

## What is Operation Little Angel?

We can turn a blind eye, turning our backs and say, "there is nothing we can do", or we can band together and make things better by helping.

In 2000 a National President and two police officers. All members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) put their heads, hearts, and minds together and the *Operation Little Angel*© (OLA) program was formed. It started out small with only the idea of stuffed toys being put into police vehicles to be given to frightened children. The dream grew and today, not just toys, but clothing, food, and items necessary for survival are placed in the hands of those agencies that can best serve the "*little angels*" of this land.

Sadly, there are children of all ages in this country in need of items necessary for a safe, productive and happy young life. The MCLA can, with your help, make these lives a bit brighter. The circumstances surrounding these needs were not of the children's making. Help can be given to the parent/parents to get back on their feet by helping the young loved ones of the family. By doing so, we can, in some small way, lessen the burden of the adult, who in most cases is dealing with challenges and stress of their own.

Most agencies will suggest all baby needs, socks, underwear, blankets and warm coats. The need will vary according to location. Start today by choosing someone in your area to be in charge and contact person. You will make friends for life. The cost to you will only be the time you put into this venture. The rewards to you and your group will be worth more than money.

## How to Get Started

Hold one of the following events to raise funds or to create interest:

- A Tea Party
- A Shower for babies or for a specific home
- An Ice Cream Social
- A Mother's Day Tea or Parent's Tea
- A Themed Night with food (Spaghetti, etc)
- Any social gathering – any event where a group can congregate and bring items needed by the agency that has been chosen

There are several ways to contribute to the OLA program and ways to raise funds.

1. Bring new items contributed by members to the MCL/MCLA National Convention. Some Units choose to hold events locally and give the gifts at the National convention or just support agencies in their local areas.
2. Gift cards to local chain stores, such as Target™ or Wal-Mart™ may be presented to the OLA Chairman during the Conference or Convention, or sent to her prior to the event. If you wish her to shop with the gift card, be certain to specify that when presenting the card.
3. Checks should be payable to the MCLA with "OLA" written on the Memo line and then sent to the MCLA National Administrative Assistant at the address on back of brochure. Checks will be deposited into the MCLA-OLA account so that shopping may be done prior to the national event.
4. Cash given directly to the Committee Chairman will be deposited into the account unless otherwise specified.
5. Fundraisers are on-going at all events to help with the program. These fundraisers help supplement giving and allow more to be given at each event.

## Where to look for local Agencies that may need your Unit's help

Contacting your local child protective services, local churches, children's homes, family shelters or abuse shelters and any other local agency that deals with children and families is a good place to start. These agencies will identify their specific needs. (The yellow pages or searching the web may be a helpful tool to use to find organizations that need help in your local area.)

Since the conception of the Operation Little Angel program in 2000, we have supported many organizations throughout the United States. We have given gifts out at the National Convention, (held in August each year) in the following states, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina, Idaho, and Alabama.

We also have supported various organizations in the Washington DC area during our Mid-Winter Conference held in Falls Church, VA in February each year.

When visiting an organization that needs assistance, use the blank spaces below to list the items the organization needs for their "little angels". If a Unit needs help starting this program or has questions, contact the MCLA Administrative Assistant at the address on the back of this brochure. The request will be forwarded, along with name and contact information, to the OLA Chairman or to one of the Committee members.



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Two events are held on the national level each year. One is in February at the MCL/MCLA Midwinter Conference in honor of our national president and one is in August at the National Convention. The agency and/or guests are chosen from the local area where the Conference or Convention is being held. If possible, most shopping for event at the national convention is done in that community to help support the economy of that neighborhood.

**Contact:**

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LITTLE ANGEL

**Protecting our Future,**

**One Angel at a time!**

**REMEMBER...**

**Children are our Future!**