



# Survivor Outreach Services ...keeping the promise

**23rd Edition—March 2012**  
**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



**ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS FOR  
FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN (ICFF)**

**You can help other Families of Fallen  
Service Members!**

## SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES



**Delivering the Army's  
Commitment to Survivors**

Survivor Outreach Services  
provides support services for  
Active, Reserve and  
Army National Guard Families.



**ARMY FAMILY COVENANT:  
Keeping the Promise**

**ARMYOneSource.com**

Illinois Connections for Families of the Fallen (ICFF) is a collaborative effort by non-profit agencies, and the Army Survivor Outreach Services, that specialize in serving Families of Fallen Service Members. ICFF helps families of the fallen find their new normal through diligently connecting these families to services, resources, and peers. ICFF constantly looks for ways to support and to create new opportunities for families to interact in their local communities, which is where you come in.

ICFF is asking for your input in redesigning or adding to our programs so that they best meet your needs and interests. We want to know what you want from us, or what you think would help other families. We encourage you to be creative and honest in your comments and ideas. If you feel like your opinion would be better served through a medium other than this survey, then please don't hesitate to contact us directly at (312) 265-9109 or at [ICFF@hdadvocates.org](mailto:ICFF@hdadvocates.org).

We appreciate your taking two minutes to respond to our questionnaire, which help us hone events, groups, and projects to further support families.

<http://tinyurl.com/73ex24u>

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# UPCOMING EVENTS:

*The below is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to imply endorsement by the Illinois National Guard or Survivor Outreach Services Program of any event, organization, corporation, or product.*

## EMAIL UPDATES

If you received this Newsletter by regular mail, consider sending us your email address so that information can be sent out quickly and at no cost. Send an Email to: [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil) and be added to our confidential distribution list for future newsletters and timely email updates about news, benefits, and



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### **Support Group for Family Members of Fallen Service Members**—an ICFF initiative

Saturday, March 10th, 2012 — 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Please bring a covered dish. (Pot Luck)

**\*\*NEW GROUP\*\***

Springfield VET Center

1227 Ninth Street

Springfield, IL 62703

RSVP to Bobby Gillmore (217) 761-3382 or [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil)

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### **Support Group for Family Members of Fallen Service Members**—an ICFF initiative

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 — 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Please bring a covered dish. (Pot Luck)

**\*\*NEW MEMBERS WELCOME\*\***

Springfield VET Center

1227 Ninth Street

Springfield, IL 62703

RSVP to Bobby Gillmore (217) 761-3382 or [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil)

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### **Financial Strategies for Recent Survivors:**

Wednesday, April 4th, 2012 — 6:00—7:00 pm

Call in to talk with Mark and other SOS Financial Counselors about tax and financial opportunities/issues of which Survivors, especially those that are within 1 year of receiving the death gratuity/SGLI, can potentially take advantage. Contact Mark Dunlop (573-563-3004 or your local SOS team member if you wish to participate.



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### EMAIL UPDATES

If you received this Newsletter by regular mail, consider sending us your email address so that information can be sent out quickly and at no cost. Send an Email to: [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil) and be added to our confidential distribution list for future newsletters and timely email updates about news, benefits, and events.

# Save the Date



## ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS FOR FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN (ICFF)

in partnership with Survivor Outreach Services

### Connections in the Capital City!

A joint effort between ICFF and the Illinois National Guard to serve Families of Fallen Service Members.

*A special session will be presented by the Illinois National Guard*



**May 5, 2012 • 10 am - 4 pm**

**Registration begins at 9 am**

**Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepard Road,  
Springfield, IL 62794-9256 in Menard Hall**

**Details Coming Soon!**

For questions contact: (312) 265-9109 or [ICFF@hdadvocates.org](mailto:ICFF@hdadvocates.org)



Find us on Facebook



## SOS Financial Counseling Services

**Jon Cook**  
**Rock Island, IL**  
**(309) 782-0815**

**Mark Dunlop**  
**Ft. Leonard Wood, MO**  
**(573) 596-0153**

## SCHOLARSHIPS



**DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund**  
Administered by The National Guard Educational  
Foundation



**NATIONAL  
GUARD  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

### APPLICATION CRITERIA AND INFORMATION

#### Eligibility Criteria for ALL Scholarship Grants

1. A scholarship applicant must be a dependent son or daughter of a National Guard member who died in an operational or training mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn.
2. All scholarship grants are to help cover the cost of tuition, applicable room and board, fees, and books.
3. All educational institutions to be attended by scholarship recipients must be geographically located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Guam.
4. All scholarship applicants or previous scholarship recipients must apply or re-apply each year no later than June 30.
5. Send scholarship applications and required documentation to:  
*The National Guard Educational Foundation  
Attention: DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund  
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001*
6. Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than August 1.
7. All scholarship grants awarded will be paid directly to the educational institution to be attended by the scholarship recipient.

#### Eligibility Criteria for Applicants for Four (4) - Year Scholarship Grants

1. High school students in their junior or senior year with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or equivalent who have been accepted to a nationally or regionally accredited four (4) - year college or university.
2. Full-time students currently attending a nationally or regionally accredited four (4) - year college or university who maintain a GPA of 2.5 or equivalent for the academic year immediately preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is sought.
3. Applicants may apply for a maximum of four annual grants of \$6,250 per year for a total of \$25,000.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Eligibility Criteria for Applicants for Two (2) - Year Scholarship Grants

1. High school students in their junior or senior year with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or equivalent who have been accepted to a nationally or regionally accredited community college or technical school
2. Full-time students currently attending a nationally or regionally accredited community college or technical school with a GPA of 2.5 or equivalent for the academic year immediately preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is sought.
3. Applicants may apply for a maximum of two annual grants of \$6,250 per year for a total of \$12,500.

### Application must include:

1. Official high school, college, university, or technical school transcript, as applicable
  2. Recommendation letter from teacher, college or university professor, or school instructor \*
  3. One-page essay on the applicant's deceased parent \*
  4. The applicant's family's tax return or copy of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the tax or calendar year immediately preceding the year for which the scholarship is sought
  5. Acceptance letter to nationally or regionally accredited four (4) - year college or university, or community college or technical school \*
  6. Certificate of good standing or equivalent from the institution to be attended showing the applicant's full or part time status, as applicable
- \* Only required the first time a scholarship is applied for.

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2012**

## TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

In recognition of their sacrifice, the Army's Family and MWR Command is offering discounted rates at Armed Forces Recreation Centers to military Families who have lost a Family member in service to our Nation. Armed Forces Recreation Centers are full service resort hotels designed and operated by the Army to provide Soldiers, service members, DA Civilians and their Families with resort-style accommodations at affordable prices. —This is one more way to assure Survivors that we'll always consider them part of the Army Family, said FMWRC Commander Maj. Gen. Reuben D. Jones. —Families of the Fallen deserve our respect, gratitude and the very best support and services that we can provide. Participating locations include the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort at the foot of the Bavarian Alps in Garmish, Germany; the Dragon Hill Lodge in downtown Seoul, Korea; the Hale Koa Hotel on Waikiki Beach in Hawaii; Shades of Green at Walt Disney World in Florida; and the Cape Henry Inn and Beach Club in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Survivors may sponsor up to three guest rooms at the discounted rate. Some restrictions apply.

For more information, visit [ArmyMWR.com](http://ArmyMWR.com).

# GRANTS

## Our Military Kids

**Our Military Kids** provides substantial support in the form of grants to the children of National Guard and Military Reserve personnel who are currently deployed overseas, as well as the children of Fallen Service Members & Wounded Warriors in all branches. The grants from **Our Military Kids** pay for participation in sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is away in service to our country or recovering from injury.



### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

#### Who can receive a grant?

Children of fallen military personnel killed in action in 2010, 2011, and 2012 while serving overseas in support of OEF/OND **OR** on a training mission while on mobilization orders. Eligible children age 3 through grade 12 may apply.

#### What documentation is required as proof that a parent was KIA in support of OEF/OND?

A copy of military form DD 1300 (Report of Casualty Statement) or Certificate of Death will provide the necessary verification that a child is eligible for the grant program. The parent must have been KIA in the calendar years of 2010, 2011, and 2012.

#### Does the family have to meet income qualifications before a child can receive a grant?

No. Family income is not a consideration in determining whether a child is eligible to receive a grant.

#### Are there restrictions on the types of activities for which grants are awarded?

Yes. We cover fees for extra-curricular programs like sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs. We do NOT cover day care expenses, academic tuition, or mission trips. To see a complete list, go to [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org) and look at "Activities Covered", or call the office at 703-734-6654.

#### What tutoring services qualify under this program and what documentation is required?

**Grants for tutoring services are available to all dependent children of service members KIA 2001-Present.** The check can be paid to *organizations* providing tutoring services or to *private tutors holding a teaching license or certification*. A letter from the private instructor is required, verifying that the child is being tutored must include fee information and mailing address and contact information.

#### What documentation is needed to support the amount of grant requested by the child?

The application must be accompanied by a copy of a brochure, flyer, website page, or official letter from the organization providing the activity or service. Please circle or highlight the registration fee, rental fee, or instruction fee that applies to the program the child is enrolling in.

# GRANTS — CONTINUED



## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Continued

### **Will I receive a check in the mail?**

No. If your request for a grant is approved, a check will be sent and made payable to the organization indicated on the grant application form. The applicant will receive formal written notification of acceptance within 2 weeks of receipt of application.

### **Does the family have to repay the grant?**

No. The grant does not have to be paid back to Our Military Kids.

### **May the same child apply for more than one grant?**

No. Because we want as many children as possible to be able to take advantage of the grant program, we are only able to award one grant per child.

### **May more than one child from a family apply for a grant?**

Yes, each child in an eligible family may receive a grant award.

### **How does Our Military Kids, Inc. determine which children receive grants?**

The mission of our organization is to provide a grant to each child submitting an application that meets all established guidelines. We will review each request and consider the applications in the order in which they are received at our office. We will award grants to all qualified applicants as long as funds are available.

### **What are the sources of funding?**

Grants from Our Military Kids, Inc. are made possible by the generous contributions from corporations, charitable foundations and individuals listed under "Our Sponsors" on our website.



**Our MILITARY Kids, Inc.**

**GRANT APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN OF FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS**

*Please complete the following information, one application per child:*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE VERIFY WHERE THE CHECK SHOULD BE SENT. MANY TIMES IT IS A DIFFERENT ADDRESS FROM WHERE THE CHILD PARTICIPATES IN THE ACTIVITY.**

Grant Request Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Activity: (i.e., soccer,dance,tutoring) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ - State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION**

I understand that additional information may be required to adequately verify eligibility for a grant. By signing this form, I am permitting a representative of **Our Military Kids, Inc.** to contact the Department of Defense and/or the organization provided on this form. I also certify that all the information I have supplied is true and correct.

Name of deceased Service Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Military branch of fallen service member: \_\_\_\_\_

Service member was deployed in support of: OEF OIF OND GWOT (*Circle one*)

\_\_\_\_\_, am signing this form for \_\_\_\_\_

Full printed name of person requesting grant Printed name of child

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*I have attached a copy of ALL of the following documentation:*

\_\_\_ a brochure or flyer from the organization providing the activity

\_\_\_ a copy of the child's military dependent ID **OR** birth certificate

\_\_\_ A copy of DD FORM 1300 **OR** a copy of service member's certificate of death

**Completed and signed applications to be sent to:**  
Our Military Kids, Inc.  
6861 Elm Street, Suite 2-A  
McLean, VA 22101

**Fax to:**  
703-734-6503

**Questions:**  
Call: 703-734-6654  
Toll Free: 1-866-691-6654  
Email: [omkinquiry@ourmilitarykids.org](mailto:omkinquiry@ourmilitarykids.org)

# GIFTS FOR FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN

The following are links to gifts for families and loved ones of our men and women in uniform who devoted their lives in service to their country. The list below is not a complete listing and does not imply endorsement. Please check the websites below for further information and specific details of eligibility.

## **Angels of Love**

<http://www.angelsoflove.org/>

Provides a stained-glass, gold-plated Angel that is branch specific.

## **Operation Thankful Nation**

<http://www.operationthankfulnation.com/>

Provides personalized porcelain keepsake ornament and Comfort CD

## **Marine Comfort Quilts**

<http://www.marinecomfortquilts.us/>

Provides handmade quilt to families of the fallen in any branch of the military.

## **Project Compassion**

<http://www.heropaintings.com/>

Provides free hand painted portraits, framed and shipped.

## **Fallen Heroes Project**

<http://www.fallenheroesproject.org/>

Free portrait of fallen service member by artist Michael Reagan.

## **Soldiers Angels' Living Legends**

<http://www.soldiersangels.org/>

Offers each family a wreath or live memorial tree and coordinates Portraits of Memory.

## **Operation Remembrance**

<http://www.operationremembrance.org/>

Provides memory boxes to the families of the fallen

## **Sacrifice for Freedom**

<http://www.sacrificeforfreedom.org/>

Offers a small hand built memorial sculpture for families of fallen service members.

## **Soldiers Portraits**

<http://www.soldiersportraits-mwilcox.net/>

Pastel portraits Martha Wilcox for the families and friends of fallen heroes.



## Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

SOS was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire.

The SOS program continuously strives to provide the highest quality of services to surviving Family members of fallen Warriors. As such, we want to provide you with information on the SOS program in your area. We stand ready to serve you and answer your questions.

### **Services Available:**

- Provide Expertise on State & Federal Survivor benefits
- Arrange for estate and financial advice
- Connect Survivors with mental health support/counseling
- Provide assistance in obtaining military reports
- Provide Survivors with resource referrals for:
  - Peer Support
  - Bereavement Counseling
  - Emergency Financial Services
  - Military Legal Assistance
  - TRICARE
  - Educational Benefits
  - Benefits Assistance

Bobby Gillmore, SOS Support Coordinator  
Joint Forces Headquarters, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702-2399  
(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell, email: [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil)

Jim Frazier, SOS Support Coordinator  
Woodstock Armory, 1301 Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098  
(708) 646-5933 cell, email: [james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil)

Robert Sheahan, SOS Support Coordinator  
East St. Louis Armory, 2931 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205-2233  
(618) 558-4196 cell, email: [robert.sheahan@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.sheahan@us.army.mil)

Jack Wilson, SOS Support Coordinator  
Building 110, East Avenue, Rock Island, IL  
(309) 782-0816 office, email: [jack.wilson2@us.army.mil](mailto:jack.wilson2@us.army.mil)

Latanya Yarbrough, SOS Support Coordinator  
10 S 100 South Frontage Road, Darien, IL 60561-1780  
(404) 563-0593 cell, email: [latanya.r.yarbrough@usar.army.mil](mailto:latanya.r.yarbrough@usar.army.mil)

Check us out online at:

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/family/survivoroutreach>

# Helpful Contacts and Resources:



Check out the Illinois Connections for Families of the Fallen (ICFF)  
“Community Connections” Resource Guide!

[http://www.nchsd.org/libraryfiles/HDAFiles/Veterans%20Project/11\\_11\\_Resourcesguide.pdf](http://www.nchsd.org/libraryfiles/HDAFiles/Veterans%20Project/11_11_Resourcesguide.pdf)

## **Military & Family Life Consultants**

Central/South (217) 720-0268  
North: 708-638-2068

Providing free, confidential problem solving to all service members and their families. MFLC's travel to your home town. (12 free sessions)

## **Military OneSource**

12 free sessions per issue from a counselor in your area (no cost)  
1-800-342-9647 or [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Free counseling for all family members including spouses, children, parents and siblings (no cost) 1-800-827-1000 or <http://www.va.gov>

## **TRICARE**

Health and Dental Insurance  
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>

## **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**

1-800-959-TAPS (8277) or [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)

## **Social Security Administration**

1-800-772-1213 or <http://www.ssa.gov>

## **Defense Finance & Accounting Office**

1-800-321-1080 or [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

## **National Military Families Association (NMFA)**

<http://www.militaryfamily.org>

## **Gold Star Wives of America**

1-888-751-6350 or <http://www.goldstarwives.org/>

## **American Gold Star Mothers**

202-265-0991 or <http://www.goldstarmoms.com/>



Army Survivor Outreach Services  
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62702-2399



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OUTREACH  
SERVICES**



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Bobby Gillmore, SOS Support Coordinator  
Joint Forces Headquarters, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702-2399  
(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell, email: [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil)

Jim Frazier, SOS Support Coordinator  
Woodstock Armory, 1301 Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098  
(708) 646-5933 cell, email: [james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil)

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(618) 558-4196 cell, email: [robert.sheahan@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.sheahan@us.army.mil)

Check us out online at:

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/family/survivoroutreach>