

This letter from the Hartford Soldier's Aid Society was published in the *Hartford Daily Courant* on May 17, 1862.

"Relief for the Sick and Wounded.

The wants of the sick in our camps, and the necessities of the wounded from the battlefield, are becoming more pressing as our army advances farther South, or engages in conflict after conflict. The horrors of war are now becoming more palpable to our own eyes than ever. We have known hitherto but little of the sufferings of the gallant soldiers, and our sacrifices in their behalf must be constantly on the increase. Supplies for these martyrs to liberty are in overwhelming demand, but the contributions are inadequate. There are now daily arrivals of these unfortunate men at New York. The various societies formed for their relief are straining every nerve to furnish them with the articles necessary for their comfort, but they are not as well supported as they should be. The fact that every sick or wounded soldier takes with him the articles with which he is supplied, leaving behind only clothes and dressings which would not repay the cost of cleaning them, will account to the provident for the constantly recurring needs. They must have large supplies of shirts, drawers, and sheets; also of wine, ale, and like delicacies; in fact, all that can contribute to the comfort of sick and wounded men, and insure their return to health and further usefulness to their country.

The Hartford Soldier's Aid Society appeals to the benevolent and patriotic of this city and State to assist them in the emergency. The cause of humanity and the country pleads earnestly for help. Are those of us who are enjoying the blessings which the soldier's misery is securing to us, doing our whole duty? We are glad to record one instance which should serve as an inspiration to the loyal and charitable. A devotion which should be as universal as this is intense, will bestow upon the sick and wounded of our army that alleviation of pain and sickness which their gallantry demands of the people of the Republic. The following tells its own brief but stimulating story:

Hartford, CT., May 15, 1862:

Mrs. Olmsted, President Soldier's Aid Society – *Madame*: - It's my pleasure, in behalf of the young ladies in my employ, to enclose to you forty dollars, to be used as your judgment may dictate for the benefit of the soldiers now engaged in aiding to sustain the Laws and Constitution of our country.

I consider it the duty of every citizen to forego a few of the luxuries of life, that they may bestow the amount to aid your Society in its benevolent endeavors to add to the comfort of our soldiers.

I am yours, R. Chadwick

All contributions sent to the Soldier's Aid Society, No. 8 Allyn House, will be forwarded immediately."