



RSF Foundation Military Initiative
Or
\$27,000 in Grants to Assist Military (You choose!)

"The War on Terrorism and the demands it places on our military directly affects family readiness. We must do everything possible to preserve family readiness as it directly relates to combat readiness. Civilians are not directly affected by this war and owe it to our country to assist military families who sacrifice so much. The Armed Forces Interest Group directly supports the ASYMCA in assisting military families impacted by this war" states Paul Steffens, Executive Director of the San Diego Armed Services YMCA.

The families mentioned above, are families just our like own – except that one or both parents are deployed in service to our country. These families often are junior enlisted personnel, whose paychecks are barely above subsistence level – paychecks that often run out before the end of the month. Thanks to organizations like the ASYMCA's (there is one at Camp Pendleton as well), Military Outreach Ministry, the USO's, Injured Marine Semper Fi , Navy Relief, and many more, financial assistance can be given to these families for commissary cards, gas cards and other services not covered by the Department of Defense.

In November the Armed Forces Interest Group (AFIG) of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation was launched. As a result of months of thorough research into the needs of the military in San Diego, AFIG began a long term sustainable support group for local Marine and Navy families. Working with already established organizations, like those mentioned above, it is our goal to provide financial assistance to the organizations who are well positioned to help local families.

As a result of a lead gift from a local family foundation, additional funds have been raised and \$27,000 in grants were made in mid-December. These grants went to each of the ASYMCA's in San Diego, the USO and Navy Relief Wives Club Food Locker. Additional funds were given to two different groups – the Marine Recruiters School at MCRD and a platoon at Camp Pendleton – to provide some extras to 165 families in the form of commissary and Wal-Mart gift cards for the holidays.

"The Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA supports only active duty and their families with emphasis towards the most junior enlisted ranks. As a private nonprofit, we are not part of the government and do not receive any state or federal funds to administer support to our Marines and Sailors in San Diego County. We achieve a higher quality of life for our military community

with the programs and services that are provided at no or very low cost to the families". Col. George Brown, USMC (Ret) is the Executive Director of the Camp Pendleton ASYMCA. The Armed Services Family Support Fund has been created at the Foundation to accept charitable gifts in support of this work.

AFIG recognizes that the veterans and wounded warriors have great needs as they return from deployment, often with permanent disabilities and victims of post traumatic stress syndrome and other life changing conditions. The Wounded and Fallen Warrior Fund has been designated for support to this group.

We have received support from local residents, individuals around the county, and a significant donation from the Rancho Santa Fe Branch of San Diego National Bank, and Brenda Boggioni. The success of our effort will be based on the grassroots support of ordinary people and corporate entities who wish to express their gratitude to the men and women in uniform who are putting their lives on the line to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

We intend for this effort to continue for many years. A portion of funds raised will be placed into an endowment (at the donors discretion) so that we will building a base for support that will live on in the future. **100% of all donations will go to the organizations serving the families in need.**

If every family in San Diego County committed just \$100 per year, millions of dollars could be raised in this effort. These are people who now call San Diego County home, and as long as they reside here, it is our obligation to honor their valor and assist them along the way.

Chuck Yash, Chairman of AFIG says "Support for our military through the RSF Foundation's AFIG group is critical to the families of our servicemen. Our support helps reduce the concerns that weigh on a deployed family member and allows them to better focus on their job. The unmet needs of our military are great. AFIG has the potential to be a solution". Let us be the community which takes the lead in our region to get the job done.

For more information, please go to www.rsffoundation.org or call Christy Wilson, Executive Director Rancho Santa Fe Foundation at 858-756-6557. AFIG brochures are available upon request.

"May you who have been served, Serve others with a humble heart.
May you who have received, Give in return and not count the cost.
May you who have been blessed, Bless others."