



MN Military Family Assistance Centers

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November 2017

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Special points of interest:

This month's focus is on:

Holiday Helps and Resources

The Holidays are a time for family and friends, enjoying great food, and focusing on the many things we are thankful for.

Holidays can also be stressful as we plan meals, gift exchanges, and try to stay within our spending limits.

In this issue we will focus on resources that are available for military families.

Some of the main resources available are

county assistance programs, Yellow Ribbon networks, local businesses, and caring citizens.

The Family Assistance Center receives requests from groups that would like to "adopt" military families, offer to provide holiday meals, and to support area units with holiday parties. To get connected with these resources you can contact your local Family Assistance Center.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for all

you do for our military members and their families. We appreciate your dedication and devotion in making a positive difference in their lives.

For more information on military discounts and events are updated daily on the FAC Facebook page:

Military Family Assistance Centers of Minnesota

<https://www.facebook.com/mn.militaryfamilyassistancecenters/>

State of MN Family Assistance Center Coordinator

Fall is the time when we start looking forward to football parties, hunting, closing up the cabins and getting snowmobiles and skies ready for the upcoming snowfalls. It is also a time when we get some extra time to spend with our friends and families at Thanksgiving. I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the Family Assistance Center Specialists that have worked especially hard this year to continue helping our service members, families, and community resources. As you all know, the Family Assistance Center staff has new faces in almost all of our office locations except for three of them. The new staff came into these positions after a two-month contract lapse and needed to basically rebuild the office that had been held for years by previous staff.

I would like to recognize Yolonda Von Itter- Arden Hills, Mistie Melcher-Bemidji, JP Wagle-Bloomington, Savannah Polzin-Camp Ripley, Kristin Helmers-Detroit Lakes, Angelina Hager-Duluth, Jennifer Kafka-Mankato, Frank Ourada- Montevideo, Cindy Dilley-Rosemount for all of their hard work in learning how they can best assist our service members and families and help to get them where they need to be. There are countless hours of training and a huge amount of self-directed learning and building of relationships to make their office successful. They do not do this job just for a paycheck, but they have a personal calling to help others. They will work their hardest to help get you the resource and/or service that you need.

As your life starts to get a little more hectic over the holidays, remember to reach out to these people. They are able to assist you with resources, referrals, community services and just about anything else that gets thrown your way.

They are a great staff and for that I am blessed!

Happy Thanksgiving and Thank You for your service!



Toys 4 Military Kids has partnered with Minnesota's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Communities in honoring & thanking our military families for their many sacrifices.

Founded by Les Hanson 16 years ago, T4MK provides toys to military units for their holiday parties and support to individual military families. T4MK has distributed thousands of toys to military children in MN, WI & Iowa.

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY JR. CHAPTER

Toys 4 Military Kids

Toy Request Form – 2017 Holiday Season

Contact Name: _____ Unit Name: _____
 Unit Address: _____
 Office Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Cell Phone: _____ Date of Party: _____
 Party Location: _____
 Total No. of Children: _____

Note: If over 50 children, or if you need a Santa, please contact Mike Clark at 651.235.9181 or msclark454@comcast.net

# of Boys		# of Girls	
Infant		Infant	
Toddler		Toddler	
3 to 5 years		3 to 5 years	
6 to 9 years		6 to 9 years	
10 to 12 years		10 to 12 years	
Total:		Total:	

For accountability, and to encourage continued giving, please consider sending notes of thanks to the program donors or pictures of the event to "Toys 4 Military Kids, 3432 Denmark Ave. #242, Eagan, MN 55123."

Signature of Unit POC

Date Submitted

*This year's Toys 4 Military Kids program is dedicated to the memory of
CPL Conor G. Masterson (March 22, 1986 – April 8, 2007)*

**Please submit form to Mike Clark at msclark454@comcast.net
Request Form is due no later than Monday, November 13, 2017**



Toys 4 Military Kids



The Salvation Army Offers many resources for families in need. If you need assistance with Christmas this year they are offering a Christmas Toy Helps Program:



Need help with Christmas Toys?

The Salvation Army Clearing House can help!

Starting November 8th, you can register online at:

www.SalvationArmyNorth.org/toyshop

If you have difficulty registering online, you may call 651-746-3595. We will not have translators available to take calls.

There are limited registration spots available; all registration will close on or before December 1st.

Phones will be available after December 1st to answer questions about registration, Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm.

The Salvation Army Clearing House: Community Agencies Working Together to Connect Families with Holiday Resources



The Minnesota Zoo salutes our troops with special discounts and promotions throughout the year. Individuals eligible for military discounts and promotions include current, former, and retired members and family members of the US Military, National Guard, and Reserve in the United States (including Puerto Rico). Valid military ID or proof of military service is required. No other discounts apply and are not valid for special programs or exhibits.

Winter Promotion November 11, 2017 – January 1, 2018

Minnesota Zoo

Military personnel receive free admission, free parking, and half-price admission for family members.

SSA Gift Shops

Military personnel receive 20% discount on purchases, excluding promotional items.

Lancer Food Service

Military personnel receive 10% discount on food purchases, excluding alcohol.

IMAX Theatre

Military personnel and family members receive \$3 off general admission tickets at theatre box office

Love Your Neighbor Holiday Program

The holidays can be a stressful time, but Neighbors is here to help. The Love Your Neighbor Holiday Program supplements the resources of families living in our service area to provide toys and clothing for children and seniors.

Applications for Assistance

Holiday program staff will be available from October 23 to December 6* during the following times to accept applications for the 2017 program:

Monday – Friday from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 to 4 p.m.

We are closed for applications on the following days: November 23 and 24, December 1

*No applications will be accepted after December 6, 2017.

To receive an application you must bring with you:

Picture identification

A light, gas, cable, telephone, cell phone or county letter dated in the past 30 days.

Income information for the household for the previous 30 days.

If you have never received assistance from Neighbors before, or you have a new child in your household, you will need to provide a birth certificate, a Dakota County letter or school letter with your name and the child's name to add the child to your household.

Please note that we can only serve people in the communities of South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Lilydale and Sunfish Lake.

To learn more, call the Information Hotline: 651-272-1101



neighbors, inc.

222 Grand Avenue West
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

Phone: 651-455-5000

Fax: 651-455-1319

Hours*: M-F 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Food Shelf*: M-F 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

*We close daily from 12:15 to 1 p.m.



Fare For All offers Holiday Packs for the upcoming holiday season




Holiday Pack Includes*:

- Turkey (8-10 lb)
- Sage Pork Sausage
- Pork Tenderloin
- Turkey Tenderloin
- Diced Chicken Breast
- Green Beans (2)
- Apple Pie

\$30

*Items subject to change




763-450-3880

www.fareforall.org

Produce Pack



\$10



- 4 Gala Apples
- 4 Navel Oranges
- 2 lb onions
- 1 lb carrots
- 1 sleeve celery
- 2lb Sweet Potatoes
- 5 lb Russet potatoes

Helpful Links:

Fare for All: <https://fareforall.org/>

Ruby's Pantry: <https://www.rubyspantry.org/>

Neighbor's Inc.: <https://www.neighborsmn.org/>

Toys for Tots MN: https://toysfortots.org/request_toys/toys-city-county.aspx?txtState=MINNESOTA

What are the Family Assistance Centers (FACs) and what do they do?

Military Family Assistance Centers (FACs) are dispersed throughout the state to offer resources, referrals, and support to all Service members and their families. FACs are confidential and available 24/7 to ALL branches regardless of status.

State Office Coordinator

Nancy Launderville
8180 Belden Blvd
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Phone: 612-618-6927 or
651-282-4209



**You make the Call...We
make the difference**

Contact for Information & Referrals on:

- *Crisis Intervention
- *Financial Resources and Counseling
- *Community resources & Support
- *Parent & Youth Resources
- *DEERS/ID Cards
- *TRICARE
- *Legal
- *And Much More!

MN Military Family Assistance Center Locations

Arden Hills

1536 Ben Franklin Dr
Arden Hills, MN 55112
651-282-4055
Yolonda Von Itter

Bloomington

3300 W 98th St W
Minneapolis, MN 55431
651-282-4748
JP Wagle

Detroit Lakes

1220 Rossman Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
651-268-8884
Kristin Helmers

Mankato

100 Martin Luther King Jr Dr
Mankato, MN 56001
651-268-8413
Jennifer Kafka

Bemidji

1430 23rd St NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
651-282-4031
Misty Melcher

Camp Ripley

15000 Hwy 115
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-616-3119
Savannah Polzin

Duluth

4015 Airpark Blvd
Duluth, MN 55811
651-282-4053
Angelina Hager

Montevideo

711 S 17th St
Montevideo, MN 56265
651-268-8475
Frank Ourada

Rosemount

13865 S Robert Trail
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-282-4749
Cindy Dilley