



**C.O.R.P.S.**  
Chaplains Organized Response to  
Ptsd affecting Service-personnel

## **To Our Fellow Corporate Citizens and Partners in Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship;**

Chaplains Organized Response to Ptsd (*post traumatic stress disorder*) affecting Service personnel or CORPS, is an inter-faith based service organization established in 2007 to meet the growing needs of service men and women as they return from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our organization also seeks to meet the needs of families of those deployed currently as this outreach has proven effective in the development of relationships of trust, an important factor in offering services to those affected by PTSD. CORPS began an outreach to families of deployed troops through the 'Blue Star Flag program ( in partnership with Grantham University in 2009 ) See Us!: [www.mybluestarflag.com](http://www.mybluestarflag.com)

**CORPS** is most recently partnering with Unitec Recycling Corporation of West Chicago, IL [www.unitecrecyclingcorp.com](http://www.unitecrecyclingcorp.com) to provide refurbished computer equipment to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Iraq/Afghanistan War) to assist in their reintegration back to productive and happy civilian life, as well as families of those deployed who need upgraded equipment to better enable them to maintain contact with their loved ones serving Our country in uniform. See *Press Release*:

### **Our Proposal For Your Company**

**If** your company is concerned about proper disposal of computers and related equipment as good e-stewards and are dedicated to green policies *and*,

**If** your company supports our troops and seeks to become patriotic corporate citizens *and*,

**If** your company is committed to green sustainability through resource re-use and reinvestment in public sectors in need *then*, you should talk to us the IT Soldiers & Families Support program.

### **Here's how it works:**

*When* you are ready to dispose of your used, out dated or end of cycle computers and related equipment, contact **UNITEC RECYCLING CORPORATION** who will recover the equipment, inventory them, eradicate *all* proprietary data using effective, up to date methods and determine which machines have a refurbishable value. We will then arrange for an administrative processing fee to make them reusable to our soldiers IT support program through **CORPS**. We will even help your company receive recognition for your donation via press releases 's or other available media exposure should you desire.

See more about corporate recycling for charities at Tech Soup:

<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/hardware/page5496.cfm>



Jane Charmelo

## OUT AND ABOUT

# Soldiers, families benefit from partnerships

We all know that the “three R’s”—reduce, reuse, recycle—are good practices for the environment, and now, those measures are being targeted toward armed forces personnel and their families.

Catholic bishop Msgr. Robert Cokinis, who heads a veterans-assistance organization called Chaplains’ Organized Response to PTSD affecting Service personnel, or CORPS, explained that the non-profit group will be getting refurbished computer equipment to be distributed to the families of service personnel who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

He outlined that CORPS has a partnership with Unitec Recycling Corp., which recently moved to West Chicago from Villa Park, in which the company had helped equip the organization with computer equipment.

In fact, quipped Unitec owner and president Jeff Pointec, “We keep them up and running.”

The bishop said Unitec has been a partner with CORPS “almost from the very beginning” of the fledgling non-profit, adding that when CORPS started out at a Villa Park church, Unitec was located across the street. “We became fast friends,” Cokinis added of Pointec and his wife, Maryann Moorehead.

Unitec Recycling Corp. conducts a number of services, from asset liquidation and equipment removal to the disassembling and remarketing of computer equipment, as well as waste prevention and computer repair, among other functions.

Pointec said his company remanufactures usable computer equipment and electronics, and in some cases, dismantles them and sells parts. The unusable items are



Photo courtesy of Unitec Recycling Corp.

WHEN LIKEMINDED individuals get together, good things can happen. Jeff Pointec (r.), owner and president of Unitec Recycling Corp., established a relationship with Monsignor Robert Cokinis (l.), of CORPS, a non-profit veterans assistance organization, with donated computer equipment. Now, with donations of used computer equipment from LifeSource Blood Centers, Unitec will refurbish what it can and CORPS will distribute items to military families and other veterans organizations, such as the Lombard American Legion Post #391, where Cokinis is chaplain and Lt. Col. Mike Bogmenko (c.) is a past commander. Bogmenko, current commander at the VFW in Lisle, is pictured with one of the donated computers. He hopes to open up a computer lab for returning veterans.

sent for recycling.

Unitec also sells and donates refurbished equipment. Pointec added, commenting that the company serves to “keep things out of landfills.”

Cokinis related that LifeSource Blood Centers had contacted Unitec about donating their “end of cycle obsolete computers for recycling and possible reuse,” with a requirement that the equipment go to non-profit organizations.

“Jeff turned to me and said, ‘This might be something that could help CORPS,’ and an idea was born to offer the computer equipment to families of soldiers serving overseas—who could not otherwise afford it—so that loved ones could keep in contact with one another,

Cokinis recalled.

He added that another veterans organization, Operation Home Front, also suggested the refurbished computers could be donated to low-income military families.

The bishop noted that recruits entering the military get an allowance to purchase computers (typically a laptop because of its portability), but families left behind may not be able to purchase computers that will allow them to keep in touch.

Cokinis said of LifeSource that they chose Unitec because the company had worked with Pointec in the past, so “they felt comfortable about how Jeff handles the machines in terms of the safety of data.”

He stated that Pointec will assess

the computers’ viability and make upgrades as warranted.

“Jeff is donating the skilled labor,” the bishop continued, adding that his friend will start by erasing hard drives, and then upgrade hardware and software as necessary.

Pointec has also donated his time to transport equipment as well, he added.

The bishop said that so far, about 100 machines have been donated but “I don’t know if [they] all are refurbishable.”

At the same time, “We’re hoping to give [them] out by the holidays,” he said.

Cokinis mentioned that a new Illinois law, set to take effect in January 2010, will require manufacturers to meet a certain quota with their old (residential) machines, “to reinforce the recycling industry,” and added that the state is around 20th in the nation “to have this kind of sweeping legislation.”

He further stated that he believes the computer recycling for military families “fits in very well with the new law.”

The bishop emphasized that this is a “pilot program”—what he calls the IT Soldiers Support Project.

“There’s a lot we’re still trying to figure out,” added Cokinis, who stressed that he is hopeful it will be a successful and cooperative effort, not just between CORPS and Unitec, but with other companies and businesses who wish to donate their used equipment.

“I’m planning to contact businesses that have a record of donating to troops and veterans organizations,” he continued, and hopefully, “They may want to step in and support it.”

Additionally, Cokinis is looking to assist other veterans organizations needing more up-to-date computer

equipment but cannot make the purchases due to budget constraints. He added that he is targeting those organizations which do not receive any government funding.

The bishop said he has contacted a VFW in Lisle, and is also looking to help outfit the American Legion Post #391 in Lombard, where he is the chaplain.

“We’re locating people as we go along,” Cokinis related.

Pointec said that just as Unitec’s donations of computer equipment “helped them [CORPS] get off the ground,” so will the donations of refurbished computer equipment to military families.

“I think it’s a great thing,” added the company owner.

For Cokinis, donating computers is more than just providing equipment to families who can’t otherwise afford it.

Because a central focus of CORPS is to help soldiers and veterans deal with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he believes that preventative measures will help reduce the stress soldiers experience during their service, particularly while stationed overseas.

Part of preventing that stress is to help provide a way for soldiers to stay in communication with their families, the bishop said, so “one way we can [help] is by doing things for their families.”

Being able to e-mail and communicate via computer “helps them to know their families are all right,” he added.

For more information about donating computer equipment, visit [marketing@unitecrecyclingcorp.com](mailto:marketing@unitecrecyclingcorp.com).

For more information about CORPS, send an e-mail to [corpsorg@gmail.com](mailto:corpsorg@gmail.com).

# Decorations to spread cheer beyond holidays

One could describe the Lombard home of Frank La Gambina, as “flashy,” but that’s only because he decorates to the limits with lights and animation.

In fact, if you passed the home at 251 N. Fairfield last Christmas, you could watch the illuminations “dance” to music playing on your car radio.

This year will be similar, but with a different twist—La Gambina is hoping that people respond to his electronic entertainment with a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

La Gambina said he has friends around the country “who do similar things,” and he decided to give it a try to raise money for an organization he says is “one of the charities I feel really needs the help.”

He said that while “they rely a lot on corporate donations”—such as Disney donating passes to its theme parks—“a lot of what they need is cash based.”

La Gambina said he has lived in his house for seven years, and that “when I first started [decorating], I had a couple of strings of lights and it keeps getting bigger.”

It was just last year that La Gambina added a new dimension to his holiday display, where people could tune in to 107.3 FM on the car radio and listen to music timed with the lights and animation.

“I had people sitting out in front of my house for 20 minutes



Photo courtesy of Frank La Gambina

THE HOUSE AT 251 N. Fairfield will not only be illuminated by over 90,000 lights, but will “dance” to music broadcast on 107.3 FM on the car radio. Homeowner Frank La Gambina decorates the house each year, but this year, he is also taking donations for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. A special donation box will be located along the holiday display, which will run in the evenings from Nov. 26 through Jan. 3, 2010, at intervals starting at 6 p.m.

watching them,” he chuckled, and added that he uses a computer program to coordinate the music, lights and animation.

La Gambina explained that for each three-minute song—he uses nine or ten—it takes about 40 hours to write the program, and added that with the concert-style software, “You can tell each strand when to go on and off.”

Because the work is so time-consuming, he starts preparing his programs around April.

Obviously, “this year’s plan is already set,” added La Gambina.

He said his background as a general contractor comes in handy when doing the electrical work, and figures it will take about two-and-a-half weeks to complete the display.

La Gambina added that he estimates there will be about a mile-and-a-half of extension cords and over 90,000 lights—about 20,000 more than last year—but noted that with about 95 percent of them being LED, the display doesn’t

significantly boost his electric bill.

He gets help from family and friends to create the annual display,

“I actually built myself a garage in the spring” to store all the components, including a 24-foot tree he constructed that contains over 24,000 lights,” La Gambina said.

“It’s an amazing piece by itself,” he related modestly.

This year the holiday display will also include 30 6-foot trees and some 10 1/2-foot candy canes.

When asked about what his

neighbors think of his expression of holiday spirit, La Gambina said they are “OK with it,” and added that he talks to them ahead of time about his plans.

“They love looking out their window and seeing it,” he added.

La Gambina said that when passersby tune in to 107.3 FM, they will also hear a message from him between songs that reminds them he is collecting donations for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The special donation box he will have secured outside will light up during the message, according to La Gambina.

His message will also include something to the effect of “Please be kind and courteous to the neighbors,” he noted.

As for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, La Gambina said the organization was happy to be the beneficiary of the donations he hopes will reach \$10,000.

“One hundred percent of the proceeds are going to them,” he emphasized, and added of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, “They were ecstatic about it.”

The light display will run from Nov. 26 through Jan. 3, 2010. The light show will begin with lights-on only at 5 p.m. every day, with the animated display cycling every half hour starting at 6 p.m. and lasting until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.