

Dear St. Vincent Families & Friends,

My name is Lindsey Wright and I am a part of the Community Concerns Club at St. Vincent High School. Thanks to the support of generous SVHS families, we have been able to send Care Packages to one of our alumni, Anthony Fabbri, who is now serving in Iraq. We have recently been contacted to support another very simple but inspiring effort to help boost morale for our American Soldiers. This campaign is called **“Suckers for Soldiers”** and the best way to understand it is to read the letter, below, from Chaplain Richard Nevard who is serving as a Chaplain to troops in Afghanistan. Please join us to support Chaplain Nevard’s special project: **“God Pops . . . Suckers for Soldiers”**



*Chaplain Nevard wrote to us:*

I wonder if you can help me with an on-going project I have, called: **“Suckers for Soldiers.”**

**Suckers for Soldiers** was an idea I had early last year to get lollipops donated so I can pass them out to my Soldiers. The first time I went out to the field I went through 75 bucks on suckers, so I started contacting churches and support groups to hook me up with supplies - last year I tossed out a good 6 thousand suckers - now that we are deployed, I expect that number to seriously climb.

I use only two types of suckers (or, "God Pops," as my Soldiers started calling them, as in, "Chaplain, you got any God Pops?") - I have **Charms Blow Pops and Tootsie Roll Pops**. They are both actually owned by Tootsie Roll Industries - in fact, if you go on Tootsie Roll Industries website, you will see a picture of one of my Soldiers and a picture of me. I wish you can see the way the Soldiers' faces light up when the suckers start flying -- and I mean flying! Last night we had a convoy rolling out for an all-night trip of route clearance. They were gathered in this lighted gazebo for their safety briefing and I come in to pray before they leave. I approached unnoticed and hid behind one of the bunkers. All of the sudden there were god pops coming in: Wham! Right in the back of the head. A couple more landing nearby. Immediately my guys knew who it was - some threw suckers back in my direction, others flanked the area and moved in for the kill. Suddenly it is no longer just another long night; their chaplain and your god pops made the difference. "It's gonna be a long night, guys - grab some extra to keep yourselves awake."

They line the lollipop stick in the loops of the IOTV (bullet proof vests), looking a lot like a Christmas tree. I pray for their safety and they roll out the wire, alert, smiling, and ready to face whatever may come.

And suddenly it is not just a matter of lifting a Soldier's spirits, it is keeping a Soldier awake, alert, and alive; it is no longer a just a matter of bringing a smile to a child's face, it is helping to bring a child's daddy back home.

I am running low on "God Pops" and could use a few boxes, if the church/kids would like to help. Or any other groups would be great!

*-- Chaplain Richard Nevard*

**The Community Concerns Club will be collecting “God Pops” on an ongoing basis** and mailing them in bulk using the special reduced military flat rate. Any donations that come in will be shipped to Chaplain Nevard. **A COLLECTION BOX for the Suckers for Soldiers Project will be located in the SVHS Front Office lobby.** If you would like to send your donations directly, Chaplain Nevard’s address in Afghanistan is:

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**Thank you for supporting our community  
. . . and our American soldiers!**