Military Family Support Center

MFSC NEWS

March

Fill the ~~Humvee~~ Box Truck

March's Fill the Humvee food drive was missing one important element– the Humvees. The sequester and budget cuts are hitting close to home. The Army Reserve, who usually provided the Humvees for the event, were unable to spare them due to the recent cutbacks. Special thanks to ServPro for lending us a couple of their trucks to use. Even with the small setback, the community really stepped out to help despite the cold and Easter events that were going on. Over $5,000 in food, gift cards, and cash was donated at the Salem and Clearbrooke Wal-marts. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and to those who made donations. You have made a difference!

MFSC Scholarship

The deadline for applying for the MFSC scholarship has been moved back to April 19 to account for units that have only recently heard of it. From last months newsletter: Any high school senior interest in applying for the scholarship should check out the MFSC website and look under the Services & Programs tab. To qualify, they need to have a parent who is currently serving in the military. It is open to the children of active duty, National Guard, and Reserve members. After filling out the online application, which includes a short 200 word writing sample, applicants will be chosen by an independent committee. The deadline of April 19 is fast approaching for applications to be submitted. This is a great opportunity to gain some financial aid for college. Don't miss out!

Regional Veterans Job Fair

The Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center is partnering with other local military support organizations to sponsor the second annual job fair only open to veterans. The event starts at 9 am on Tuesday, April 30 and goes until 2pm. The fair will take place at the VAMC auditorium in building 5. There will be 30 employers looking for employees. Staff will also be available to help with the applications, resumes, and to give tips to help the veteran get hired. It will also be an opportunity to explore other veterans benefits with resources made available. Visit the website for more information: **salem.va.gov**

OMK Wall of Heroes

Operation Military Kids is doing their April Wall of Heroes where they ask groups and organizations to dedicate a wall to the service members and their families. A wall of heroes should include photos of the Service members and their children. With a ribbon at the corner to of the photo, the first name of the child and their relationship to the Service member should be shown. It is a great way to recognize our Service members and their families within the local communities. To receive a download of the photo template and order a free banner email: **megan11@vt.edu**

Bradley Free Clinic

For residents in the Roanoke area, the BFC is a resource to meet the medical needs of the working uninsured. This includes those members of our military who do not receive their health benefits. Whether it is because they opt out of Tricare or for other reasons, not all service members are insured. Located at 1240 Third Street in Roanoke, the BFC works in primary care, chronic care, eye exams, lab work, women's health-care, minor surgery, psychiatry, physicals, and dental. Anyone interested in their services must make a screening appointment prior to making a medical appointment so do not wait to contact them. Visit bradleyfreeclinic.com or call (540) 344-5156 for details. The MFSC recommends you sign up to be a MFSC client and receive a client card before going. This will allow the MFSC to be your reference for any questions the BFC may have. Put us in your corner!

Roanoke Area OMK Camp

Between May 31 and June 2 OMK is hosting a Theatre Arts Weekend Camp. Grant funding is covering most of the $250 cost, though families will have to pay $10 per child. The weekend camp is open to boys and girls age 8 to 15 of a parent or guardian who is a service member or DOD Civilian, and live in a geographically dispersed area, meaning away from base. This applies to all branches of service. There is space for 30 youth. The camp will have fun activities and youth events including crafts, swimming, evening campfire events, educational programming, Mobile Tech Lab, recreation, outdoor and indoor experiences, loads of fun, good food, and comfortable lodging. For more information email: bmeadows@vt.edu or call 540-808-3304