

..... *putting smiles on the faces of our troops*



The Red Nose Institute is a project of Cheryl “Sweet Pea” Herrington & Larry “Pappy” Mills of Kansas City, MO, USA.

Besides being clowns, Pappy is a former Marine and retired Air Force. Cheryl, a psychiatric nurse, writes, “As a long time member of a mental health team, I know that relieving stress is of the utmost importance and I am hoping that a little bit of lighthearted play in their downtime might help our soldiers. We are in no way minimizing the seriousness of what is happening overseas or demeaning our military. I grew up as an Air Force child-my father served 42 years active duty and civil service. I also had a brother who was killed in Viet Nam.”

The Red Nose Institute is a project designed to send red sponge clown noses to troops deployed anywhere overseas. The noses are meant to be shared with others who might need a smile! A note is included in each package of noses telling them “We are clowns!” – who we are, what we do, why we are sending them, and especially that we care about them!

While more serious needs and concerns are part of everyday life for our troops, we believe that the tiny bit of fun and silliness that our noses might bring covers an area that isn’t addressed quite as much—their mental health. After all, laughter is the best medicine and silliness is good for everyone—even those in harm’s way.

It is our hope that some noses will be given to children in communities where the troops are stationed. We believe that by sharing the “art of clowning” our servicemen & women will have an opportunity to interact with the children and, in the effort, perhaps gain more understanding and awareness of them—and

that the children may take one small step toward trusting our servicemen & women. What better way to make a friend than to share laughter!

We are asking clowns & friends around the world to send red foam noses or donations to help with mailing and purchasing clown noses for The Red Nose Institute. Pictures of yourself in clown are also appreciated & will be included with our mailings.

If you have a friend or relative who is a soldier deployed overseas (outside of the USA) and would like them to receive a surprise package, send us their name & address. There is no cost to the person requesting the noses or to our troops. If you are a soldier and would like noses, please contact us!

www.TheRedNoseInstitute.com To help or donate contact email: TheRNI@kc.rr.com The Red Nose Institute, P.O. Box 11069, Kansas City, MO 64119

From a Naval officer in Iraq:

“We had a particular day when a lot of high ranking officers (both American and Iraqi) and Iraqi Government officials came through our base. That evening one of the aircraft broke down and all the people were stuck here for a couple more hours than they really wanted. A majority of the personnel were Iraqi press with American escorts and some Iraqi Special Forces. When I got them to the terminal I went back out to the car and got a couple of bags of noses and handed them out. Unfortunately I did not have my camera with me but I know you would have gotten a laugh out of it. Everyone was putting on their noses, including the Iraqi Special Forces guys. It may not have gotten them their airplane any quicker, but at least for a little while they were all smiling and laughing.”