

# Postcards from Iraq

## Helping Iraqi Children

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Shortly after Katrina took its toll on New Orleans personnel asked if I would be willing to deploy to Iraq. While I thought that to be unusual I accepted the challenge. I will never be sorry for that very important decision. I deployed on 13 Nov 05; in-country 19 Nov 05. We, the Corps, have a very important mission in Iraq - to help rebuild, to teach our Iraqi Associates how to build and rebuild safely. I believe we are doing a great job and are accomplishing most of our goals.

I was afforded another opportunity by working at Camp Echo, Diwaniyah, Iraq for 9 days—on the 9th day, Barry Stuart took me with him to do some work with the schools. We went to four schools that day with one being the Diwaniyah Kindergarten.

These children stole my heart, as well as the teachers. It was wonderful speaking with the Head Mistress and her teachers – impressive individuals to say the least.

With the help of many, especially the American people back home, we have been able to give away tons of stuffed animals, toys, dolls, crayons, clothes and school

We give them to the schools, to the orphanages, hospitals and to those little ones out on the muddy streets. With the help of many GRS employees we were able to purchase 70 baby blankets to give to the orphanages in An Nasiriyah, Iraq. I was given money from two of our employees which is being used to purchase new clothes for all the children in the orphanages for the celebration of Eid. These children are very close to my heart—we receive pictures of them with their toys and it lights up my life to see the look on their little faces. There is a reason for everything and it is my belief that these children and my special mission is the reason for me being here in Iraq. I think my granddaughter, Kaci, who just turned 6, will be very proud of her grandmother when she is old enough to fully understand. Essayons!



**Edmay is taking a moment for a picture after packing up stuffed animals for Iraqi children.**  
(ARMY PHOTO BY MOHAMMED ALIWI)