

Cadet helps Web site say ‘thank you’ to Soldiers

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THE BAYONET

A Web site that started as a Columbus man’s spare-time project to help Soldiers is about to get a boost from a Columbus State University ROTC cadet.

As part of a class project, José Solis and six other students are working to raise publicity for www.thankyousoldier.com, a Web site that posts letters and blogs thanking Soldiers for their service, and which serves as a hub for sending care packages to deployed Soldiers.

“My group got together and decided to work with this Web site because it’s a good cause and we thought we could help out,” Solis said.

The site has existed since May, when Columbus resident Jonathan Page started it as a forum for posting letters and blogs thanking Soldiers for their service. Since then, it’s grown into a booming hub for sending care packages to deployed Soldiers.

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— Jonathan Page, Web site founder

a way of being able to do more than just say ‘thank you,’ Page said. “It’s a great sentiment, but I didn’t feel it was enough. Being able to package up a little bit of home was a way to do more and remind our Soldiers we’re thinking about them and supporting them.”

Initially, the goal was to mail 100 “hero packs,” but Page has shipped more than 160. Word traveled quickly around the tricommunity, and when Solis heard about

Page’s work, he offered to help.

Solis and his project group have received pledges from local companies to provide goods to include in the care packages, such as single-serving snacks and toiletry items. They will also have booths set up in front of stores where shoppers can donate goods and provide the name and address of a deployed Soldier to receive one of Page’s care packages.

Page said he was thrilled by Solis’ desire

to publicize the Web site.

“Our main goal is to have this site viewed by the Soldiers, and the only way to get them to view it is to get the word out,” he said. “Jose’s project will benefit the Web site by doing just that.”

In addition to sending care packages, thankyousoldier.com posts letters from deployed Soldiers, supportive comments from Web site contributors and provides links to organizations such as the USO. For Solis, the site has a personal meaning.

“My dad has been on active duty in the Army for more than 20 years, and I’m going to receive my commission after I graduate college,” he said. “My dad has talked about how, when you’re so far away from your family and friends, it’s great to get that box. Jonathan doesn’t get any money or big publicity out of it. It’s a selfless cause, and that’s what the Army’s all about.”

Solis and his project group will be at the Piggly Wiggly store on Milgen Road from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information, visit www.thankyousoldier.com.