



Until Every One Comes Home.



Indiana

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Volume 4 Issue 1

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Families of the Fallen - Response Team

Those who volunteer with the USO, do so for a variety of reasons and callings. As the editor of this newsletter, I am speaking from personal experience when I say that there are moments for all of us when we remind ourselves why we do what we do. Such moments are usually silent thoughts, when you see an expression on the face of a troop or family member..., or perhaps a child..., and you know why you are there. Such moments revive the spirit and the calling to carry on. In this newsletter you will read about two programs that evoke such feelings; the *Families of the Fallen*, and the *Snowball Express*. Both programs were created for the children and families of the fallen.

The mission of the USO has adapted as the needs of the troops and their families has presented itself. The USO, on a national level, has stepped up to address the *Families of the Fallen*.

Bob Legacy - Editor, USO Indiana newsletter

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A family who has lost a warrior is confronted with a blizzard of details and confusion in the somber journey to receive the remains of their loved one. The TSA hassle, while understandable in the context of national security, often appears as just another ordeal. Even ticketing and dealing with airlines, as much as most are respectful and courteous, can be an additional burden.

This particular journey finds the family facing the mundane trials and tribulations of modern air travel alone and isolated in a palpable container of their grief. Few friendly faces or understanding hearts greet every turn.

The USO has teamed up with *Families of the Fallen* to form the Families of the Fallen Response Team (FFRT). The purpose of the FFRT is to address those needs a family has during this trying time.

“The USO supports dignified transfers at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. That is the first stop on American soil for U.S. troops who’ve paid the ultimate price while serving their country. The USO provides respite and comfort to grieving families who are coming to Dover to witness the return of their loved ones. The USO offers families travel assistance, supports the families’ on-site needs, and introduces them to special programs to help cope with their grief when they return home. The USO also provides a full service respite center for mortuary affairs teams from each service branch. These troops perform the solemn, honorable and stressful duty of preparing their fallen comrades for their final resting place.

The USO’s commitment to support troops and their families through every part of their service remains strong during these difficult times. Since the USO first began supporting families of the fallen, thousands of family members have been impacted by the services and programs we offer and we will continue to be there for the families of the fallen when they need us most.” USO of Indiana, Families of the Fallen Response Team manual.

Did you Know!

For 2012 USO Indiana served over 177,000 troops. This was accomplished through our four USO centers and the many events held throughout the year.

USO Camp Atterbury
★ 147,000

USO Indy Airport
★ 24,000

USO Muscatatuck
★ 2,000

USO Fort Wayne
★ 500

Events
★ 3,500

In a tragic coincidence, the FFRT was involved with the transit of two families this past autumn at nearly identical time frames. This coincidence demonstrated how, even in grief, stricken families reach out to one another.

On Thursday, September 13, 2012 Sgt. Kyle B. Osborn was killed in action in Afghanistan. His father, Creighton Osborn and step-mother Christa Osborn, were routed through Indianapolis on their journey to participate in the Ceremonial Reception of their son's remains at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

Mary Jo Watson is the point of contact (POC) for the FFRT and was notified of the travel plans. She called another team member to action and they contacted the airline desk, explained the mission and asked for support in expediting the Osborns through the whole ticketing process and gate pass procedure. The airlines cooperated by providing documentation that allowed them to avoid standing in line. Even when their seats were determined to not be side by side, the airline cooperated and remedied that.

In spite of the quick and courteous responsiveness of the airlines, the Osborns still had time on their hands waiting for their flight. The USO provided them with a comfortable, quiet space in which to wait. The active duty military personnel at the USO were informed of the situation and they responded with respect and space. The family said they felt comfortable surrounded by a military family.

When the flight was announced for boarding the FFRT team approached the TSA and they responded with respect and expediency. The airline was requested and afforded the Osborns the honor of boarding first as well.

They made their return transit through Indianapolis on September 18 only to be 'met' by another tragedy in the death of another warrior, Marine Sgt. Bradley Atwell. Both families were at Indianapolis International Airport at the same time.

In response to Sgt. Atwell's family's travel itinerary ,two additional FFRT volunteers were assigned to the mission. Both arrived and proceeded to assist by escorting the Atwells to the USO.

At the USO the fathers of the fallen warriors met and spent some time chatting together. Embracing one another in their mutual grief within the quiet, respectful confines of the USO was a special moment, especially for those of us privileged enough to be there.

All four FFRT team members quietly assisted both families in their transit, expediting both ticketing and TSA. The two Atwell family team members also provided support upon the Atwell's return transit. One of the goals is to have the same team members be there for the families coming and going, providing a continuity of care for them.

Current FFRT team members for USO Indiana include:

Mary Jo Watson, POC and team leader
 Sandy Hughey
 Bob Clifford
 Jim Haarbauer
 David Heady
 Betty Magers
 Jim Norman
 Mary Ann Phillips-Figuerras

Many of the team members have military experience, all are connected in some manner. All are dedicated to being there for these families as they deal with their loss. They are forming a community of care as much as a 'team'.

May God help them in their task and may their task be unnecessary as much as possible.

David E. Heady

USO Indiana volunteer and member; FFRT



Boots & Brushes

In the November 2012 issue you read about an event held at Camp Atterbury called *Boots & Brushes*. The explanation of *Boots & Brushes* was not exactly accurate. We wanted to clear this up and pay homage to the Indiana Artists club who donates all materials for *Boots & Brushes*.

What is *Boots & Brushes*? One of our very talented Volunteers, Jeri Cannon, brings all of the needed supplies to USO Camp Atterbury and sets up for an evening of creativity: canvases, brushes, and paints. Jeri works with the troops in a classroom style setting, assisting them with their creativity. Each troop who joins in usually completes at least one piece and sometimes more by the end of the session. We then offer to mail their work home for them. We have discovered that we have a lot of very talented troops.



Jeri is a member of the *Indiana Artists Club*, who donates all of the materials.

The Indiana Artists Club, Inc. voted to contribute \$500 to the USO *Boots & Brushes* program at Camp Atterbury in support of the arts and craft activities. Jerry Points, president of the association of artists said, "Our board of directors became aware of the activities from Jeri Cannon, treasurer of IAC. We were moved by how much the

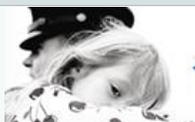
soldiers enjoyed the art activities and wanted to contribute art supplies to this important endeavor."

The Indiana Artists Club, Inc. history: Forty-six prominent artists living and working in Indiana founded the Indiana Artists Club in 1917. The original group includes such notables as T. C. Steele, William Forsyth, Otto Stark, Carl Graf, Wayman Adams, Simon Baus, Marie Goth, Frederick Polley, Clifton Wheeler, Randolph Coats, Carl Lieber and Alex Holiday.



For more information about the Indiana Artists Club, you can visit their website:

www.indianaartistsclub.org - or - Like us on FaceBook



All Aboard for the Snowball Express!



The Snowball Express is one program that USO Indiana volunteers are very proud to participate in. Just before Christmas, a team of USO Indiana volunteers were on hand at the Indianapolis Airport to provide whatever assistance was needed for the families of the fallen.

The mission of the Snowball Express organization is:

OUR MISSION:

Honor America's fallen military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11 by humbly serving the families they left behind. Champion their children's future success by creating opportunities for joy, friendship, and communal healing, by connecting these families to one another.

To learn more about the Snowball Express, visit their website:
www.snowballexpress.org



The USO Indiana Annual Volunteer Christmas party was held at the Camp Atterbury Conference Center on December 8th. A good number of volunteers attended and were treated to a fabulous meal provided by Cibus Catering. USO Indiana President Duane Straw and Executive Director Doug Warnecke gave a brief review of USO Indiana's performance during 2012.

Ginny Emerson, chair of the HR Committee introduced the new volunteer service award program and presented volunteers with certificates of achievement. Of note were six volunteers that have been with USO of Indiana for 10+ years.



In the photo from left to right: Bill Springer, Rita Springer, Sandy Hughey, Betty Steed, Ellan Curley. Other volunteers that were not able to make the Christmas Party include: Harold Aron, Bill Brown, Jim Grady, Ruth Grady, Molly Kurpis, Joyce Zimmerman

Ellan Curley and Joyce Zimmerman were 11 year volunteers. The others are 10 year volunteers.

A new part of this program is a *length of service award* emblem to recognize our volunteers for their commitment to USO of Indiana. Starting at 5 years, these emblems can be attached to the volunteer's name tag with pride.

Upcoming Events for Troop Support & Fundraising

Event: Boots & Brushes

Where: Camp Atterbury USO Center
When: Wednesday January 16th @ 6:30pm

Crdntr: Tanya Sells

Mission: Boots & Brushes is where one of our USO volunteers and artist, Jeri Cannon, has organized this activity with all supplies donated by the *Columbus Indiana Arts Council*. We would need volunteers to help with the set up and tear down of supplies, snacks, and desserts.

Volunteers Needed

Event: Bingo

Where: Camp Atterbury USO Center
When: Wednesday January 23rd @ 6:30pm

Crdntr: Tanya Sells

Mission: Volunteers will help with set up and tear down of prizes and bingo supplies. Also possibly supply snacks and desserts.

Volunteers Needed

Event: 1500 Gun and Knife Show Fundraiser

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds
When: January 18th – 20th

Crdntr: Tina Coachys

Mission: The Indianapolis 1500 Gun & Knife Show is an annual (actually 5 times each year) event in which USO Indiana participates. This event is one of our biggest in terms of donations received. It is always a 3-day weekend and, as such, it's also one of our largest in terms of volunteers needed. We're asking for 2 to 3 volunteers per shift to operate our USO table at the show which is held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Our volunteers answer questions about USO Indiana and request donations.

Volunteers Needed

Event: Super Bowl Party

Where: Camp Atterbury USO Center
When: February 3rd @ TBD

No Volunteers Needed

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Event: 1500 Gun and Knife Show
Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds
When: There are 5 shows per year in Jan, Mar, June, Aug, Oct
Crdntr: Tina Coachys (*see below*)
Volunteers are Needed

Next Events Committee Meeting – the First Monday of each month. Held at USO Offices, Tyndall Armory at 6pm. (*call Bethany to confirm*)

Troop Events Committee Contacts

Chair: Bethany Anderson

Bethany Anderson	bethanyuso@gmail.com	(317) 435-2780
Amanda Lewallen	alewallen@orthoindy.com	(317) 443-6852
Susan Sears	ssears@iuhealth.org	(765) 346-0324
Tanya Sells	tes73usa@comcast.net	(317) 752-7481
Frankie Miller	usocoordinatorca@yahoo.com	(812) 526-1492

Fundraising Events Committee Contacts

Tina Coachys	tinacoachys@me.com	(317) 439-8709
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★ **Corporate Office & Support Center**

Location: USO of Indiana
Tyndall - Moorehead Armory
711 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-771-2788

e-mail: usoindiana@att.net

→ **All USO Indiana Mail & Shipping should be directed to:**

USO of Indiana
PO Box 441160
Indianapolis, IN 46244-1160

★ **USO Center Indianapolis Int'l Airport**

Located in the lower level baggage claim area by carousel #3
(317)-241-6070

★ **USO Center Camp Atterbury**

Building 347, Camp Atterbury
(812) 526-1499 x 3965 (Center)
(812) 526-1492 (Coordinator's Office)

★ **USO Center Muscatatuck**

Muscatatuck Urban Training Center
Butlerville, Indiana 47223
812-458-8780

★ **USO Center Ft. Wayne-Air Nat'l Guard**

122nd FW - Indiana Air Nat'l Guard
Bldg. 780 - 3500 Ferguson Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46809-0122
317-408-9604



USO INDIANA - MISSION STATEMENT

THE USO MISSION IS TO PROVIDE MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION-TYPE SERVICES TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM, AND THEIR FAMILIES



USO INDIANA - VISION STATEMENT

THE VISION OF USO INDIANA IS TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE UNIFORMED SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, INCLUDING THEIR FAMILIES, WITHIN THE STATE OF INDIANA



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USO of Indiana Leadership

Newsletter Editor: Bob Legacy

Board of Directors: (15-20 member board)

- Duane Straw President & CEO
- Bob Legacy Vice President
- Scott Chaplin Treasurer
- Steve Gross Secretary
- Larry Muncie LTC (R) US Army - Immediate Past Pres.
- Jim Bixler LTC (R) WellPoint, Inc. (ret.)
- James Pridgen Cummins, Inc (ret.)
- William Thompson AM General, LLC
- Cathleen Rooney Golden Rule Insurance Corp. (ret.)
- Charles Ridings CMDR(R) US Navy
- Carl Huber WaterFurnace International, Inc
- Dave Wright Cummins, Inc (ret.)
- Brock Goggins Huntington National Bank
- Jeff Terp Ivy Tech Community College
- Mary Hall Sign-A-Rama - Carmel
- Matt Haugk Rolls Royce Defense

USO of Indiana - Staff

Executive Director: Doug Warnecke COL(R)

Center Coordinators:

- USO Camp Atterbury Frankie Miller
- USO Indy Airport Jeff Loop
- USO Muscatatuck Duane Straw (*interim coordinator*)
- USO Ft. Wayne ANG Carl Huber
- Recording Secretary: Teri Stoops

Committees

- Events: Bethany Anderson Chair
- Public Relations: John Foster Chair
- Communications: Bob Legacy Chair
- Development: Dave Wright Chair
- Corporate Larry Muncie LTC (R) Chair
- Fund Raising Tina Coachys Chair
- Foundation Jim Coachys Chair
- Philanthropic *Open seat* Chair
- Human Resources: Ginny Emerson Chair
- Finance & Budget: Scott Chaplin Chair
- By-Laws: Larry Muncie LTC (R) Chair
- Ethics: Jim Bixler LTC (R) Chair
- Audit: *Ad Hoc Committee*
- Emeritus Council: *Ad Hoc Committee*

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