

# The Huntsville Times

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## Help our soldiers have good holiday

### Donations go to families of those in lower ranks

By **Steve Campbell**

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"It is against my rearing to ask for handouts," the soldier wrote.

But his kids need clothes and shoes. Life outside his reserve unit has been a fruitless search for employment.

Other members of the Huntsville-based 326th Army Chemical Company face similar problems.

That's why employees at Tec-Masters in Huntsville are accepting donations for needy soldiers. The donations go to children of soldiers in the lower enlisted ranks. Some kids are hoping for toys, but many need basic items such as diapers, baby food and clothing.

Last year, a member of the 326th discovered many in her unit needed help. Donations were taken up. That's how Holiday Help for Heroes came to be.

"The military uniform makes our soldier(s) look the same - but that's not the case," a Tec-Masters statement begins. "Many serving in the lower ranks are not only going through financial difficulties - they are facing dire circumstances."

Brief descriptions of the reservists reveal challenging situations: a young private who works two jobs to care for her sister's four children; a single mother who can't work until allowed by her doctor; and a mother of three who can't find a job.

"And for the longest time I was one of those persons who was too proud to ask for a helping hand," wrote one soldier. "But I believe that after many years of being the one who helped others, this might be my time to receive help."

### Want to help?

Tec-Masters has set up a collection box for donations at its office at 1500 Perimeter Parkway. Some of the desired items are baby bottles, diapers, baby clothes, lotions and shampoos, and gift cards to stores such as Target and Walmart. For more, call Tracy Swayne at 830-4000.