

June 2004
Mosul, Iraq

Dear Friend of the “Adopt an Iraqi Village” Project:

I just wanted to write a short message to thank you for your thoughtful donation to help the people of Iraq. Here’s a quick overview of how things are proceeding:

The response I’ve received from this project has been no less than incredible. In the past several weeks alone, I have received hundreds of packages from various people and organizations. Many of you have also written letters of encouragement to me and my fellow soldiers from the Maine Army National Guard, which I have passed on for all to read. I wish to extend to you my deepest appreciation for your support and generosity. Your kindness overwhelms me and makes me proud to be an American.

We are currently in the process of consolidating all the packages and sorting through them so they can be distributed in some sort of orderly fashion. As many of you know, our plan is to distribute the items as we complete civilian projects. In addition to our projects in and around the Mosul area, plans are already in the works for several projects in other areas of northern Iraq. The poverty in these areas is staggering. Our projects will primarily involve the rebuilding of civilian homes, schools, orphanages, roads and other aspects of the local infrastructure. In short, we will be very busy.

Accordingly, because of our busy schedule and the impressive volume of donations we’ve received thus far, I am not openly soliciting for more donations at this time. If we start to run low on items, I feel that this drive has produced many solid contacts so that I could drop a letter or two to ask for additional items as needed. That having been said, however, many of you wrote to me and said you would periodically mail additional items to me. Please continue to feel free to do so.

As I promised to many of you, so that you may “see the fruits of your donations” so to speak, we are creating a website, www.adoptaniraqivillage.org. The site will have a brief title page; a page listing the many donors who have sent me items; and a section with pictures and stories of projects as we complete them out here. I expect that it may be a few months before we have the pictures and story section up and running (as I mentioned, my schedule out here is a little hectic and we also have recurring problems getting on to the internet). But I’ll try to get something on there as soon as possible.

Finally, I apologize for the “formality” of this letter. I had intended to write to each of you individually, but found it more practical and efficient to do it this way. That having been said, please know that your generosity is extremely appreciated and your thoughtful contributions will indeed serve to better this beleaguered country. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Adam R. Cote
Platoon Leader, Bravo Company, 133d Engineer Battalion
Maine Army National Guard