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## Local News By Area

Nov 21, 2007 7:52 pm US/Eastern

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### How To Give Thanks To Those Who Protect Us



Reporting [Pablo Guzman](#)

NEW YORK (CBS) — There are growing partnerships between business and non-profit groups trying to raise awareness about the needs of military families. CBS 2 has the story of men and women who sacrifice everything for only a little in return. It then becomes the duty of Americans to give back to those who protect us.

James O'leary lost a lung and had a shoulder shatter when a mortar tore into him while serving in Iraq. Natalie Smith, O'leary's daughter, never understood why her father was always away. Now, she must prepare for her brother to spend time far from home.

All Jamel Daniels has to do is roll up his left pant leg. Many people were brought together for a pre-Thanksgiving lunch to give thanks for the country's military families. "Finding Dulcinea," a super search engine and CEO Mark Moran, are trying to bring awareness for those who have lost defending this country.

Moran's web site has created a guide that shows how to become a pen pal; put together a care package; or volunteer for an organization like the "Wounded Warriors Project," which has been a boon to young women and men like James O'leary.

"You never really think about what you could lose. You never think about seeing your family again, because you take it for granted. The ability to go to school, the ability to watch a baseball game. I'm very thankful," O'leary told CBS 2.

And he isn't the only one who's thankful this holiday. Jamel Daniels knows a bit about foreign lands and dangerous situations. He landed in a crater, where the actual bomb actually detonated, taking off his leg.

Without prompting, Daniels showed CBS 2 his leg as a result of the accident. And despite the seemingly tragic sight, his most striking characteristic is his contagious smile.

Natalie Smith, daughter of James O'leary, has also felt the stress of being a soldiers' family member.

"You know, I didn't notice it a lot when I was younger, the stress of my mother, because her husband was always gone. But now that I'm older, I understand, Oh my God. I have a

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brother who's about to go. It's a great thing, but also a scary thing," said Smith.

**Video**

Mark Moran's company estimates that there are about 230 civilians that can support every soldier and their family by simply writing a letter, a letter giving thanks, which for most of our country's soldiers, is plenty.

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