series contains various articles, emails, photographs, and letters that were collected and arranged by members of the Yellow Ribbon Support Group. The majority of items in this series arrived in binders, from which they have been removed. The items were then arranged in folders, but original order has been kept. Two binders had pins attached to their spines. The pins have been removed and are now housed in trays. A small portion of this series is made up of photographs that were removed from frames or were loose in the collection upon arrival. These binders and photographs were used as display items at various events the Yellow Ribbon Support Group attended to showcase the group's work.

Series Four: Oversize Materials

This series is made up of photo boards, newsletters, and newspaper articles. Some items from this series were loose in boxes upon arrival, while others were removed from the various binders.

Rights

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
800172001		WWII Veterans pin - originally attached to the left side of the WWII patch	Trays
800172002		Flying eagle pin - originally attached to the right side of the WWII patch	Trays
800172003		A Co. 1-106 AVN Phantoms patch - originally attached to Patrick Schroeder's 1/7/2005 letter to the McCoy's	Patches
800172004		WWII patch	Patches
800172005		Yellow Ribbon Support Group patch	Patches

800172006	Yellow Ribbon Support Group patch	Patches
800172007	Governor's Home Town Award 2005 plaque	Artifacts
800172008	Certificate of Appreciation plaque - from the Soldiers of Bravo Company, 701st Main Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division	Artifacts
800172009	Sample care package - in a USPS Medium Flat Rate Box; two sleeves of Girl Scout cookies; one packet of beef jerky; stuffed animal; VA Hospital booklet; three packages of prayer cards; prayer booklet; one set of playing cards; bag of toiletries including wet wipes, Kleenex, deodorant, baby powder, q-tips, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, sunscreen, eye drops, chapstick, razors, hand cream, Band-Aids, socks, rubber gloves, two bars of soap, floss, AA and AAA batteries, and cough drops; bag of snacks including assorted candy, popcorn, Pop tarts, pretzels, raisins, tea bags, a pudding cup, fruit snacks, granola bar, drink mix, a rice krispies treat, a pack of gum; and a bag with information on YRSG, a magazine, a letter from a volunteers, blank paper, a pen, a greeting card, and envelopes	Artifacts
800172010	Ornament - snowman in fatigues; c. 2006	Artifacts
800172011	Wooden decoration - "Today I pray for peace in the hope that tomorrow I won't have to."	Artifacts
800172012	Playing cards - Iraqi Most Wanted	Artifacts
800172013	Brown teddy bear in camouflage - YRSG mascot "Rambo"; sings "Proud To Be An American"	Artifacts
800172014	White teddy bear in red, white, and blue outfit - YRSG mascot "Betsy Ross"; sings "God Bless America"	Artifacts
800172015	Table cloth - blue with yellow ribbons and white stars	Artifacts
800172016	Prayer rug - red with Operation Iraqi Freedom patches	Artifacts

800172017	Roll of stickers - YRSG logo	Artifacts
800172018	Keychain flashlight - with printed YRSG information on the side	Artifacts
800172019	Keychain flashlight - with printed YRSG information on the side	Artifacts
800172020	Ballpoint pen - with printed YRSG information on the side	Artifacts
800172021	Ballpoint pen - with printed YRSG information on the side	Artifacts
800172022	U.S. Army pin - originally fastened to the spine of the binder titled "Letters from the Troops"	Trays
800172023	Navy pin with two flags - originally fastened to spine of the binder titled "Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles"	Trays
800172024	U.S. Army pin - originally fastened to a U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation	Trays

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subjects

Afghan War, 2001-
Charities -- United States.
Iraq War, 2003-2011.

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
Series One: Organizational Files, 2004-2013				
Organizational Files				2004-2013, n.d.
1	1		Allstate Giving Campaign - correspondence	7/14/2011-8/25/2011
1	2		Assurance - insurance policies, correspondence, advertisements	6/17/2009-11/14/2013, n.d.
1	3		Aurora University - correspondence	1/19/2011-4/19/2011
1	4		Blue Star Banner Program - correspondence, newspaper clipping	4/28/2011-6/15/2013
1	5		Booth Tarkington School - correspondence	9/26/2011-11/6/2012, n.d.
1	6		Boy Scout Troop 870 - correspondence	6/3/2010-6/23/2012
1	7		Canine Donations - correspondence regarding donations for military canines	2/23/2012-12/3/2012
1	8		Christ Lutheran Church - correspondence, newspaper articles, bulletins	9/15/2004-3/24/2010, n.d.
1	9		Corporate Sponsors End of Year Campaign - correspondence	11/16/2009-11/23/2010
1	10		<i>Daily Herald</i> - correspondence, newspaper clippings, article printouts	3/10/2008-8/31/2011, n.d.
1	11		David J. Latoria Post #6 - correspondence and Certificate of Appreciation	2/2007-2/14/2013
1	12		Donation-Matching Programs - correspondence and applications for various programs	11/12/2003-10/7/2011

1	13	Eagle Scouts - correspondence regarding personal projects	3/11/2010-7/13/2012
1	14	Experian - correspondence	4/12/2012-7/23/2012
1	15	Eye drops donations - correspondence with eye care centers and doctors' offices	7/16/2012-4/26/2013
1	16	Girl Scouts councils - correspondence and contact information	1/13/2011-12/3/2012, n.d.
1	17	Governor's Hometown Award 2005 - banquet program, project booklet, photograph of YRSG volunteers	9/10/2005
1	18	Grand Victoria Casino - correspondence regarding playing cards donation	4/7/2005-3/4/2013
1	19	Gurnee Community Church - correspondence	8/5/2008-8/8/2010
1	20	Halloween Candy Donations - correspondence, thank you letters	11/30/2008-12/3/2012
1	21	Holy Family Parish - correspondence, bulletins	5/24/2004-2/20/2013

Organizational Files

2005-2014, n.d.

2	1	Interviews - correspondence, contact information	12/18/2009-6/15/2013
2	2	Jel Sert Company - correspondence and information regarding donation pick-up	10/31/2012-11/11/2012
2	3	Knights of Columbus Patriot's Mass - correspondence, programs	8/2006-10/2013
2	4	Lincoln Prairie School - correspondence regarding a presentation given at the school	2/7/2011-2/17/2011
2	5	Mariano's - letter of appreciation regarding donation of grocery bags	8/31/2012

2	6	Mary Queen of Heaven Church - correspondence, bulletins; photograph of service group arranged in Photographs folder	3/13/2006-7/1/2007
2	7	McGraw Foundation - contact information, grant application and correspondence	2/8/2011-2/17/2011, n.d.
2	8	Misc. Info and Articles - bulletins, emails, newspaper and online articles, thank you letters and card	4/5/2005-1/5/2014
2	9	NASA Education Corporation - information on the corporation, newspaper clipping	10/20/2010, n.d.
2	10	Northrop Grumman Corporation - correspondence and grant request forms	2/19/2013-7/3/2013, n.d.
2	11	Operation AIRLIFT - VFW Post 5151 pamphlet	n.d.
2	12	Operation Cookie Drop - partnered with the Girl Scouts; correspondence, newspaper clippings	5/7/2008-6/12/2013, n.d.
2	13	Operation Sunscreen - partnered with Mary Kay; correspondence, invoices	6/13/2008- 10/15/2013
2	14	Operation Sunscreen (continued) - partnered with Mary Kay; correspondence, invoices	6/13/2008- 10/15/2013

Organizational Files

2004-2013, n.d.

3	1	Our Lady of the Wayside - bulletin, correspondence	11/21/2010- 6/11/2012
3	2	Palatine Jaycees - funding applications, newspaper clippings	5/26/2006- 3/25/2013
3	3	Palatine Jaycees Hometown Fest - correspondence and instructions pertaining to annual 4th of July Parade	6/6/2004-6/4/2013
3	4	Park Ridge Indian Scouts - correspondence	1/18/2008- 1/21/2011

3	5	Rivers Casino - correspondence regarding the donation of playing cards	10/17/2011-3/2/2013
3	6	Roosevelt University - correspondence	12/17/2010-8/22/2011
3	7	Rotary of Palatine Foundation - correspondence	1/1/2013-3/22/2013
3	8	Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Rotary Club - correspondence	12/11/2010
3	9	Septemberfest 2008-2010 - correspondence, plans for volunteers	6/28/2008-9/7/2010
3	10	Septemberfest 2011 - correspondence, plans for the volunteers	6/6/2011-9/5/2011
3	11	Septemberfest 2012 - application, correspondence	4/30/2012-9/3/2012
3	12	Septemberfest 2013 - correspondence	5/27/2013-9/4/2013
3	13	Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73 - correspondence, booklets, newsletter	9/14/2010-11/11/2013
3	14	St. Barnabas Lutheran Church - bulletins, correspondence	3/2/2008-4/20/2013, n.d.
3	15	St. Catherine of Siena Parish - bulletins, correspondence	2/15/2008-3/15/2008, n.d.
3	16	St. Emily Parish - correspondence	11/16/2012-1/27/2013
3	17	St. Hubert Parish - bulletins, correspondence	11/5/2006-11/11/2013
3	18	St. Paul Women's Club - correspondence	4/10/2007
3	19	St. Peter Lutheran Church - bulletin, correspondence	1/30/2005-1/15/2007
3	20	Sts. Peter and Paul Church - correspondence	1/5/2006-3/18/2013, n.d.
3	21	St. Theresa Parish - correspondence, bulletin	6/6/2013, n.d.

3	22	St. Thomas of Villanova - bulletin, correspondence	5/22/2005-4/26/2010
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Organizational Files

2008-2013, n.d.

4	1	Sugar Grove - correspondence and booklet	9/5/2009-9/8/2009, n.d.
4	2	Transitional Living Services and Warriors' Gateway - correspondence	10/7/2010-10/14/2010
4	3	United Stationers - correspondence	5/4/2011-6/15/2011
4	4	Veterans of Lake Barrington Shores - correspondence and Memorial Day pamphlet	4/15/2011-11/3/2013
4	5	Village of Palatine - correspondence	1/24/2012-11/14/2013
4	6	Walter R. Sundling Junior High School - correspondence	12/15/2009-3/18/2013
4	7	We Do Care Freedom Festival	8/26/2008-7/8/2011

Series Two: Administrative Information, 2004-2013

4	8	Care Package Campaign Packet - correspondence, information, updates to the packet	8/30/2004-c. 5/4/2007, n.d.
4	9	Certificates - letters and certificates awarded to and by the Yellow Ribbon Support Group	12/1/2004-11/14/2011
4	10	Digital information - three CD-Rs containing interviews and photographs	2/2006-8/12/2011
4	11	Fundraising Corporate Letters for 2013 - template, contact sheets, returned letters	3/19/2013-5/2/2013, n.d.
4	12	Logo Information - correspondence, registration of copyright and trademark, various copies of the logo	4/9/2009-9/4/2009, n.d.

4	13	True Vision Graphics - correspondence regarding the group's website	1/20/2005-3/4/2010, n.d.
4	14	Yellow Ribbon Support Group Annual Meeting 2011 - agenda, record of boxes sent, correspondence	5/19/2011- 5/24/2011
4	15	Yellow Ribbon Support Group Annual Meeting 2012 - agenda, record of boxes sent, expenses, email reminders, RSVP lists	4/25/2012- 5/15/2012
4	16	Yellow Ribbon Support Group Christmas Party - handouts, invitations	12/12/12, n.d.
4	17	Yellow Ribbon Support Group Flash Drive - all working files have been printed out	n.d.

**Series Three: Binders and Displays,
2003-2012**

Binders

2003-2008, n.d.

5	1	Letters from the Troops - title page removed from front cover and business card removed from the binder's spine; newspaper articles; printout from message board; thank you letters, cards, and emails	5/6/2004-7/28/2007, n.d.
5	2	Letters from the Troops (continued) - thank you emails, letters, and cards	12/1/2004- 3/10/2006, n.d.
5	3	Letters from the Troops (continued 2) - thank you letters, emails including pictures, cards, and postcards; email chains about the troops and the war	12/7/2003- 12/6/2004, n.d.
5	4	Letters from the Troops (continued 3) - thank you letters, emails, cards, and postcards; 250 dinars bills	8/9/2003- 11/29/2003, n.d.
5	5	Letters from the Troops (continued 4) - thank you letters, emails, cards, and postcards; 250 dinars bill; information on Operation Mom's Cookies	5/2/2003-8/8/2003, n.d.

5	6	Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles - title page with business card displayed in front cover pouch; green sticky-note found in inside front cover pouch; emails and thank you notes, newspaper articles, photographs, articles from the internet	1/2003-1/19/2008, n.d.
5	7	Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles (continued) - emails and thank you notes, newspaper articles, photographs, articles from the internet	10/3/2003- 3/17/2006, n.d.
5	8	Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles (continued 2) - emails and thank you notes, newspaper articles, photographs, articles from the internet	7/7/2003-2/22/2006, n.d.
Binders			2003-2012, n.d.
6	1	Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles (continued 3) - emails, newspaper clipping, articles from the internet; beginning of section titled "Articles on YRSG"	4/3/2003- 11/10/2005, n.d.
6	2	Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles (continued 4) - continuation of section titled "Articles on YRSG"; photographs, thank you letters and cards, emails, print outs from the internet, pamphlets; section titled "Family Readiness Group"; photograph of volunteers originally on the back cover	9/13/2003- 9/19/2005, n.d.
6	3	Letters from the Troops 2007 - newspaper articles, thank you letters, cards, and emails from soldiers, stories printed from the internet	2/26/2007- 11/24/2012, n.d.
6	4	Letters from the Troops 2007 (continued) - thank you letters and emails from soldiers, newspaper articles, memorial program print-outs, Christmas cards	12/4/2006- 4/30/2007, n.d.

6	5	Letters from the Troops 2007 (continued) - newspaper articles, cards and thank you letters, emails	2/8/2007-3/28/2007, n.d.
6	6	Untitled Blue Binder - printed pictures of troops receiving packages, page explaining the Yellow Ribbon Support Group, printout explaining Operation Cookie Drop, thank you email from Don Millar with the University of Chicago Master's degree group looking to work with a 501(c)(3) group	9/10/2008- 2/17/2009, n.d.
6	7	Untitled White Binder - articles, stories printed from the internet, thank you letters from soldiers, photos of soldiers printed from received emails	6/6/2005- 10/29/2012, n.d.
		Photographs	2006-2009, n.d.
6	8	Photographs and print-outs from various events and of volunteers and care package recipients	3/20/2006- 12/18/2009, n.d.
7	No Folders	Series Four: Oversized Material, 2003-2012	
		Newspaper clipping - "Memorial Day 2003"	c. 5/26/2003
		<i>Pioneer Press</i> article "Churches collect items for soldiers"	5/20/2004
		<i>Gray M. Sanborn School Journal</i> - removed from Letters from the Troops & Miscellaneous Articles	6/2004
		<i>Palatine Countryside</i> , Volume 31, Number 22 article "Churches join effort to help soldiers"	6/3/2004
		<i>Daily Herald</i> article "A somber milestone"	9/8/2004
		<i>Daily Herald</i> article "Women of honor"	11/7/2007

Laminated *Chicago Tribune* article "Back after year, world away"

7/28/2009

Northwest Suburban Bar Association Newsbriefs

1/2012

Picture board with caption "A touch of home from USA Girl Scout cookies! (Yum - Thin Mints!) Cookies for the Troops:

n.d.

Picture board with caption "A package for me from someone I don't know! The patriots back home still support us!"

n.d.