



Friends of Military Families, Inc

2306 Florida Keys Ave
MacDill AFB, FL 33621
813-828-2721

The creation of our non-profit Private Organization took place shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept 11, 2001. The outpouring of help from our community showed us we must find a way to create a viable partnership with the community that allows us to receive the generous gifts. Our answer – “Friends of Military Families, Inc”. Since its inception, we have continually sought ways to help us grow and adjust to the needs of our families; as well as adjust to the generosity of the community. In an effort to better serve our community, on 19 Jul 2006, we formally became a tax-deductible 501(c)3 non-profit charity and a certified Corporation in the state of Florida.

Provisions of our operation and use are contained in our *Constitution* and *By-Laws*. Specific items of interest from our By-Laws are provided below:

- **Purpose:** To foster a strong family support network and serve as a resource to agencies that are a part of the overall community family support system. The Friends of Military Families, Inc will advocate for and try to enhance activities and programs that affect the MacDill community.
- **Governing Board:** Comprised of 8 voting members
 - **President:** Troy Johnson (813-828-0138)
 - **Vice President:** Efrain Costa (813-828-0133)
 - **Treasurer:** Mark Stanford (813-828-0141)
 - **Secretary:** Jeff Norden (813-828-0146)
 - **Other:** Representatives from the 1) Volunteer Program, 2) Brandon Resource Center, 3) US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), and 4) US Central Command (USCENTCOM)
 - **Honorary:** Director; TBD (813-828-0134) – non-voting
- **Financing:** Income shall be derived from gifts, donations, and fundraisers.
- **Activities:** Host or finance activities agreed upon by the board members in a majority vote. The activities shall include family oriented special events, volunteer recognition programs, and/or activities/functions supporting military members and/or their family members--to include emergency assistance for basic living expenses when aid from Red Cross, Air Force Aid, or other services emergency relief programs are not able to be used.

Some examples of programs created, supported, and financed by our charity are:

- Care Packages: Personalized items to place in care packages sent to deployed members. Items purchased to support this program are t-shirt press, t-shirts, iron-on transfers, specialty paper, mouse-pads with personal photos, pillow cases, greeting cards, and magnet sheets.
- Reunion support for members returning from deployments: spa packages, dinner cruises, restaurant coupons, etc
- Digital videos and cameras to use for sending their deployed loved-one a personal message
- Refreshments and give-away prizes used to support various events (i.e. Valentine’s Day/Father’s Day/etc)
- Specialty events like Town Hall Meetings, Bundles for Babies, Heart Link, Family Member Deployment Processing Lines, and other family related activities or events.
- “Car Care Because We Care” program (free oil changes for deployed families)
- “Give Parents a Break” & “Childcare for Permanent Change of Station” programs (free child care)
- Phone cards; Food vouchers; Hurricane kits
- Volunteer activities to help support and enhance the over 900 volunteers at MacDill AFB
- Emergency financial assistance: Families in need of financial assistance for extensive personal hardship not otherwise provided for by established emergency assistance organizations (ex: hurricane Katrina displacement)

Our Friends of Military Families, Inc is an important tool that allows us a way to provide our families with the attention, care, and assistance they deserve! We are constantly trying to come up with ways to adapt our efforts to the needs of our families and welcome your suggestions.

“This is a private organization. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status”

“A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state”. State registration number is CH21769.