



Armed Forces Families Foundation



Dear AFFF Partners,

Happy New Year! Wishing you and yours best wishes for 2013.

First and Foremost, the Armed Forces Families Foundation wants to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported and participated in our December 2012 fundraiser. Final tallies are still in progress but it's certain that over \$335,000 was raised!

We are also excited to report that with the December 2012 fundraising dollars, the AFFF has now reached the ONE MILLION DOLLAR mark! That is one million dollars of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars donated by our Taco Bell customers for the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Thanks again to everyone who helped us to reach our "Cool Million"!!!

We could not do this without your help and we want to thank all those who were involved, as well as the 500+ Taco Bell and Pizza Hut staffs that made this fundraiser such a success. The AFFF team is so grateful for people like you who make our organization possible.

As the new year begins, we have a number of projects that are being completed and several more that will soon begin.

We have two projects that have recently been completed in Jacksonville, Florida. The Jacksonville USO center was supplied with a new floor, cooler and microwave, while the NAS at Jacksonville received a new playground. The ribbon cutting ceremonies were recently held for both of these projects and the celebrations were a great success!

Currently we are working towards getting the USO Center at Ft. Eustis (Norfolk, VA) a new bathroom facility and kitchen area. The bathrooms will be transformed from a barracks-style room into an updated and modern facility. The kitchen will receive an upgrade with more storage space and the addition of a small office. This USO Center serves approximately 6,000 - 9,000 traveling military every month.

The AFFF team is working diligently on different areas of the Charlotte USO Center (North Carolina). This facility is in need of an updated entrance, counters and new computers for staff and troops. Working with the various USO centers in the Southeast has been, and continues to be, very rewarding as it allows us to provide a relaxing environment for our hardworking troops and their families as they travel.

In Tampa, two projects are underway. The first project is at Monroe Middle School where the children from MacDill Air Force Base are required to attend sixth through eighth grade. AFFF provided several smart boards and made other technological upgrades to the Base Middle School. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for mid-January.



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The second project is at MacDill Air Force Base and consists of a Splash Pad and Spray Park on MacDill Beach for families stationed there to enjoy!

At the Army Reserve Center in Nashville Tennessee, our team is gearing up to construct a picnic pavilion with a BBQ pit. This is one of our favorite projects because it serves so many purposes. The Reserve Center has expressed their excitement in planning to use the pavilion for "Family Day Activities" as well as to host gatherings for returning and departing troops.

Lastly, the rooftop solace garden at the Charles George VA Center (Asheville, NC) is still in the early stages of providing an area for visitors to de-stress while their loved ones are in Intensive Care. We all know having friends and family in hospitals can be a stressful experience, and our hope is that this solace garden will provide a place that can help people relax and unwind.

Some potential projects that the Armed Forces Families Foundation are hoping to soon begin are taking place at several USO Centers in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Kentucky. Many of the USO Centers in these areas are in need of renovation, appliances, equipment and technological advancements.

However, the USO Centers are not the only potential projects lined up for 2013. We have six others projects that we hope to get started within the next couple of months.

In Tampa, at the Haley VA, the hospital and the AFFF team are looking to build a 1900 square foot day room. They are also in need of furniture, games, children's area, and video equipment. We hope to have this project completed sometime between February and March.

Also in Florida, the West Palm VA Hospital is interested in a community garden project for their Hospice program. The AFFF team is hoping to get this project started early 2013.

In Jacksonville, the Mayport Naval Station and the AFFF are discussing their need for a walking and running track. This track would provide a safe area for troops and their families to exercise and enjoy.

In Augusta (Georgia), both the Moody AFB and the Fort Gordon Fisher House are seeking some recreation upgrades. The AFFF hopes to supply the Moody AFB with a game room, while installing a playground and picnic tables at Fort Gordon. Both of these projects would provide an area for families and friends to spend time together.

Lastly, the W.G. Hefner VA Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina has been in touch with AFFF about renovating their 1950's style bowling alley. The bowling alley is long overdue for an upgrade and constantly needs to be patched up. We are looking forward to providing a unique recreation upgrade at the Center.

As always, we want to say thank you to everyone who has donated and supported the Armed Forces Families Foundation. You are the reason our organization has helped, and continues helping, our military and their families

Sincerely,

Your Armed Forces Families Team



Armed Forces Families Foundation



Jacksonville USO Ribbon Cutting



NAS JAX Ribbon Cutting



You have received this email as you have participated in the Armed Forces Families Foundation fundraiser. If you prefer not to receive these newsletter updates, please email tfarnum@mindspring.com to be removed from the list. Thank you.