



WALLS - Stephanie Moore works at a minimum-wage job at a sandwich shop trying to pay the bills that her husband Daniel's U.S. Army pay doesn't cover.

Daniel Moore is a soldier serving in Iraq with the Co. A 2/198th Combined Arms Battalion of the Mississippi Army National Guard currently serving in Iraq.

"He's over there trying to pay the big bills and I'm trying to pay for all the little stuff," Stephanie said. "I'm just 21-years-old and it's hard."

The couple has two small children, Danni Leigh, 2, and Jessi Ray, 11 months.

To her surprise, the Family Readiness Support Group, Hernando Exchange Club, the Northwest Mississippi Association of Realtors and the greater DeSoto County community came to the couple's aid, helping to purchase a washer and dryer and a new refrigerator.

"I started crying," Moore said after she said the community had raised money to buy the new appliances for the family. "I didn't have a washer or dryer or a refrigerator. My mother-in-law mentioned it to somebody and within two days they were being delivered. I was shocked - just speechless. I didn't know what to say. You always hear of other people having this experience and I got to live it for myself. It was just amazing. Daniel and I are so overwhelmed at the support."

Daniel Moore's smile said it all when he got to see Stephanie and his young daughters at a Skype kiosk at the First Regional Library headquarters in

Hernando Wednesday.

Danni Leigh's face lit up when she saw her father on the computer screen.

The kiosk is available for use 24 hours a day by appointment and is provided free of charge to soldiers' families through the library system and Troop Connect.

Back at the couple's home, Brian Hicks, executive director of the Historic DeSoto Museum and a member of the Hernando Exchange Club, helped load the couple's washer and dryer and deliver it to their small garage home on Woodside Drive.

"We were all at lunch talking about it and we decided to help them," Hicks said of a recent Exchange Club lunch meeting.

The Exchange Club donated \$300 and word soon spread that more donations were needed to make the appliance purchases a reality. Hernando Home Appliances owner Emerson Wilkerson donated the washer and dryer at cost.

"Hauling the washer and dryer around was the easy part," Hicks said. "The hard part is what he's (Daniel) doing in Iraq. We want to do whatever we can to help the families and make their lives easier. It's (fund raising effort) given the troops over there one less thing to worry about."

Liz Adams, Family Readiness Support Group coordinator, said the support from the community for the soldiers and their families has been "overwhelming."

"It's amazing how many people have helped this family," Adams said. "The Exchange Club and Board of Realtors have stepped up."

Adams said one man even put a sign in his yard asking for people to make more donations in support of the Moore family and other families whose husbands, wives and daughters, sons and brothers are off fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To make a donation to the Family Readiness Support Group contact Adams at 901-262-1208.

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