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December 16, 2009

## United Aromatherapy Effort expands outreach to U.S. troops

By Kyle LoJacono

Staff Writer

NORTHDALÉ — United Aromatherapy Effort Inc., a nonprofit organization created after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is expanding its outreach program to U.S. military troops overseas.

UAE's mission is to provide stress relief and aromatherapy to relief workers and troops during emergency work and afterward. The group collects and donates aromatherapy products to those affected by disasters or wars in conjunction with chair massage and other natural therapies.

UAE has helped first responders after the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and after hurricanes and wildfires in the United States. Now the group is taking its campaign global to U.S. troops.

"Helping first responders has been the greatest thing I've ever done, and now we'll be able to help more heroes," said Sylla Hanger, UAE founder and president. "They do so much for us by putting their lives in danger every day. Now we have our troops to serve, many which are still kids, and we want to make their tour of duty a bit healthier."

UAE currently has four soldiers, three in

Afghanistan and one in Korea, who receive and distribute the donated supplies to other troops. Hanger, who lives in Northdale, said the four troops receive two packages from UAE each month. She also said the group wants to add more soldiers to distribute supplies.

UAE's new goal is to support every soldier serving out of the country or at home, including veterans, and to assist soldiers' families with aromatherapy, massage and other free therapies.

To accomplish its goal, UAE is asking massage therapists, aromatherapists and any other wellness practitioners that use natural therapies to volunteer their expertise and products. UAE is also asking for donations to help pay for supplies and shipping. All contributions to UAE are tax deductible.

"I'm so touched that so many young heroes are overseas fighting every day," Hanger said. "We just want to do these small things to make life easier for the troops."

To help, e-mail Hanger at [sylla@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sylla@tampabay.rr.com) or Geraldine Zelinsky, vice president and treasurer, at [unitedaromatherapy@gmail.com](mailto:unitedaromatherapy@gmail.com). For more information on UAE, visit [www.unitedaromatherapy.org](http://www.unitedaromatherapy.org).