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For these three, baking is a way to comfort families facing a battle with cancer.

**KAREN LEUSCHEL, BARB SENGERT, CORKY WILCOX**
Team Bake, Boulder, Colo.

> AT AGE 20, CORKY WILCOX’S daughter Amy faced and survived cancer. So when she read a magazine article about There With Care, a nonprofit organization in Boulder that helps families with critically ill children, Corky understood the stress TWC families were facing. “I don’t know how we would have gotten through it without our friends,” Corky says, “and many of these families have no support.” She told friends Barb Sengert and Karen Leuschel about the group, and the trio set out for their first TWC training session. While there, they noticed many boxes of donated, very ripe bananas that were all destined for the trash.

Thinking they could do something with their free time, baking talents, and these bananas, the idea for Team Bake was born. In addition to their work with TWC, they meet about once every three months to bake. Together they churn out about a hundred loaves at a time. The banana bread is then packaged and placed into bags of groceries delivered to the 100 or so TWC families. “These families look at it as a special treat,” Karen says. “It just puts a big smile on people’s faces. It’s like a reflection of what we put in—this is from our hearts.”

While her son serves in Iraq, she serves up home-cooked meals to returning soldiers.

**SUSAN VOSMIK**
USO volunteer, Schaumburg, Ill.

> TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, Susan Vosnik met her husband, Roger, in the mess hall when they were volunteers with the Illinois National Guard. Today, their son Christopher, 24, is a medical lab technician serving in a combat support hospital in Iraq. “I got started with the USO because they were very good to my son,” says Susan, who, along with Roger, helps bake everything from blueberry pancakes and sausage breakfasts to Russian apple cake—all of which she serves to the many soldiers in transit or in waiting at one of the USO facilities in Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. “It’s so nice to see the troops, thank them personally, and help get them on their way,” she says. “For some of them it’s the first homemade food they’ve had since basic training. They’re so polite and awesome, and they say ‘thank you’ constantly. I couldn’t be prouder to do it.”

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