



Armed Forces Families Foundation



The year has just begun and already the Armed Forces Families Foundation is off to an amazing start.

Since January, we have successfully completed three projects with eight more in the works!

Before we jump into updates we'd like to share with you the projects that have recently been completed.

Monroe Middle School (serving MacDill AFB - Tampa) received an upgrade of new computers, software and smart boards. On February 28th, teachers, students, school staff, and our AFFF Team celebrated their new technology with a ribbon cutting ceremony and Taco Bell tacos for all attendees!

Enjoy a few photos from another successful ribbon cutting event at Monroe Middle School!



The USO centers in both Charlotte and Atlanta are now equipped with various upgraded items such as kitchen appliances, computers, TV's and new furniture. The AFFF Team hopes to make these facilities more comfortable and enjoyable for our traveling military and their families.

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for both Charlotte and Atlanta USOs early in March!

Currently, our AFFF team is working on four more USO Centers in the following areas: Columbia and (South Carolina), Fort Campbell (Nashville, Tennessee), and two facilities in Pensacola (Florida). We also have one potential project at the Camp McCrady USO (located in Eastover, South Carolina). These centers will receive much needed renovations as well as new appliances, entertainment systems, games, technological advancements and other pertinent items for our service members.

As we have said in the past, the Armed Forces Families Foundation loves to partner with USO Centers. We are proud to reach so many members of our hard working Military.

The more Military lives we can positively impact, the better, which is why our AFFF Team is also thrilled to become involved with several VA Hospitals.

As we all know, hospitals are not the most enjoyable place to be, therefore we take pride in offering improvements to VA Hospitals to make the visit (and/or stay) a positive and comfortable experience for our Military.

Here are some VA Hospital projects currently underway:

1. Haley VA Hospital (Tampa, FL): Our Team is creating a relaxing day room for the Spinal Cord Injury Center. Equipped with a children's area, games, large monitors for movies, and furniture to accommodate wheel/power chairs, the room is sure to be a comfortable place for families and friends to lounge while waiting on their loved ones.
2. W.G. Hefner VA Medical Center (Charlotte, NC): The AFFF has funded the construction and upgrade of the Hospital's bowling alley. The W.G. Hefner bowling alley is one of the very last active alleys in the VA system and is used daily by Mental Health Veterans, out-patients, geriatric patients, and includes a wheelchair roller allowing handicapped Veterans to participate. The AFFF renovation will turn this vintage, six-lane Brunswick system bowling alley into a high functioning and efficient alley that will still have the 50's-style charm. These upgrades will allow for a positive recreational outlet for military patients and family members at the Center for many years to come!
3. West Palm VA Medical Center (West Palm Beach, FL): This potential project would consist of expanding the therapeutic "Healing Garden" in their Military Manor Community Living Center that currently houses 120 residents. The garden acts as more than just a calming place for our Vets and their families. Food grown in the garden has been incorporated into the dietary program for patients and the VA staff teach visiting Veterans and residents how to grow and harvest a garden.

Last but not least, the AFFF is working on a potential project at Camp Blanding (Florida). This project would target the Family and Solider Assistance Center by creating a "home like" feel for troops and families visiting the Camp which serves as a training site for all 13,000 of Florida's National Guard members. This project would consist of remodeling the conference, kitchen, storage rooms and event area as well as new flooring, furniture and landscaping.

Thank you for your continuous support in allowing the Armed Forces Families Foundation to help our past, present and future Military.