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### **Manna Employees Support AnySoldier.com**

**Mendota Heights, MN**—Soldiers and Marines will get a bit of a Minnesota Christmas this year when packages prepared by Manna Freight Systems, Inc. employees arrive in Afghanistan.

The company's employees donated more than \$1,500, breaking last year's record of \$1,100 to buy necessities and food to ship to six forward operating bases on the war front.

"We began in 2005 by inviting our employees to donate a snack item, a pair of sox, or whatever they felt was appropriate," said Alan J. Meehan, President and CEO. "Then the company picked up the tab for mailing the boxes to Iraq."

Meehan said he chose which units would receive the boxes through an online initiative called [www.AnySoldier.com](http://www.AnySoldier.com), a non-profit group that allows military liaisons in each unit to post that unit's needs on their website. The public can access the database, select up to two units' mailing addresses a day, and then agree to support those units with cards, letters, or packages from home.

This year, Manna employees raised funds with a silent auction, including donations by Delta Airlines, Joe Senses Restaurant in Bloomington, MN, and Captive Elements, Blaine, MN, as well as by items individual employees donated. Several raffles and an in-house Thanksgiving Day football pool also raised funds, all of which went toward the purchase of snack items, candy, drink mixes, cigars, sox, hand and foot warmers, DVDs and games. The employees also sent small toys for soldiers to give to local children.

This year's donations were shipped in 16 packages totaling 350 pounds, Meehan said. "We are fully committed to supporting our soldiers in the Middle East until the war is over," he said.

Manna Freight Systems, Inc., is a privately held freight transportation company founded 19 years ago and is headquartered in Mendota Heights. The company operates seven brands that serve narrowly targeted vertical markets.