

Earlier this year, Marlboro Councilman Jeff Cantor, who is a Lieutenant Colonel on active duty in the Army in Afghanistan, found an orphanage with ill-clothed children and wrote home about their need for coats. In response, Marlboro Township's Teen Advisory Committee (TAC) launched a drive that collected hundreds of coats. Unsure how to deliver the coats to Afghanistan, Marlboro leaders asked me for assistance. I immediately contacted the head of USAID and the Commander of the U.S. Transport Command to ensure the coats would be delivered expeditiously, with little red tape.

Members of TAC, Marlboro Mayor Jon Hornik, and Deputy Mayor Larry Rosen, loaded the coats into my truck, and then other members of TAC, Deputy Mayor Rosen, and I assisted military officers at McGuire Air Force base in loading the coats on a plane to Afghanistan. You can view photos [here](#) and [here](#) . The coats were successfully delivered to Lt. Col. Cantor, who distributed them to the orphans. As he wrote in a letter from Afghanistan, "Everyone received coats that day and everyone was very happy. They have never received any gifts since becoming orphans. It is our job to positively impact people in need. I felt very good that day. I felt good because we were able to give 130 orphans new coats and clothes. I was also happy because I come from the great town of Marlboro, a place where people cared enough to send the coats over to Afghanistan."

I wrote Lt. Col. Cantor that he did a good thing for the children at the orphanage and a good thing for the teens of Marlboro by providing such an opportunity to demonstrate their generosity.

### **Update on Disaster Relief**

As a reminder: residents and businesses of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset counties have until May 11 to file taxes, and if your property was damaged as a result of the March storms and subsequent flooding, you may be able to claim losses on your federal income

tax return for your 2010 taxes or by amending your 2009 return. For additional information please visit the IRS website or call the IRS hotline at 1-800-829-1040.

Additionally, if your property was damaged, you can register for financial assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by clicking [here](#). You also can receive assistance by visiting a Disaster Recovery Center in your county. Locations of these centers can be found [here](#).

### **Bolstering Primary Care**

Primary care is a centerpiece for more effective management for patients with multiple chronic health conditions. Yet, the American Academy of Family Physicians predicts that if current trends continue, the shortage of family doctors will reach 40,000 in a little more than 10 years, as medical schools send about half the needed number of graduates into primary medicine.

The health reform law addresses this issue, encouraging more nurses and physicians to enter primary care by providing an extra 10 percent bonus in Medicare and raising payments for primary care practitioners who treat patients in Medicaid. The law also invests in scholarship, loan repayment, and grant programs to recruit and train more primary care, nursing, and other public health professionals. On Tuesday, I joined AARP and nursing faculty and students at [TC NJ](#) to discuss how the reform bill improves primary care, as well as how it addresses our nation's nursing shortage. You can read more [here](#).

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT

Member of Congress