



JUST ASKING

BY MARY KLEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN MCCONNELL

EDITOR'S NOTE: **Just Asking** is a new featured column that poses and answers a community-interest question. It is the collaborative work of writer Mary Klest (pictured above) and photographer Susan McConnell. In **Just Asking**, the creators explore their community for unrecognized people, places, and resources of interest to Barrington-area residents. We think readers will enjoy these lively narratives and arresting photographs now appearing in each issue of QB. If you have any questions, just ask.

What are Barrington residents doing to support U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq? We asked Shelley May, who's offering an easy way to send gifts from home.

Some might think the time for giving is over. Not Shelley May. She and her husband, Norman, recently transported 279 pounds of goods collected in Barrington to a warehouse in Naperville for shipment overseas to U.S. troops. They joined other volunteers boxing and sorting the food, comics, and letters from a 13-year-old boy named Spencer. Shelley calls it "gifts from home." While at the warehouse she didn't talk much. She listened. "Some of the volunteers had served in a previous war, and one woman said her son was on his third deployment. Nearly all of them know someone who is serving," she says.

What brought the Mays to this warehouse began more than a year ago when their 20-year-old son, Matt, announced he was enlisting in the U.S. Marines. He left for advanced artillery training in California last February and is now stationed in North Carolina.

After reading about citizen donations for the troops in a local newspaper, Shelley visited the web site of Operation Save Our Troops, Illinois, to see if there was a collection site in Barrington. There wasn't. She used \$100 won at a charity raffle to buy food and other items listed on the web site and designated her offices in Barrington as a local


drop-off point. Shelley and her husband own Full Service Office Suites, a company that provides support services and office space to businesses. Susan's picture below shows Shelley in one of the offices.

All they have received for the troops has been through word of mouth. A Bible study group donated, and so did members of the Chamber of Commerce. People from Lake Barrington Woods senior lifestyle community have set out boxes for them to pick up. "I know how giving people are here," says Shelley.

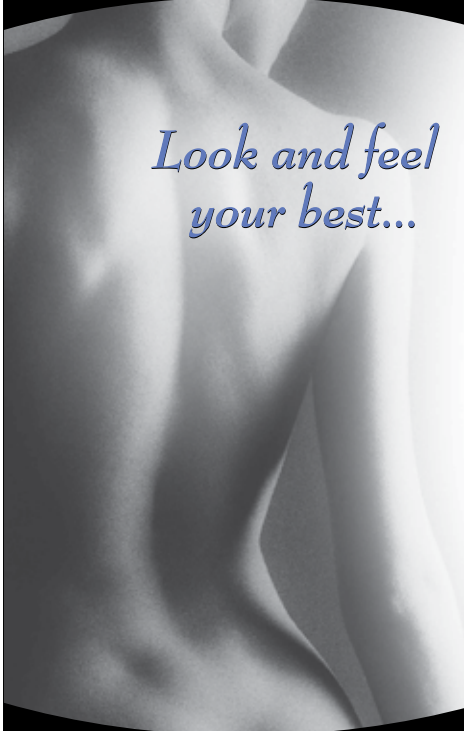
The Mays have two sons, the older an assistant professor of economics, and Matt, the Marine, who Shelley thinks will be deployed to Iraq in April. "He's not afraid. He has a plan for when he comes back." She takes her glasses off and wipes her eyes. "I hope all the soldiers know we are thinking of them year round."

To see an updated list of the top ten items requested by soldiers, go to www.osoit.com. Also on the web site are letters of thanks from the soldiers who have received these "gifts from home."

The Barrington drop-off site is located in the back of the building at Full Service Office Suites, 421 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 201 (across from the Public Safety Building). Shelley says the office will remain a drop-off point for as long as Operation Save Our Troops, Illinois, exists. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 847-382-0656 for more information.


midwest
PLASTIC SURGERY
specialists



*Look and feel
your best...*

We offer a full range of cosmetic surgery procedures of the face, body and breast, as well as customized skin care. Call today to schedule your consultation.

847-458-8808



Member
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS

1474 Merchant Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
www.drthors.com