



Operation: Care and Comfort
www.occ-usa.org

3173 Pebble Beach Circle
Fairfield, CA 94534-8325

OCC Adopt a Military Family Program (AMF)

Since 2005, Operation: Care and Comfort (OCC) has conducted its "Adopt a Military Family" program to assist military and veteran families throughout the year and holiday season.

We at OCC have found that military families are not eager to come forward to ask for assistance, even during the holidays. Often, a military family leader will learn of a family in their unit who could use support, and through our program, can contact us to request help for this family. This is one-time assistance, with our desire to offer support as soon as possible. OCC does not work with families directly- they must be vetted by the military, VA, veteran service officers or a military organization.

With the partnership of civilian families, companies, churches and organizations, hundreds of military/veteran families have received support. This effort is coordinated by OCC, military personnel, family support leaders, Veteran Service Officers and organizations, and SOS coordinators serve as the liaison between the military/veteran and the donor. To protect the privacy of the family and donor, they do not meet. **IF MEETING THE FAMILY IS VITAL TO THEIR PARTICIPATION, WE SUGGEST THAT DONORS CONSIDER ANOTHER ORGANIZATION TO WORK WITH.**

Military families do not like to ask for assistance. It is often through a fellow service member that the FRG leader will hear of a family that may be struggling. Many are single parents or have a loved one serving overseas. Others have recently returned from deployment and are seeking work. Some need assistance with an unpaid bill or two, while others need a tree and all the trimmings. The donor, paired with the military liaison, work together to see that their needs are met. Occasionally, when needs are great, more than one group may be asked to help the military family.

Here is how this works:

A military liaison contacts OCC about a military family in need or submits a registration form. It is their job to make sure that this family truly needs assistance. Upon receiving the completed registration form, we contact those on the "Adopt a Military Family" stand by list to help, by giving a few details about the family. **At no time are names, addresses, and other personal information given about the military family to the civilian family, without consent from the military family.** Once a donor decides to adopt this military family, the military liaison and donor are introduced via email. They will then work together to meet the family's needs and determine if additional support is needed. The liaison and donor meet to gather all purchased items, and the liaison will deliver the gifts to the military/veteran family. Again, the military family and donor must never meet. Operation: Care and Comfort will check back with the military liaison ensure that the family was assisted.

Once a donor is paired with a military liaison, that liaison owns the case. It is their job to follow through and notify Operation: Care and Comfort if the donor is not following through, or if additional assistance is needed. Military liaisons should not register a family if they are not able to actively work with the donors.

We raise funds throughout the year to purchase commissary gift cards, bags of groceries, gasoline cards and other items to assist families. We already have groups and civilian families waiting to help. We are here to help, even at the last minute.

For those who wish to adopt a family or donate towards this worth cause, please contact me directly via email. Thank you, in advance!

Julie DeMaria
President, co founder
julie@occ-usa.org
(408) 373-8635