

# Sister of soldier sends care packages to Afghanistan

By EMILY CAVALIER, Telegraph Staff  
[cavaliere@telegraph-nh.com](mailto:cavaliere@telegraph-nh.com)

Published: Friday, Aug. 19, 2005

[ENLARGE PHOTO](#)



Staff photo by Don Himsel  
Carole Moore Biggio stores items to be sent to her brother Brian in Afghanistan in an office in downtown Nashua. The shipments began by sending fixings for s'mores and have blossomed into personal-care items, food and supplies for Afghan children.  
[Order this photo](#)

NASHUA – Carole Moore Biggio looked at a photo of her brother Brian Moore, who is serving with the Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

One of her other brothers, Paul Moore, looked at the photo with her.

The picture showed Brian and a group of American and Afghan soldiers huddling around a fire dressed in cold-weather mountain gear.

Paul Moore said, "What's missing?"

He and Biggio decided the troops needed supplies to make s'mores.

Brian Moore reported to his siblings that when the first bags of marshmallows made their way to Afghanistan, the local soldiers were perplexed by the taste and texture of the pillow-like sweet treats.

Graham crackers soon joined the marshmallows in the Moore family shipments overseas. Since then, s'mores have become a staple for Brian Moore's unit and for the Afghan soldiers the unit trains.

Brian Moore is in his second year of service overseas with the Army National Guard. His first mission was in Iraq. After he completed that mission, he signed up to go to Afghanistan to help train the Afghan National Army and establish military bases.

Before going overseas, Brian Moore was a junior high school teacher and assistant principal at Nashua Christian Academy. His wife and children used to live in Nashua, but have moved to be near relatives in Vermont during Brian's absence.

The remote location where these soldiers work lacks roads, running water and electricity, according to Biggio, and marshmallows weren't the first supplies she and her family sent overseas.

## More than sweet treats

Biggio said the idea to collect and send supplies arose not only out of concern for her brother, but out of a desire to provide school supplies for the local village children.

"When the children would run alongside his truck, they would yell out for things," Biggio said. "They didn't ask for candy, they asked for pens."

Biggio's two daughters, who attend Nashua Christian Academy, suggested they could help both the soldiers and the schoolchildren.

The students at Nashua Christian initially collected money to pay for shipments of supplies that people had already collected.

The idea grew to include sending packages of classroom supplies to the soldier who used to be a familiar face in their school. The idea grew further to include hard-to-get things that the soldiers needed, which has now evolved to the point where the soldiers have dubbed Biggio's efforts "Moore Mart."

## HOW TO HELP

People who are interested in supporting "Moore Mart" can send supplies or monetary donations to:

Moore Mart  
PO BOX 1604  
Nashua NH 03061

People who wish to drop off donations in person can contact Carole Moore Biggio at 888-9030 or e-mail her at [carole@mooremart.org](mailto:carole@mooremart.org).

Paul Moore said his sister would ask the soldiers, via e-mail, what types of things they needed and wanted. The requests were often for personal hygiene supplies, over-the-counter medicine and single-serving foods.

"It was things like medicated baby powder – it's the small stuff they're looking for," Paul Moore said. "They have no running water, so all the foods need to be cooked in a canteen over open fire. We wind up sending them single-serving soups and packets of coffee."

ENLARGE PHOTO



Courtesy photo  
This photo Brian Moore, left, formerly of Nashua, with Afghan soldiers inspired Moore's family to send s'mores and personal-care items to the Army National Guard unit serving in Afghanistan.

for."

The amount of donated supplies started to take up so much space that Paul Moore donated a conference room in his Nashua office for storage and packaging.

On a recent weekday, the office walls were stacked high with ibuprofen, soap, toilet paper, baby wipes, instant noodles, beef jerky, adhesive bandages, sunflower seeds, oatmeal, hot chocolate and s'mores fixings. There were also about 18 dozen boxes of pens.

Biggio gets lots of help collecting items from the children and parents of Nashua Christian Academy.

"During the school year, the school allows us to do a couple of collections," she said. "We hit Sam's Club and Costco, too. If toothpaste is cheap somewhere, we'll stockpile it. There are 100 village children we're collecting

The Moore family doesn't just send food and cleaning supplies. They also coordinate other acts of kindness for the soldiers.

"They let us know if they aren't able to get a card out for an anniversary or for their mother's birthday," Biggio said.

A mother who recently received a birthday card from a soldier wrote Biggio to thank her for sending it on her son's behalf.

Hard, positive work

It will be a while yet before Brian Moore can give his wife a card in person. He's not scheduled to return home from the mountains northeast of Kabul until April 2006.

"They're doing very hard work in terrible conditions," Biggio said. "When they send back e-mails, it's so moving. They're building roads, hospitals, helping kids. There's a whole world being changed out there."

Paul Moore agreed.

"You don't hear about all the positive things they're doing," he said. "Some of these people, it's the first time they're had plumbing and running water in 25 years. We get (soldiers) something that they need and brighten their day. One of the brightest parts of their time is mail day."

That sentiment is certainly reflected in e-mails posted on the walls in the storage room.

One soldier wrote, "It doesn't matter how hard a day you've had, to know that someone – some family – remembered you."

That soldier also wrote that his favorite things in the package were beef jerky, trail mix and Pringles potato chips.

Many people have done general collections to send to any unit who might be serving, only to find that the cost of shipping is prohibitive. Biggio said she wanted to help other folks get their supplies shipped out to soldiers, too.

"If you've got supplies, we'll get them out," Biggio said.

Each shipment costs about \$200 to send and arrives in Afghanistan between one and three weeks later. A normal shipment from "Moore Mart" is 20 to 30 printer paper boxes. Biggio estimates that she has already sent out 200 boxes this year.

The unit is split into different locations, so Biggio mails to different part of Afghanistan. In the cold mountainous locations, soldiers request handwarmers. In the desert, they request sunscreen.

Paul Moore and Biggio's other brother, Ray Moore, who lives in Vermont, have also served in the military. When asked what motivated Brian Moore to sign up during wartime for two consecutive stints overseas, Biggio said that their father set the example.

"That's just the way we were raised," she said.

"You owe your country some time. I haven't served in the military, but I try my best to support the people who do serve. I'm trying to raise my kids that way, too."