



For Immediate Release.
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Contacts: Kerry Koonce
Telephone: (515) 281-9646

Cell Phones for Soldiers – Iowa Workforce Development and Montgomery County Extension Office Kick Off Cell Phone Collection Drive

RED OAK– More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas away from their families. Cell Phones for Soldiers, Iowa Workforce Development, and Montgomery County Extension are calling on all Americans to support these brave men and women by donating your unused cell phones. Cell Phones for Soldiers hopes to collect over 50,000 cell phones this year to help keep troops connected with their families.

“Over the past few years, we have been amazed by the generosity of others. But, we have also seen the need to support our troops continue.” says Brittany Bergquist, Cell Phones for Soldiers co-founder. “It is easy for Americans to make a small sacrifice of support by donating their unused cell phones, and providing families with a much-needed connection to their loved ones overseas.”

Local residents can support the collection drive by donating their phones at these locations:

- Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 N Broadway, Red Oak
- Montgomery County Auditor’s Office, Courthouse
- Montgomery County Extension, 400 Bridge St, Suite 2

“We’re proud to show our support for U.S. soldiers, and to contribute to a worthy cause like Cell Phones for Soldiers,” says Elisabeth Buck, Director, Iowa Workforce Development.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

Approximately half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in over 40 countries around the world. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and recycled to reclaim materials, including:

- Gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards
- Copper wiring from phone chargers
- Nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs
- Plastic from phone cases and accessories

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