

Move America Forward

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Dear Move America Forward Supporter,

I wanted to reach out to you and make you aware of a vicious hit piece that was published today by the left wing muckraking group ProPublica attempting to discredit Move America Forward. You may have seen it already, and if that's the case we are sorry for any alarm it may have caused and want to refute its absurd assertions.

ProPublica is a left-wing media outlet that receives funding from George Soros and an assortment of other prominent liberal millionaires. You can read this write up on them to see how bad they really are:

<http://washingtosexaminer.com/propublica-is-the-lefts-biggest-muckraker-you-never-heard-of/article/40675>

To give you more perspective, the writer of the piece Kim Barker, is a well-known leftist and has written attacks on other conservatives, including MAF and the Tea Party Movement in the past.

ProPublica has attacked Gov. Sarah Palin, Charles and David Koch, groups like Freedom Path, Americans for Responsible Leadership, and Center to Protect Patient Rights. They defended the IRS practice of targeting Tea Party and other conservative groups who they disagree with. Worse, they have such a cozy relationship with the Lois Lerner wing of the IRS that they were given confidential tax information on Tea Party groups to leak to the public. The IRS knew that ProPublica was exactly the type of outlet that could use such information to smear and attack conservative organizations.

If you see the article, please do not assign any weight to the allegations. They string together unrelated half-truths, and then imply there is something wrong. Let me give you a couple of good examples:

1. They criticize us for using photos that we didn't take in our emails, as if that is some sort of impropriety. We don't have the resources to send photographers all around the world so we rely on using publically posted photos to help tell the troops narrative and are never disingenuous about it. For example, we have a picture of a military person eating an Oreo cookie. We said we send Oreo cookies in our care packages because the troops like them. And that's a perfect representation of what a care package with our Oreo cookies being sent to our troops will yield – the joy of enjoying a treat from home when otherwise stationed halfway around the globe, away from home, friends and loved ones. Yet, they imply that there is something wrong or that we haven't sent tons of care packages containing cookies, which is exactly what we have done.
2. The report also creates a horrible accusation that our consultant earned \$2.3 million over the last five years. That's ridiculous. Those are mostly reimbursements for purchases of products in the care packages. We can't get sufficient credit so we use our consultant's credit card that we are now reimbursing. The highest salary we pay anyone is \$60,000 a year – far less than other organizations.
3. Another good example is the suggestion that we are doing something seedy or underhanded by blurring out the name on the uniform of a military person, as if we are hiding something. We always blur out the name of soldiers in a combat zone as a part of operational security. This is the epitome of how their report is filled with half-truths that are quite simply nonsense.

4. Then, as you would expect of a reporter who knows nothing of the military, she says that one unit we sent care packages was in Okinawa, not in Afghanistan. They didn't understand that the unit is stationed in Okinawa, but some of the unit members were deployed in Afghanistan. This is leftist "gotcha" journalism, and they don't let facts get in their way.
5. It was erroneously reported that a 'thank you' letter from 1st Marine program coordinator Bill Durdin was from two years previous to our effort. This is wrong, the "thank you" letter was current and we have the time stamped email to prove it. It is despicable that they are challenging the authenticity of the "thank you" letter from the Marine coordinator who helped us ship the care packages in the first place. Shame on them!
6. They criticize our use of vendors. MAF's use of vendors are costed out at competitive prices, using trusted vendors who get the job done for us is not unusual and is totally appropriate.

Here's something that they didn't want to focus much attention on. We've already been audited by the IRS. After we criticized Senator Dick Durbin for comparing US troops to Nazi Gestapo guards and those who operated Soviet Gulags, Senator Durbin demanded the IRS conduct an illegal audit of MAF. Sure enough, the audit came. We were the subject of an extensive IRS audit where they had an agent in our office going over all our books and operations for three weeks. We passed the audit, and at the completion of the audit, the IRS auditor even said that our records and practices were some of the best he had seen in organizations of our size.

As you can see, this report against us is total nonsense and being perpetrated by a left-wing organization that is out to destroy conservatives. Nevertheless, you may have questions about some of the outrageous claims made in the hit-piece. **If there are lingering questions, please feel free to contact us and we will be more than happy to address them all.**

This attack hits at the heart of our mission and what we do: provide support and care packages to the troops. Rest assured, we fulfill every single care package order that is placed and fill it with quality items that our troops are grateful for. We have extensive documentation to prove this and can make it available to you. Anytime you want to come by our warehouse and volunteer or observe our operation, we welcome you. Here is a news report from earlier this year that highlights one such shipping effort: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB91S3c4-co&list=UU1TuSN-jZBmhIB26XxeKz-Q>

This year MAF is celebrating our 10th anniversary. Over the years we've held countless of pro-troop rallies all across this nation which many of you have attended. We've been to Guantanamo Bay; we have been to Iraq many times, personally handing out care packages ourselves and taking Gold Star families to see where their children were killed. We have travelled all over mainland USA from California to New Hampshire on our Support the Troops bus tours. We have mailed **over 315 tons of care packages** over the years and thousands just this year to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we've been there to defend our troops when far left groups like Code Pink attacked or dishonored them. We stood up against liberals like Kim Barker when the Berkeley City Council tried to kick the Marine Recruiting station out of their city.

We have been around longer than many other pro-troop charities that we've seen come and go, but we are still committed to staying in the fight and supporting our troops until every last one comes home safe.

Scott Raab

US Navy Veteran OEF/OIF

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