

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. Contacting your local child abuse center, children’s home or any local agency that deals with children and families is a good place to start. These agencies will identify the need in your geographical area. They will outline their specific needs.

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 to be the 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 Dinner, Taco Night, 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 MCLA/MCL Midwinter Conference or National Convention. Some Units choose to hold events locally and give the gifts at one of the National events.
2. Gift cards to local chain stores, such as Target™, Wal-Mart™ or McDonalds™ 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 Executive Secretary 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.

Agencies to Contact for an Event and/or a Guest

- Local Children’s Agencies in your area
- Child and Protective Services
- Local Church or Church Homes for Children
- Residence Homes for Children
- Family Shelters or Abuse Shelters

(The yellow pages or web may be a help.)



Below are the past recipients of our OLA programs:

- New Life for Girls – Pennsylvania
- ♥
- Dept of Social & Health Svcs – Washington
- ♥
- The Community Partners Program – Texas
- ♥
- Child/Family Svcs Cuyahoga County – Ohio
- ♥
- Cradles to Crayons – Massachusetts
- ♥
- Fairfax County Child Protective Services – Virginia
- ♥
- All Faiths Receiving Home – New Mexico
- ♥
- Western Fairfax Christian Ministries – Virginia
- ♥
- Harbor House – Florida

