Father-Daughter Dance and Teddy’s Child Watch
Receive support from TriWest Healthcare Alliance

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The ASY’s Father-Daughter Dance is quickly becoming a very popular program throughout the various ASY branches and Y affiliates. The same can be said for the Teddy’s Child Watch (Children’s Waiting Rooms). And, expansion of these services can be directly linked to the generosity of TriWest Health Care Alliance.

The Father Daughter Dance began in 1996 at the Lawton/Fort Sill ASYMCA. The idea is to give fathers and daughters the opportunity to experience a special evening together. Being able to get all “gussied up” is a special treat for the girls while at the same time, Dads get the opportunity to show their daughter/s how a lady should be treated.

A magical evening of dinner and dancing awaits each couple as they arrive. Amid a whirlwind of twirls and spins, girls and the fathers spend special moments . . . all the while making memories to last a lifetime.

ASY Branches/Y Affiliates currently offering the Father Daughter Dance program include:

• ASYMCA of Alaska
• Hampton Roads Regional ASYMCA
• Honolulu ASYMCA
• Camp Pendleton ASYMCA
• Lawton/Fort Sill ASYMCA
• San Diego ASYMCA
• Southeast Family YMCA
• Watertown Family YMCA (called the Sugar Plum Dance)

Continued on Centerfold (pages 8-9)

Excerpted from September 18th letter from Charity Navigator

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Armed Services YMCA on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency....

Based on the most recent information available and using our new, two dimensional rating system (CN 2.0) we have issued a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Armed Services YMCA has earned our sixth consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 3% of the charities we rate have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Armed Services YMCA outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Armed Services YMCA from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust....

Our favorable review of Armed Services YMCA’s fiscal health and commitment to accountability & transparency will be visible on our website as of September 20th. We wish you continued success in your charitable endeavors.

Ken Berger President & Chief Executive Officer
The volunteers throughout the ASYMCA branches are indeed a special group of individuals. In 2010, some 11,000 volunteers donated over 110,000 hours in support of ASYMCA programs. Our sincere thanks to each and every volunteer. We could not do what we do without your very valuable support.

Likewise, our headquarters and branch staff are among the most dedicated I’ve seen. Their commitment to program delivery as well as to new program development is un-paralleled.

To our donors, both corporate and individual, your support is deeply appreciated. We know you have a choice as to where your donated dollars go and are grateful that you have chosen the ASYMCA. Just recently, we received good news from Charity Navigator, a prominent charity “watch-dog” group. For a sixth consecutive year, the ASYMCA has received a 4-star rating. Less than 3% of the rated charities have equaled that, and this “consistent determination of exceptional performance clearly differentiates” us from our peers and demonstrates to the public that we are worthy of their trust.

So, as we study the proud heritage and history that is the Armed Service YMCA, let it inspire us to venture forth into the exciting future that is out there awaiting us . . . all with the goal of making military life easier for our young military service personnel and their families.

Again, many thanks for your support. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!
YMCA Military Outreach Initiative

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) continues to administer the Military Outreach Initiative with the Department of Defense (DoD). This program provides eligible military families and active duty personnel with access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs through memberships at community YMCAs and 890 private fitness companies nationwide. Membership fees are underwritten by the DoD and administered through the Armed Services YMCA. The network of over 1,435 YMCAs have provided overwhelming support for this initiative and over 51,000 military families and some 82,000 children were served through September 2011.

The ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative grew from a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to support military family readiness and to ensure military family readiness programs and activities are available to all military families, including those of the National Guard and Military Reservists.

Those military families and singles eligible to participate in the continuing initiative include:

- All interested families of deployed / mobilized National Guard and Reserves (family membership)
- Active Duty Independent Duty station personnel (single or family members)
- Relocated spouses and family members of deployed Active Duty personnel (single or family membership)
- Community Based Warrior in Transition Unit (single or family membership)

The Military Outreach Initiative final Option Year has been exercised by the Department of Defense with an expiration date set for September 30, 2013.

Bell Helicopter honors ASYMCA

Bell Helicopter honored the Armed Services YMCA at an evening reception on Monday, October 10th at the AUSA Conference held at the Washington Convention Center. About 300 guests attended. Mike Landers, ASYMCA CEO and MG Don Infante, USA (Ret), ASY Board Chair, accepted a $40,000 pledge on behalf of the ASY.

Bell Employee and ASYMCA Board Member Bob Hastings noted it was an honor working with such a mission-driven organization as the ASYMCA.

Bell’s donation will be directed toward the general operating fund.

In addition, the ASYMCA will be the featured non-profit at the upcoming Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. The ninth annual postseason collegiate football game will be played Friday, Dec. 30 with an 11:00 a.m. kickoff at Gerald J. Ford Stadium on the campus of SMU.
From the Director’s Chair
... a Message from the Executive Director

First and foremost I would like to thank my mentor and friend, Frank Gallo, for allowing me to be his COO for the past 12 years and wish him all the best in his retirement. We made a great TEAM. I would also like to thank the National Board of Directors for having the trust and confidence in my ability and selecting me as the new National Director/CEO of the Armed Services YMCA. I am both humbled and honored to have this incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our young military Heroes and their families.

As proud as we are of doing the right thing for our troops and families, we are just as proud believing we are going about it the right way. Clearly, ninety-one cents of every dollar donated to the Armed Services YMCA goes directly to programs and services. And, it was indeed good news to receive the sixth straight 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator as pointed out in the Chairman’s article.

The programs delivered day in and day out by local ASYMCA branches and affiliates are all designed to “make military life easier” through youth development, healthy living and social responsibilities in the military communities we serve. These programs have been well-developed and tested but aren’t worth the paper they’re written on without the right folks running them. And, from my perspective, we have the right people at the delivery points. Many are military spouses who understand the difficulties that life in the military can present. Some are retired military who now want to give back and make a difference. Others are civilians who recognize the struggles of military life and feel the need to help. Each and every one are dedicated and focused on making military life easier for our young military families.

Just as important (and sometimes more so) are our volunteers. We simply could not do it without you! I recently learned of a volunteer in San Diego who has made over 500 Operation Kid Comfort quilts all by herself! But it doesn’t stop there. Our volunteers (many are veterans and/or retired military) allow us to significantly increase our program delivery, thereby conserving our financial resources. Their life experiences also go a long way when relating to these young families.

We’re all set to launch the next 150 years of YMCA work with the military. The needs of our military families are changing and the ASYMCA will do what it does best... adapt. Where there’s a need, or a gap in services provided at the installations we serve, we’ll do our best to fulfill it.

It is indeed an exciting future for all associated with the Armed Services YMCA. Please join us as we continue down the road of “making military life easier”!

All the best

Michael S. Grady joins ASYMCA National Board

The Armed Services YMCA of the USA is pleased to welcome Michael S. Grady, President/CEO of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, to the National Board of Directors.

Mr. Grady began his current position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City.

In 1995, Mr. Grady led the organization through one of the most challenging periods of its history following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and the destruction of its Downtown branch and Association offices. These efforts culminated in the restoration of the historic Oklahoman building for the Y’s Association offices.

In addition to his local YMCA responsibilities, Mr. Grady recently completed a 3 year term as National Chair of the Association of YMCA Professionals, and will soon complete a 3 year term as the first Chair of the YUSA Mid-Major CEO Group. Mr. Grady is actively involved in the local community.

Mr. Grady is married to Gail; and they have a daughter, Katie, who lives in Chantilly, Virginia.

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Michael S. Grady
Nancy A. Gilbride joins ASYMCA National Board

The ASYMCA welcomes Nancy A. Gilbride, MS, RPh, to its National Board of Directors. A Senior leader with eighteen years’ experience in the pharmacy benefit management industry, Ms. Gilbride is currently Vice President and General Manager, TRICARE Pharmacy Division and has worked with Express Scripts since 1998.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ms. Gilbride has a B.S. in Pharmacy, a M.S. in Hospital Pharmacy Administration and ASHPs in General and Specialized Hospital Pharmacy Administration.

Prior to joining Express Scripts, Gilbride’s professional experience included stints with the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, SmithKline Beecham and ValueRX.

Gilbride also maintains memberships in the USO, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Association, and numerous other worthy organizations.

Also, Ms. Gilbride’s extensive involvement with military support groups will serve her well as she joins the ASY in helping to make military life easier. Ms. Gilbride resides in Chesterfield, Missouri.

The ASYMCA would also like to thank the Express Scripts employees for their recent donations totaling over $6500 in support of Operation Kid Comfort.

Vernon Wallace joins ASYMCA National Board

Also joining the ASYMCA National Board is Vernon Wallace. Mr. Wallace serves as Director, Mission Support Integrated Process Team within Raytheon's Corporate U.S. Business Development Organization.

Having joined Raytheon in 2005, Wallace previously served as the Staff Executive for Raytheon's Executive Vice President of Business Development/Chief Executive Officer, Raytheon International Incorporated, and formerly as a member of the Mission Support Capability Team. Prior to joining Raytheon, Vernon served as a Deputy Senior Manager with the Computer Sciences Corporation and was responsible for leading logisticians in support of the Naval Sea Systems Command's Amphibious Warfare Program Office.

Vernon is among Raytheon's leaders charged with driving enterprise growth within Raytheon's Mission Support core market.

Mr. Wallace's military career includes both active and reserve experiences. His assignments include tours as: Commanding Officer (Acting)/Executive Officer, Navy Reserve (NR) Defense Contract Management Agency Headquarters / International; Logistics Director, NR Naval Air Systems Command 0377; N4 Liaison, NR Military Sealift Command Headquarters; Training Officer, Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Center/Logistics Task Force Atlantic; NAVGARD Project Manager, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Supply Ordnance, & Logistics Operations; Training/Procurement Officer, NR Navy Regional Contracting Center Naples Detachment 106; Supply Officer, NR Military Sealift Command Eastern Mediterranean Detachment 106: OIC, Inspector of Uniforms, United States Naval Academy; and Assistant/Supply Officer, USS Vreeland.

Professional Affiliations include the Aerospace Industries Association, and National Defense Industries Association.

In addition to earning Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certifications in Contracting and Life Cycle Logistics, Wallace earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Loyola College in Maryland, a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy (State) University, and a bachelor's degree in Physical Science from the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Wallace currently resides in Arlington Virginia.
Celebrating and recognizing military families during the month of November has been a part of ASYMCA programming since 1996. And, judging from the responses and requests for packets, the interest has not diminished.

Over 800 packets have been sent to military family centers and DODEA schools around the world. Included in the packet are:

Program suggestions for highlighting the Month. Included is a certificate that you may present to families you would like to recognize.

Posters for display in key areas of the installation, such as family centers, schools, libraries, commissaries, exchanges, MWR facilities, and chapels. Your help in distributing these posters is appreciated. The posters highlighting 2011 art contest winners are made possible through the generous support of GEICO.

Lockheed Martin supports our annual essay contest.

News releases are included to announce Armed Services YMCA art and essay contests.

Additional forms for Art Contest 2012 and Essay Contest 2012 include flyers and entry forms. These forms will enable you to promote these contests to children of military in your area.

You may also download extra copies of all the information in this package for reprinting from our website at www.asymca.org. Look for the thumbnail of the MFM poster.

Best wishes for a successful Military Family Month program, and thank you for continued support of our military families!
Volunteers really make a difference at Watertown YMCA Operation Kid Comfort

Volunteer quilters are the Heart and Soul of our program at The Watertown Family YMCA Operation Kid Comfort quilt program. OKC had an amazing year in 2010 and we owe it all to our spectacular Volunteer quilters. They all give us their quality time, tons of support, fabric donations, and much more! Every stitch our quilters make is greatly appreciated by the OKC staff. The military children, who receive these wonderful hand crafted quilts, absolutely adore them also!

We now have over 248 volunteers who help keep our program running smoothly. Because of each volunteer’s heartfelt devotion to our OKC program, hundreds of children are able to receive a quilt from our office in NY to cuddle and snuggle with and provide comfort to them during the temporary separation of their deployed parent. From 370 quilts given in 2009, we increased our quilt numbers to over 600 in 2010. As of September 15th, 2011, we have reached 598 completed quilts all hand-made by our volunteers. The quilters are mostly located from all across New York State. However, we have several quilters who came to us from other states that have special attachments to the Fort Drum (10th Mountain Division) area and wanted to help our project as well. At the beginning of January 2010, we began to host monthly Quilt Workshops for our volunteers. At the workshops, we have ladies come in from different quilting groups and put together all of our OKC quilt kits as well. The ladies always have a great time as they are cutting our fabric pieces, matching and coordinating colors, and designing the kits.

By December of 2010, they had put together over 200 kits to keep us in good supply throughout the year. We, at Operation Kid Comfort, are able to meet and mingle with our volunteer quilters at every workshop as each of them share quilting stories and experiences while they work. This program means the world to them to be a part of something like this for our military families. Reetha Shumway writes, “It is such a good thing you are doing for these kids. I just can't get enough of it. It does my heart good.” We are blessed to have them help us with our mission as well.

OKC NY Staff:
Julie Hull – OKC Program Coordinator
Sandy Hill – OKC Program Assistant

Lawton Fort Sill ASYMCA Establishes Airport Welcome Center

The Lawton Fort Sill ASYMCA in collaboration with the local MOAA Auxiliary Chapter has established a military welcome center at the Lawton Ft. Sill Regional Airport. The Welcome Center will house a first class lounge where traveling military and family members may relax while waiting for their flights. The volunteers will greet military and family with cold drinks, snacks, and traveling information.

Seventy-four Welcome Center Volunteers have been trained and are currently serving at the airport Tuesday through Saturday each week. Over 28,000 military and their family members fly into the airport each year. The ASYMCA and MOAA Auxiliary are raising $70,000 to furnish a military lounge for our military families.
Teddy's Child Watch (sometimes called Children's Waiting Room) is the second program that has bubbled to the top because of TriWest support. Initially beginning at Tripler Army Hospital in the mid 1990's, Teddy's Child Watch can now be found in 7 ASY locations.

The idea is quite simple. Doctors prefer that well children not be brought into the hospital/clinic when sick Mom/Dad or sibling is being seen. The ASYMCA, partnering with the local military hospital, has responded to this request by establishing Teddy's Child Watch. The hospital turns over an unused/under utilized room that is transformed into a facility where parents can leave their well children while they visit the doctor for themselves or a sick child. The ASYMCA outfits the room with age-appropriate toys while many of the rooms have received furniture from Sesame Street. Staffing is generally accomplished with an ASYMCA paid volunteer coordinator. The remaining staff are local volun-
Support from TriWest Healthcare Alliance (continued from Page 1)

...teers. All will have received the necessary background checks and appropriate training for working with children. Sometimes the kids have so much fun they cry when leaving! ASYMCA Branches/DoD Affiliates that operate Teddy’s Child Watch include:

- Elmendorf AFB, AK
- Barber’s Point, HI
- Tripler Army Hospital, HI
- Schofield Barracks, HI
- Travis AFB, CA
- Bassett AMC, Fort Wainwright, AK
- MacDill AFB, FL
- Charleston AFB, SC

A sincere heartfelt THANK YOU! to Triwest Health Care Alliance for helping keep these programs not only going strong, but growing to other locations as well.
El Paso ASYMCA enters float in Sunbowl Parade

In celebration of our 150 years El Paso will enter a float into the El Paso Thanksgiving Sunbowl Parade. This will be the first time the branch has entered a float in the parade. “150 years growing under the Sun” will be the theme of the El Paso branch float. The float will feature a rotating sun and a tree to signify the growth of the ASYMCA and support to the military throughout the years.

Under the tree will be a WWII veteran dressed in his own original uniform, a Vietnam Veteran in his own uniform, a wounded soldier and another veteran. Tentative plans also include a replica of the civil war coffee wagon.

Also, Soldiers from the 4th BCT-1AD FSC (G Company) received cookies and sundries from the El Paso Junior Enlisted Family Center prior to their deployment.

Branch Bits

This year the ASYMCA Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) branch in Honolulu has been blessed with several community service facelift projects. In the spring, the first of two Eagle Scout community service projects included 25 boy scouts and family members who installed gravel planters along each outside wall of our building. The second included the same group of volunteers who built a 2 foot rock wall to hold a new metal sign for the Armed Services YMCA Aliamanu Family Branch. Now, our building is easier to find.

The Aliamanu Family Branch is in a housing area, not on base, and often faced with the difficulty of trying to keep outdoor spaces manicured and presentable. It is often the ASYMCA staff who mow the lawn. In September, the Navy Chiefs Indoctrination Volunteer project and the ACTUS/Lend Leasing annual volunteer project sent 25 volunteers, including new Chief Petty Officer Selectees and the mentoring CPOs, to mow the grass, move rocks and do a general landscaping cleanup. They also replanted plants along the parking lot side of our building.

This project helped pave the way for a larger volunteer project with volunteers from ACTUS/Lend Lease. During a July visit, Joanne Sedlor from the design office of ACTUS explained that each year ACTUS does an annual volunteer project and offered to adopt the ASYMCA AMR for this year’s project. It was decided the project would “renovate” the front of our buildings. A wooden siding was added on the front of the buildings, a small picket fence along the road side of the building, the siding and picket fence were painted and front walkways were landscaped. The change is tremendous! We have also been fortunate this year to receive assistance from the Army Department of Public Works, who painted the rest of our buildings and put a new roof on our porch area. All in all, the buildings look fantastic!
Whidbey Island ASYMCA is worth the effort of getting there

In March construction began on the street in front of Whidbey Island ASYMCA. The project made it a little more difficult to enter the branch, with the front parking lot impassable, but our services continued without missing a beat.

In June the branch had the annual Pre-school and Kindergarten graduation ceremony with 12 kindergarteners and 13 Pre-schoolers graduating and moving on to the next grade. It was a very nice ceremony with 150 guests, board members and parents attending the ceremony. The Board Chair, Mr. Chris Braun, presented each graduate with a diploma and class picture. The kindergarteners received a very special gift of a scrapbook of their year in kindergarten with us. Of course the highlight of the ceremony was the punch and cookies that were passed out afterwards.

This summer Whidbey Island ASY has taken the school age program into the present with the addition of two computers donated by Ms. Barbara Bockman, a local board member and the administrator of the local Brandman University on the base. Also the local “Mustang Officers Club” at NAS Whidbey donated several hundred dollars’ worth of educational programs for kindergarten through 5th grades. The children have kept the computers very busy playing and learning during the entire summer.

October saw the street in front of the Branch almost complete with our front parking lot fully usable again. As Fall rolled into the Northwest, the children were ready to go back to school, having had a fun filled summer.

Camp Pendleton ASYMCA takes a full 30-inch Step in 2011

The Camp Pendleton ASYMCA moved into 2011 taking a full 30 inch step with our many programs and services for military families. Following the holidays, the children’s preschool and after school Operation Hero programs continued.

In January, the branch established an Operation Kid Comfort program and by the end of July our quilters delivered over 160 quilts. The Project Liberty Call program expanded food and gas support to junior enlisted families who find themselves in a temporary financial bind. And one of our newest programs, Mothers In Transition (for women who potentially suffer from prenatal or postpartum depression) continued to grow.

This summer the branch provided Summer Fun for preschoolers, Camp Hero for elementary children and Camp FLASHHH for families with disabilities. Also, with the financial support of Sierra Club and Fisher House, we provided summer camp activities for an additional 260 children.

2011 began with the annual Volunteer Recognition and Board Installation dinner, followed quickly with Super Bowl Sunday, where the Marine students were entertained by the Raiderette Cheerleaders before the game started.

The fifth annual Father Daughter dance was held in late April with the theme of Bayou Ball and it was a grand affair. In May, our branch supported the community effort in recognizing our military’s service to the Nation with Operation Appreciation. Following the Mud Run and Golf Classic, the branch began preparations for the upcoming fall and winter events.
Local Medical Center Supports Killeen ASYMCA’s OpKids Program

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is partnering with the Armed Services YMCA of Killeen to help raise money for one of their key programs.

For every “like” Seton Medical Center Harker Heights’ page receives, it will donate $1 to Operation Kid Comfort, up to $5000.

As of October 17, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights’ Facebook page had 1,384 likes.

Melissa Purl, director of marketing for Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, said the idea was a mutual collaboration between Seton and ASYMCA.

“We’ve met so many people in the community. We were looking for something to do as a way to give back,” Purl said. “Operation Kid Comfort needs our support.”

Travis Knight, Associate Executive Director with the Armed Services YMCA, said Seton approached the organization to ask what kind of support they needed.

“We tossed around some ideas,” Knight said. “We thought one of the good programs that have great outcomes is Operation Kid Comfort.”

Operation Kid Comfort makes quilts for children of deployed military members that feature personal photographs. To date, the program has made nearly 6,000 quilts for children of deployed parents. Volunteers sew all of the quilts.

“We get pictures from the family,” said Tony Mino, executive director for the ASYMCA of Killeen. “We put nine pictures on the quilt, which is put together by one of our volunteers.”

Mino said the money helps buy material, backing, stuffing and a special material to transpose the photos onto the quilt. About $5,000 could help make about 145 quilts, Mino said.

As of August 2011, there have been 251 request for children 7 and over and 793 quilt request for those under seven years of age. That is a total of 1,044 requests since May 2009. Also during the first six months of 2011, volunteers made more than 200 quilts and 75 pillowcases for the children of deployed military members.

The Seton Medical Center Harker Heights Facebook page can be found online at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Seton-Medical-Center-Harker-Heights/138087092927786.

September 2, 2011, in the Killeen Daily Herald.

Americans Feeding Americans Event at the San Diego Armed Services YMCA

On October 12th, Feed The Children partnered with the San Diego Armed Services YMCA again to help supplement military food budgets.

During the Americans Feeding Americans event, 800 families were served with a large box of food and two boxes of personal hygiene items. We reached an office record, serving these 800 families in just 3 hours!

Many thanks to the strong group of military volunteers who had the assembly line system down and were very friendly and efficient.
Camp Lejeune ASYMCA is Thriving

Camp Lejeune is thriving! We have many new programs and events that have kept us busy throughout 2011.

In April we hosted our 1st Annual Healthy Kids Day, a FREE, fun-filled day of activities designed to promote healthy kids and families in spirit, mind and body. We had a great group of volunteers who assisted us, making it a very successful event. We were also very fortunate that the severe weather held off until shortly after we completed, when tornadoes ripped through Tarawa Terrace destroying homes and injuring marines and their families. Thankfully, our office suffered no damage and the ASYMCA was able to play an integral part in the relief effort, offering financial assistance, purchasing food vouchers and donating household items to those in need.

On a lovely Sunday in June we hosted our 1st Mother/Daughter Tea and Fashion Show. Moms, daughters and grandmothers dressed up and joined the ladies of the ASYMCA in tasting a variety of tea and finger foods. Everyone in attendance received a gift bag upon arrival and after devouring the delicious treats, we all walked the runway showing off our trendy outfits. We are already receiving calls to reserve tickets for next year's event!

In July we sponsored another “first” – a Poker Run! Motorcycle clubs and individual bikers came out to support this new fundraising event. The run started at Harley Davidson in New River, with stops at Mac Daddy's in Cape Carteret, Hog Wild in Hubert, Hooters in Jacksonville, and finally Combat Cycles. At each stop participants drew a card from a deck of cards and when they returned from the run, the individual with the best poker hand was declared the winner. Harley Davidson supplied food and drinks for everyone who participated and Tattoos by Buzz Jr. donated a $200 gift certificate to the holder of the Best Hand. We'd also like to thank the numerous other sponsors who provided both monetary donations and door prizes to make our event a huge success.

More fundraising continued in September as we hosted our 4th Annual Car, Truck and Bike show. Wal-Mart offered the ASYMCA the use of their parking lot and along with Pepsi and Coca Cola, donated money to pay for the 25 trophies that were awarded to the participants in a variety of classes and specialty classes. Car and truck clubs from as far away as Greenville, NC came to support the show, making this our largest event since its inception.

As we move into the fall we are looking forward to continuing our home school classes, Operation Hero - that has now expanded to a second school, and finally our Holiday Joy program, which will be the culmination of a great year!

Branch Bits

The ASYMCA of Hampton Roads held its ninth annual Father-Daughter Dance on June 17th. Over 100 dads and daughters dressed in finery attended the celebration, held the Friday before Father's Day every year. This year's sponsors of the event were Omni Financial and the Little Creek Bargain Shop.

The dance theme was “frogs” (Princess and the Frog). Each young princess received a rose, compliments of Troop Swap, and free portraits were taken of the attendees. There were hors d'oeuvres and punch, but the highlight of the night was the dancing.

ASYMCA of Hampton Roads Community Centers Director Kim Fadely heads the event ever year. She said, “The dance is a nice way for fathers and daughters to make a connection and build a lasting relationship. At the community centers, it's generally moms and kids spending time together. This is a chance for dads to have that quality time.”

Amber Klassen, whose husband and daughter attended the event, agreed. “Thank you for another amazing Father-Daughter Ball. There are no words to describe the bond that goes on the night of the dance between my daughter and husband. It melts my heart every time. This was the 2nd year we participated and are already looking forward to next year. Thank you for making it possible for these men to take part in such an inspiring program.”

Ms. Fadely said it takes about three months to plan the event and was thankful for the assistance of her volunteer planning committee and the sponsors that made it possible.
A Summer of Fun at Ft. Bragg/Pope AFB ASYMCA

The Fort Bragg ASYMCA kicked off its summer program with our first annual ASYMCA Family Fishing Derby at Lake Rim Park. Approximately 100 children and parents participated. Trophies were awarded for the most fish caught (17) and biggest fish (2.8 lbs)! The event proved very successful.

For the first time in eleven years the weather did not cooperate for our annual Kids’ Olympics. It was a cloudy and humid day, and before the events were finished the rain came. The unwanted conditions did not deter the tough athletes, parents and volunteers who braved the inclement weather and stayed until all the awards were presented. 280 medals were awarded for the ten events the children participated in. Huge thanks goes to the sponsors who have been with us throughout the years: Pizza Hut, The UPS Store, Pioneer Services and Picerne Military Housing, along with our newest sponsor Sandhills Pediatric and Family Dentistry. Without them, this event would not be possible.

More than 90 children enrolled in our Summer Adventure Camp that was held from June until the end of August. Highlights continued to be swimming at Fort Bragg pools twice a week and many field trips. Fort Bragg MWR has always gone out of its way to find a pool to accommodate our large group and their support is truly appreciated.

The annual Fall Festival was well attended again this year, with an expert staff of judges handing out prizes for the funniest, scariest and most unique costume.

As we head toward the end of the year, the Fort Bragg ASYMCA is diligently working on our Faces of Fort Bragg Photo Contest, Junior Enlisted Golf Outing and Turkey/Poker Run. We will culminate 2011 with our annual Holiday Hearts program.

Keni Thomas to speak at ASYMCA of Missouri Anniversary Gala

The Armed Services YMCA of Missouri will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Armed Services YMCA of the USA and the 25th anniversary of the Missouri branch on Saturday, October 22 with a gala dinner in Nutter Field House on Fort Leonard Wood. The event will include an awards ceremony and features keynote speaker Keni Thomas, former U.S. Army Ranger.

“We’re very excited to have Keni join our celebration,” said Mike Brame, chairman of the board of management for the ASYMCA of Missouri. “He’s a true hero with a very powerful message that really resonates,” he continued. “Keni’s story is amazing, his ability to demonstrate how one’s life changes when confronted with mortality is really special. It’s very moving.”

Mr. Thomas is a veteran of the events immortalized in the hit movie Black Hawk Down, detailing the Army’s 1993 raid in Mogadishu, Somalia to capture warlords who had been terrorizing the African nation. He uses the story of that battle to illustrate life lessons of courage, faith, leadership, and character. Mr. Thomas was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor with the “V” device, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Master Parachute wings with over 380 jumps.

In addition to the anniversary celebration, we will honor three military families for their service to our country. The three families will each receive a plaque, a weekend of entertainment, and $150 in spending money.

Since 1986, the Armed Services YMCA of Pulaski County, now the Armed Services YMCA of Missouri, has been serving families stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. As the military mission there has grown, so have the services of the ASY, which reached nearly 10,000 individuals from scores of families last year through programs ranging from Operation Kid Comfort and C.A.R.E.S. to summer camp and the highly acclaimed Warriors in Town.
No time for Hibernating in Alaska!

Armed Services YMCA of Alaska has been plenty busy over the past few months. In June, the branch hosted Operation Summer Solstice, teaming up with JBER’s (Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson) BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) program, also a KIDS partner agency, to distribute nearly 20,000 children’s clothing items to military families stationed in the Anchorage area. The event was held to help military families “Spring into Summer” with some new summer clothes for 335 military families with 823 military kids.

In July, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union stepped up once again as the title sponsor for the 22nd Annual ASYMCA Golf Tournament in Anchorage and the 7th Annual ASYMCA Golf Tournament in Fairbanks. Collectively the tournaments raised $44,000 to support the more than 30 programs and services the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska provides for nearly 60,000 military members and their families stationed in Alaska.

In July and August, ASYMCA of Alaska held two Mother Son Adventures, one in Anchorage and the other in Fairbanks. The 3rd Annual Mother Son Adventure’s theme was a creative Indiana Jones style “Search for the Temple of J-Bear” (pun intended). The obstacle course-filled scavenger hunt had 105 moms and sons crawling through the temple of doom (think bats, snakes and spider webs), and the inaugural Adventure in Fairbanks allowed 93 moms and sons to enjoy a day of bonding and activities.

Also, Operation Linen Giveaway passed out more than $60,000 worth of donated household goods and linens to help our junior enlisted out. We’ve had excellent participation in our facebook contests, and provided 300 tickets on Alaska Railroad through our Y on Rails program to service members throughout the state.

The branch held a volunteer and donor reception in October for our supporters in Fairbanks, and will thank those in the Anchorage area in November. We are looking forward to our revitalized Partner Investor campaign, called 10forTroops, and our goal is to raise $25,000 in November to support our programs.

Newman’s Own Awards Grant for Little Heroes at Ft. Campbell ASYMCA

In May of this year Ft. Campbell ASYMCA applied for and was excited to receive a Newman’s Own Grant of $12,000 for our Little Heroes program. Little Heroes is a free pre-school program offered here at Fort Campbell for children of deployed Soldiers.

The Little Heroes program began in September of 2010, when Ft. Campbell had over 25,000 Soldiers deployed. There were 4 full classes and a huge waiting list. Currently, with about 4,000 Soldiers deployed, the classes are full but our waiting list is not as long.

Little Heroes is open to all military dependents, regardless of rank, but priority is given to the children of Soldiers E-5 and below. Parents of children ages 3 and 4 can take advantage of this great opportunity to help prepare their child for Kindergarten. It is a structured play atmosphere with lots of fun exciting things for them to do each day.

Teachers form a strong bond with both the child and parent during their time here. Many of them have started participating in our other programs and activities, which makes it easier when they have to leave the Little Heroes program. Currently 73 children are enrolled in the program. We are excited to be able to help make a difference in the lives of these young children.
It’s always good to have a Brother at your side . . .

. . . and when seven showed up at the ASYMCA office, we felt especially blessed. Brother International Corporation is one of the premier providers of products for the home, home office and office. The donation of seven sewing machines for the Operation Kid Comfort Program boosted our ability to offer the program to a wider audience in the Greater DC area.

Beginning in 2010, the ASYMCA has been working with local corporate partners to provide a Day of Service for employees. Employees from Lockheed Martin, Microsoft and Walmart have participated in such workshops which are designed to help produce quilts for children of deployed military service personnel.

Most recently, some 25 employees from SAIC in the Northern Virginia area gathered in the Einstein Room at the McLean Towers and spent the day constructing quilt tops. Families were encouraged to attend and it was a homogenous mix of young and old. Several husband/wife teams joined as well. The event was so well received, they have asked us to return. But SAIC support does not stop with employee involvement. Additionally, corporate support in the amount of $5000 will go a long way in support of the program, adding significantly to the over 18,000 quilts/pillows distributed since the program’s inception.

Karen Mudry & Pat Massimini assemble Kid Comfort Kits

Erin Beddingfield, Kerri Harris & Alexandra Saris (not pictured) coordinated the quilting event for SAIC.

Donna Sinrud tests one of the donated Brother machines

OKC Volunteers and SAIC employees show off the finished product

GOOD JOB, EVERYONE!!