



# Armed Forces Families Foundation



Dear AFFF Partners,

This is an exciting time of year for the Armed Forces Families Foundation. In addition to having several projects in the works, we have been busy getting ready for the "Freedom Bells" fourth annual fundraiser!

Over 500 Taco Bells and Pizza Huts will be collecting donations from December 5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> this year. One hundred percent of the funds raised will go directly towards benefiting military families in our local communities.

Speaking of benefiting military families, last year's "Freedom Bells" fundraiser raised more than \$339,000! Thanks to you, we are confident that this year's donations will be another success, which will allow the AFFF Team to keep giving back to those who fight for our freedom.

With that said, we want to fill you in on our most recent completed projects that your donations have made possible.

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the AFFF team was in the process of furnishing the USO at Tampa International Airport. We are happy to report that the project was completed and a successful ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The Tampa USO now offers a relaxing atmosphere as well as sofas, recliners, tables, desks, various kitchen equipment and electronics. We are very excited that we were able to furnish the USO center in a way to make it feel as if it is a "home away from home" for our traveling service members. AFFF and Taco Bell were truly a part of Tampa Bay History!





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With such positive feedback from the Tampa USO, the AFFF Team jumped on the opportunity to help another USO center in need. At the Jacksonville International Airport USO, their facility was ready for new flooring, microwave and cooler. Thanks to our Team, now the Jacksonville USO has updated kitchen utilities and a beautiful new floor!

The Armed Forces Families Foundation is also happy to announce the completion of the multi-age playground at Homestead Reserve Air Force Base (Miami). Members of the AFFF Team flew down for the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Even the rain couldn't stop military families from joining the fun! The playground has proved to be a positive addition to the Base by providing a safe area for Base children to exercise and play.



Another playground project that is just about complete is at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville (Florida). Like the playground at Homestead Reserve AFB, this is a multi-age playground that is safe for young and older children. Although the ribbon cutting ceremony has not yet been scheduled, the playground will be ready for action by early November.

Along with those four completed projects, here are some current projects that are in the works!

At Patrick Air Force Base (Orlando, FL), the AFFF Team is working towards the completion of a recreational project that will consist of a basketball court upgrade, as well as a picnic and grilling area. The AFFF loves recreational projects because it is a great way to bring Base residents together for various events and special occasions. The completion of this project is anticipated any day now, with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for November 14, 2012.

At MacDill Air Force Base (Tampa, FL), the Armed Forces Families Foundation is working to install a Spray Pad that will provide the community with a safe and fun "water playground." This Spray Pad would have several ground sprays, water tunnels, bubblers, water umbrella and more. As most people know, Tampa has a very hot climate and the AFFF team thinks this would be a great way for Base children to keep cool.

The USO Center at Ft. Eustis (Norfolk, VA) is currently on their way towards the completion of a new bathroom facility and kitchen area courtesy of the Armed Forces Families Foundation. The bathrooms are being turned from a barracks-style room into an updated and modern bathroom facility. The kitchen area is being remodeled with more storage space and a small office is to be added. The USO Center services approximately 6,000 to 9,000 military service members and their families per month.



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At the Charles George VA Medical Center (Asheville, NC), the Armed Forces Families Foundation is in the process of providing an area for family members at the Center to spend quiet time while their loved ones are recuperating or being treated in the Intensive Care Units. The Rooftop Healing and Solace Garden will help to reduce stress and anxiety for the family members.

Recently, an AFFF project was approved for the construction of a family picnic pavilion, including a BBQ area and ceiling fans, at the Nashville Army Reserve Center in Nashville, TN. The new pavilion will allow for the Reserve Center to host "Family Day Activities", along with welcoming new personnel and seeing personnel off to new military assignments elsewhere.

Once again we want to say thank you to everyone who has donated and supported the Armed Forces Families Foundation. You are the reason this Foundation has such a positive impact on so many military lives.

Sincerely,

*Your Armed Forces Families Team*