

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Scottsdale couple's effort to help troops takes off

Doug Taylor helps dreams take flight.

A pilot for Delta Air Lines since 1998, Taylor founded www.jetcareers.com as a free resource for people considering a career in aviation, specifically as a pilot.

Taylor knew since childhood that he wanted to be a pilot. They were like rock stars to him. Now that he's made it, he thrives on giving guidance to others who share the same dream.

The comprehensive and useful Web site nets thousands of hits daily, and Taylor uses all proceeds from advertising to keep it running.

"It's basically a way for kids and young adults to ask questions of pilots," said Taylor, a Scottsdale resident, adding that he can almost see the Scottsdale Airport from his front porch.

A few weeks ago, Taylor and his wife, **Kristie**, used the Web site to generate donations for their friend **Mike Daftarian**, a Paradise Valley resident and U.S. soldier stationed in Iraq. Originally intending to send a care package or two, the Taylors' call for help brought much more than expected.

"It grew from a couple of bucks to over \$2,600 within a couple of weeks," Doug Taylor said. "It grew from



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supporting one troop to supporting 16."

So far, the Taylors have mailed about 19 boxes packed with everything from candy, blankets and pillows to video game consoles, letters and postcards.

"These student pilots really didn't have the money," Kristie Taylor said of the donors. "Doug and I have been there before when he was a student pilot and we were eating out of cans. When they donate \$5, we know what that \$5 means to them."

The Taylors, who plan to continue collections for the troops, appreciate being part of an event cloaked with the Christmas spirit.

"My wife and I are just the elves," Doug Taylor said.

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