



Fact Sheet

The USO lifts the spirits of America's troops and military families. We're the way America says, "Thank you" for all they do through delivering highly valued programs, morale-boosting services and engaging entertainment. Our **scope, scale, presence, reach** and **knowledge**, and the resulting **trust** of the U.S. military, gives the USO the unparalleled capacity to meet the wide range of changing needs of troops and families. Our footprint is reflected in nearly 9 million visits to USO centers from South Korea to Germany, from Okinawa to Afghanistan, at training bases and airports across the country and for those serving on ships and squadrons deployed around the world.

Today's USO is ***always by their side***, continuously adapting to the needs of our troops and their families by supporting and comforting, connecting and entertaining in new and imaginative ways. USO's programs and services are made possible by the support of our individual donors, corporate sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers and staff.

Since 2009, the USO has engaged an independent third party customer experience research organization to conduct the "**TellUSO Sound Off Survey.**" The survey provides the USO with valuable data about what troops and their families really want and need from the USO and how well we are delivering on our spirit lifting promise. The online survey is conducted among active duty troops and their families each fall. TellUSO Survey data helps the USO make informed decisions regarding the allocation of resources and improvements in program delivery. The 2013 survey runs September 3 through October 1. Highlights from 2012 survey results include:

- For the third straight year since the baseline was established in 2009, the USO's Value Score has increased from **91%** to **94%**.
- In 2012, troops and their families surveyed agree that the USO:
 - Boosts the morale of troops (**98%**)
 - Lets them know their country supports them (**95%**)
 - Eases their separation from friends and family (**93%**)
- USO Staff and volunteers provide excellent care and support troops and families were very satisfied with:
 - Staff knowledge and support information: (**83%**)
 - Staff helpfulness: (**85%**)
 - Staff friendliness: (**86%**)
- Troops and their families rated the following programs and services as **the most important** and **most used**:
 - USO centers
 - USO Warrior and Family Care
 - Free Phone Calls
 - USO Photo Books
 - USO Events and Entertainment
 - United Through Reading's Military Program
 - *With You All The Way!*

At the USO, we learn a lot about the needs of troops and families in the course of their nearly nine million visits to our centers and another two to three million direct service encounters we have with them each year at locations around the world. All that information feeds our annual planning, budgeting and decision-making. Donors are interested in the impact a donated dollar has on the community a charity serves. In the USO's case, we are fortunate to have supporters who provide a range of in-kind goods and services that allow us to get greater value for every dollar donated to us. When you take into account that kind of support, including contributed goods, the value of rent-free centers around the world, contributed celebrity time and talent and hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours, we estimate that we deliver \$1.52 in goodness for every donated dollar. Keeping in mind that we target those resources where they are needed most, *that's* a good return on a donor's investment!

USO CENTERS: The USO provides programs, entertainment and services at more than 160 USO locations worldwide, including Afghanistan, Kuwait, UAE, Germany, Italy, Japan, Guam, South Korea and the United States. In 2012, USO centers were visited nearly 9 million times by troops and their families. We provide a warm and comforting place where troops and families can connect with each other via Internet or telephone, play a video game, catch a movie, have a snack or just put their feet up and relax. Currently, the eight USO centers in Afghanistan collectively average more than 150,000 visits monthly. This fall we will open a USO centers at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait and we recently opened a location in Seoul, South Korea.

Deployed Troops

USO VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are the heart of the USO. They deliver goodness to our troops and their families in our centers and the community at locations around the world. In a recent survey, 80% of USO volunteers polled cited "interaction with troops and their families" as their greatest reward. The USO is honored to have more than 27,000 volunteers across the globe who gave more than 1.35 million hours last year in service of troops and families. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Johnson was named as the 2013 USO Volunteer of the Year. Johnson will be recognized at the 2013 USO Gala in Washington, D.C. for his selfless dedication to the USO while serving on the island of Okinawa, Japan.

USO2GO: Designed to send much needed electronic gaming, sports/musical equipment, and personal care items to troops in remote locations, USO2GO was launched in 2008 to ensure that troops in the field have some of the small comforts of home. USO2GO deployed bundles, weighing nearly one ton each, have been delivered to more than 600 remote forward operating bases in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, Egypt, Djibouti and Kuwait. To date, USO has shipped more than 1,300 bundles and USO2GO continues to be the most requested program directly from the field to help our deployed troops relax and recharge.

MOBILE USO: USO centers on wheels, Mobiles USO's offer troops the same kind of great support that USO provides in an airport or installation location. These large mobile centers travel to big events and military exercises to provide a place for troops to relax during downtime, provide USO service to areas without a USO center, and support our centers and the community in times of crisis. Each Mobile USO offers the troops laptops, large screen televisions, video game consoles, Wi-Fi access, casual seating, refrigerators, coffee makers and microwaves. Following Hurricane Sandy, USO staff from USO centers in North Carolina and Dover, Delaware, and the USO regional office in Norfolk, Virginia deployed vehicles to the Floyd Bennett Field tent city in Brooklyn, New York to support the troops assisting the recovery efforts. Two Mobile USO Canteens and two passenger vans stocked with snacks, water and hygienic items created the Mobile USO Convoy beginning on November 5. The Mobile USO provided onsite support including heat, video games, movies and free Wi-Fi to keep the troops connected to loved ones back home. The

Mobile USO will be onsite at several events this fall including two Ride 2 Recovery challenges, NASCAR Weekend in Dover, DE. and events for the Navy SEALs and U.S. Air Force.

MEGS: Packaged in small, ruggedized containers, our Mobile Entertainment Gaming System (MEGS) provides entertainment options to troops in remote locations. Within minutes of opening a MEGS box, troops are watching a movie or playing a video game. A tent is quickly transformed into a movie theater or game room – allowing those in harm's way a chance to relax and recharge. Nearly 50 MEGS have been distributed to troops around the world this year supporting more than 10,000 troops. Most have been sent to Afghanistan, however, MEGS have also been sent to support units deployed to Australia, Guam, and the Philippines.

OPERATION USO CARE PACKAGE: There is nothing like receiving a care package when deployed in a faraway place. And it's not just the benefit of the goodies that are in the USO care package that makes a difference. Even more significant is the connection to volunteers back home who committed their time and energy to put the packages together. Since 2003, the USO has distributed more than 2.3 million care packages to troops around the world – giving the troops the comforts of home and sending a strong message of support from the citizens they serve. In May, Members of Congress and Sesame Street's Cookie Monster assembled 2,000 care packages on Capitol Hill.

HOLIDAY BOX: The USO brings a touch of home to troops stationed overseas with the Holiday Box program. USO Holiday Boxes include decorations, snacks, DVDs and games to help men and women serving in remote corners of the world celebrate American holidays. 50 USO Holiday Boxes were shipped to troops to help them celebrate the summer patriotic months from July 4th through Labor Day and this fall the USO will ship holiday boxes with decorations, snacks and DVDs to help deployed troops celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving.

PRO VS. GI JOE: In partnership with the nonprofit organization Pro vs. GI Joe, deployed troops compete against professional athletes in intense video game competitions. Family and friends of the participating troops are asked to join the professional athletes stateside to meet the pros, watch their loved ones compete, and talk with them via webcam. The impact of Pro vs. GI Joe events is felt on both sides- families have the opportunity to connect and troops are provided a break from life in a war zone. This fall, NFL teams will engage with troops in nearly a dozen events scheduled throughout the country.

ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES: The USO is probably best known for entertainment tours that bring celebrities and performers who donate their time and talents to visit our troops and families wherever they serve. As of August 2013, the USO deployed 82 celebrity entertainers on 63 tours to 19 countries and 15 states, entertaining 164,137 troops and military families. Eleven of these tours were to a combat zone. Entertainers who recently participated in morale boosting USO activities and tours include fun., the Grammy Award-winning indie pop band performed at the fifth annual "Salute to the Military" show at the White House hosted by President and Mrs. Obama, Will and Jaden Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff at a sneak peak premiere of "After Earth," R&B songstress Keyshia Cole, country music superstar Toby Keith on his 11th USO tour, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders on the 76th USO Tour, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band on their 60th USO Tour, Host of "America's Got Talent" Nick Cannon, hard rock band Drowning Pool, NFL Players Peyton Manning, Champ Bailey and JJ Watt, MLB pitchers Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling. NASCAR drivers Rickey Stenhouse Jr. and Daniel Suarez and Daily Show writers and guest host John Oliver.

Military Families

OPERATION PHONE HOME®: Operation Phone Home® is one of the most frequently requested services from our forward deployed troops. At our centers located in combat zones, troops use the USO's private phone network to make free phone calls home, access computers with free high-speed Internet bandwidth and free wireless Internet access for troops with their own computers. More and more expectant fathers take advantage of this free Internet access to virtually accompany their wives in the delivery room for the birth of their children. In Southwest Asia alone, connectivity is the number one reason troops visit our centers. Last year, more than 2.9 million calls were placed by deployed troops – that is more than 28 million minutes of free talk time to reconnect with their families. For those forward deployed troops who are serving in remote areas without access to our centers, the USO provides free international prepaid calling cards. To date, the USO has provided more than 3 million free prepaid international calling cards, allowing troops stationed overseas to connect with their loved ones back home. In other places around the world, many USO centers also offer free Internet and free phone calls.

WITH YOU ALL THE WAY: USO partners with the Comfort Crew for Military Kids to send award-winning author and motivational speaker Trevor Romain on tour to promote self-confidence and resiliency in military children six to 18 years old. Military families tell us about the power and impact Trevor has in helping military children tackle bullying in schools, adjust to life during and post-deployment, and coping when a parent makes the *ultimate* sacrifice. Using innovative, inspiring and humorous stories, Trevor has spoken with thousands of children about the difficulties military kids face during his many USO tours. In 2013, Trevor and his crew embarked on a multi-city *With You All the Way!* tour with presentations to military children living throughout the U.S. As a complement to his USO tours, Trevor created a series of helpful kits that include DVDs, journals, and other elements to help families cope with deployment, reintegration and what happens when a parent returns home with wounds, both seen and unseen. The *With You all the Way!* deployment kits and *Taking Care of You!* kits are distributed through USO centers around the globe.

Trevor also lends his time to speak with military parents at USO events such as the USO Caregivers Conferences supporting spouses and caregivers who care for a wounded, ill or injured soldier. He also participates in USO/TAPS Good Grief Camps and Survivor Seminars supporting military families who have lost a loved one. The Trevor Romain Memory Boxes, delivered to families who have experienced loss, help bring some comfort and understanding to their new lives without Mom or Dad. In a recent survey conducted among active duty military and their dependents, Trevor Romain and the *With You All the Way!* program ranked as one of the highest valued programs supporting our nation's military families.

SESAME STREET/USO EXPERIENCE: *The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families* made its debut in July 2008, to help families deal with the challenges of deployment and homecomings. Since its inception, the tour has taken its message to more than 389,277 troops and military families and performed 687 shows on 144 military installations in 33 states and 11 countries. Additionally, the tour logged more than 143,465 miles and distributed more than 2.1 million giveaways. This May, the *Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families* hit the road again and is currently touring the globe, this time to 47 bases in eight countries.

USO AND WHAT TO EXPECT PRESENTS SPECIAL DELIVERY: This summer the USO launched a new partnership with the What to Expect Foundation to host baby showers for military moms-to-be around

the globe. The showers incorporate information from the best-selling “What to Expect” book series and feature traditional baby shower activities like games, food, and gifts. The shower events are hosted by author Heidi Murkoff in collaboration with a USO center and provide a touch of home for moms-to-be who are often away from their families, friends and support network when they are expecting. The August launch consisted of three events supporting 300 military spouses and active duty expecting mothers on the island of Okinawa, Japan. One additional stateside event is scheduled for later this year.

THE LITTLE CHAMPS: Military children move an average of six to nine times between Kindergarten and 12th grade, usually attending multiple schools during that time. In an effort to support these children and honor the sacrifices they make, the USO supports the book “The Little CHAMPS: Child Heroes Attached to Military Personnel” by mother-daughter authors Debbie and Jennifer Fink. The five “CHAMPS” endure issues common to life as a military child from deployment to when a parent returns home wounded. The book concludes with lyrics for “The Little CHAMPS” song reminding children that “goodbyes are not forever.” In April, the USO and Debbie Fink brought messages of hope and support to more than 6,000 military connected children living in the Pacific with “The Little CHAMPS” tour.

UNITED THROUGH READING’S MILITARY PROGRAM: Last year, more than 43,000 recordings were mailed to military families worldwide. One of the most powerful things we can do is connect a deployed parent with their children back home. In 2006, the USO partnered with United Through Reading® to host its nationally recognized program at select USO centers worldwide. Whether troops are stationed at a forward operating base in Afghanistan or deploying overseas, they can visit their participating USO center to read a story aloud to their child. Mom or Dad’s special story time is recorded on camera, and the USO mails this priceless DVD and book home. Children can watch and listen to their parent at bedtime, naptime or anytime. Families complete the circle by sending back a touch of home – a photo of the child watching their deployed Mom or Dad reading the book.

USO PHOTO BOOK PROGRAM: Through a partnership with RocketLife LLC, families upload up to 60 photos and create free personal soft cover photo books small enough to fit in a cargo pocket. These 20-page albums are sent to the deployed troops, keeping them connected to their loved ones back home. In a recent USO survey of active duty military and their families, the USO Photo Book program was rated as one of the most highly valued programs supporting our nation’s military families. Families noted the convenience and portability of the book made it an easy way to stay connected when separated by deployment.

‘JOINING FORCES’: The USO partners with the White House *Joining Forces* initiative to strengthen military families around the world. *Joining Forces* focuses on three key issues facing military families – education, employment and wellness. The USO’s support of this initiative has included creating Mother’s Day gift boxes with the Congressional spouses and book readings for military families stateside and in Germany featuring Dr. Jill Biden and her children’s book “Don’t Forget, God Bless Our Troops”. The USO also supports the annual *Salute to the Military USO Concert* on July 4th hosted by President and Mrs. Obama featuring major performing artists who perform for military families on the South Lawn of the White House. This year’s event featured the pop group fun. and included a picnic and festive games serving as a tribute to America’s military families.

USO Warrior and Family Care™ *Healing with Honor*

The USO is in a unique position to lead a first-class network of support for our wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers, as well as the families of the fallen. The USO developed USO

Warrior and Family Care, which is comprehensive, long-term programming that supports these groups, building the hope and confidence of each family member while helping them sustain their journey towards a full and rewarding life. We want to keep these families together and strong. We also want them to have plans for the future and active support networks in place, giving them the best chance to heal with honor.

Immediately following 9/11/2001 and the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, USO centers around the world began to play a crucial role in the recovery and reintegration of our nation's healing heroes and their families, just as it has since its inception in 1941. Through local community support, celebrity visits, field trips, concerts, dinners, and other high impact events, USO staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that all who have served and sacrificed know just how much America appreciates their extraordinary sacrifice. USO centers near major military medical facilities such as USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore supporting the two major medical facilities in the nation's capital, USO Warrior Center supporting Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, and USO San Antonio supporting the Brooke Army Medical Center, focus on important programs and activities designed to combat stress and uncertainty of what the future may hold.

In April 2003, the USO embedded a USO center in the heart of the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to provide a comforting environment for wounded troops being staged there for transport to the United States following medical treatment at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC). Like the CASF USO, the USO Warrior Center that was built in 2008 at LRMC serves the outpatients being treated there and also provides a place to relax for the wounded held at LRMC until they are cleared to return to their units in Afghanistan. More than 20 events per month at the Warrior Center help these healing troops get a touch of home. Both of these USO centers are proud to maintain the mission resiliency of hard working medical personnel.

In military hospitals across Afghanistan, USO staff provides some of the most common but significant support to healing heroes in the most remote locations. Ranging from often overlooked items like coffee stirrers and magazines to immediate basic needs like clothing and bed sheets, the USO identifies and fulfills requests on a regular basis. The USO also distributes TVs, video gaming systems, and games to hospitals in Afghanistan. While gaming is a leisure activity, research shows that some video games can be therapeutic and help our healing heroes regain cognitive function and focus. In addition, the USO provides puzzles and Lego figures for Traumatic Brain Injury clinics to assist in their healing therapy.

In some cases, military commands worldwide will call upon the USO to provide health and welfare support for their recovering wounded. By answering those requests with USO Warrior and Family Care Day Rooms, we fulfill that need. Generally, a USO Day Room provides connectivity, some options for entertainment and a place to simply take a break. USO Day Rooms create a USO presence when a USO facility is not an option. The USO supports more than 40 Day Rooms across the globe including many locations in theater.

USO's support of wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers encompasses many critical facets of life, including physical and recreational activities, behavioral health, family strengthening, education and employment transition, and community reintegration support. USO Warrior and Family Care collaborates with numerous organizations that we have deemed best-in-class to serve the needs of these troops and families.

In 2011, we launched a series of Public Service Announcements entitled "Portraits" designed to raise awareness for the impact of invisible wounds of war – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). “Portraits” is a documentary-style PSA that features troops who proudly answered the call to duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who now live with invisible wounds. These stories and more can be viewed at www.USOInvisibleWounds.org.

USO WARRIOR AND FAMILY CENTERS: In February we opened the doors to our largest USO center, the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir, with more than 22,000 square feet dedicated to serving our nation’s wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers as well as the active duty and military families of Fort Belvoir.

In the last few months, the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir and its state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant spaces have seen more than 70,000 visits by troops, family members and community groups. The staff and volunteers of USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore have offered dozens of events and programs to help troops and families relax, learn and have fun away from the grind of the hospital. Some of these events have included a Jeep Day of Service that hosted hundreds of troops and families with games and activities and a special dinner prepared by celebrity chef and former Marine John Besh.

The communal Kitchen, with its sleek-yet-natural design and bounty of treats, is one of the central traffic points in the USO Warrior & Family Center at Fort Belvoir. Simply put, it’s where everyone wants to be, whether they’re grabbing a snack, fixing a favorite meal, running into old friends—or meeting new ones. Sponsors have hosted dozens of dinners in the Kitchen, the Dining Room and the Outdoor Grill which has also been popular for barbecues and entertainment including the Air Force Band. The Art Studio offers a variety of art programs which can be therapeutic for troops and their families as well as our healing heroes. Some of the classes have included wood carving, creative writing, and a Combat Paper Workshop. Another frequently used space has been the Respite Suite which has offered massage/reiki and yoga. The Business Center has also been a busy gathering point for troops and families with its computer workstations as well as places to connect a laptop or iPad, as well as copy and fax services.

Our second USO Warrior and Family Center located at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. will open in early 2014. This center, like Belvoir, will offer a comprehensive array of specialized services and programs in a supportive and home-like setting including movie theaters, classrooms, sports lounges, business centers, healing gardens and more, created expressly for our nation’s healing heroes and their families.

USO/HIRE HEROES USA TRANSITION WORKSHOPS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITY DAYS: The USO, in collaboration with Hire Heroes USA, hosts career transition workshops for wounded, ill and injured troops, their spouses and caregivers. The workshops focus on resume writing, mock interviews, professional work practices and translating prior military experience into a civilian career. As a follow up to the workshops, the USO works with Hire Heroes USA to host Career Opportunity Days. These non-traditional career transition events connect employers with participants based on interest and background. Employers are pre-matched to conduct practice interviews and provide feedback to these men and women who, in many cases, have never participated in a civilian interview. Career Opportunity Days are limited to 15 employers and 40-60 wounded, ill and injured transitioning troops and veterans, as well as their spouses and caregivers, to ensure these events provide an environment conducive to one-on-one interaction and networking. This year, the USO hosted 48 workshops and 11 Career Opportunity Days expanding to more than two dozen locations. We have also piloted the delivery of these events to non-wounded troops and families transitioning to the civilian workforce at six workshops and six Career Opportunity Days.

USO CAREGIVERS CONFERENCES: Caregivers Conferences provide *caregivers* (husbands, wives, parents, hospital staff and other family members supporting wounded, ill or injured troops) practical advice and valuable information about available resources. Sessions address such topics as post-traumatic stress disorder, caregiver boundaries and intimacy, compassion fatigue, parenting, childhood grief and caregiver resiliency. The first Caregivers Conference of 2013 was held in February at Camp Pendleton in collaboration with the U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion—West. More than 60 caregivers attended the event and spoke candidly about the issues they face seeking advice from subject matter experts and fellow caregivers. The next conference will be held October 18 in Virginia Beach, Va.

GAME ON NATION: The USO and game on Nation are working together to provide resiliency support for wounded, ill and injured, medical providers, caregivers and mortuary affairs staff who are often the silent heroes who assist our recovering service members and families of the fallen and are beginning to include general active duty. Through the use of improvisation and laughter, game on Nation facilitates trainings for various military units and military impacted personnel. Upcoming game on Nation presentations to include USO Caregivers Conference, Altus Air Force Base, USO Fort Drum Resiliency Fair and Regional Care Coordinators training for the Air Force.

STRONGER FAMILIES OXYGEN SEMINARS: The USO works with Stronger Families to bring the Oxygen Seminar to military couples to help them strengthen their relationship while working on tough issues in a fun and nonthreatening environment. Couples learn to improve their communication, better understand each other's needs, resolve conflict, rekindle romance and find renewed hope. This year, 15 Oxygen Seminars will be held across the country including five seminars for wounded, ill and injured couples.

PROJECT SANCTUARY: Active duty, veteran and wounded warrior families participate in six-day therapeutic retreat in the mountains of Colorado. The focus is always on supporting the family as a whole unit. The retreats utilize therapeutic recreation as a way to reconnect and reintegrate along with sessions in "healthy marriages" and "finance". Past retreat successes strengthened the founding principles that healing takes time and requires the family to be together in an environment in which they feel comfortable. Activities include horseback riding, hiking, fishing, snow skiing, art and all sessions carry a therapeutic component tailored to each individual's physical and mental needs. This year, the USO has supported more than 30 families through this program and there are two more retreats scheduled for the remainder of 2013.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING CAMPS: Partnerships with best-in-class organizations like the National Military Family Association, the Armed Services YMCA, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, give the USO the opportunity to provide our nation's healing heroes and their families, as well as families of the fallen with the chance to reconnect, reintegrate and rejuvenate. The camps offer specific programming uniquely geared to the challenges our military families face. For example, camps create opportunities for children to meet other children whose parents have sustained a wound, illness or injury. Families leave these events with the tools they need to help them adapt to challenges and keep their families strong and together. The USO supported 24 camps year to date with several more scheduled by the end of 2013.

USO/SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY'S OPERATION JUMPSTART WORKSHOPS: Entrepreneurship and small business ownership are key opportunities for wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and caregivers. Troops and their families are natural entrepreneurs, possessing the skills, experience and leadership to start businesses and shape their future. With Operation Jumpstart, the USO supports training in entrepreneurship to wounded, ill and

injured troops, their spouses and caregivers. After the two-day workshop, participants create a Feasibility Analysis that serves as the basis for future business planning efforts. It is designed to assist them in developing an 'actionable' plan for subsequent efforts focused on launching a new venture. Following their participation, attendees can attend the nine-day Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans program hosted at various universities across the United States. This is a natural extension to the exposure these troops receive to starting their own businesses during the two-day workshop. The USO, in collaboration with Syracuse University, has hosted eight workshops through August, with five more scheduled through the end of 2013.

USO/ASPENPOINTE PEER NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: The USO works with AspenPointe, one of the largest nonprofits based in Colorado serving individuals and families. They focus on behavioral health issues, substance abuse, employment, career development, education, housing, jail diversion/reintegration, telephonic wellness and provider network services. The AspenPointe Peer Navigator Program seeks to serve wounded, ill and injured troops, as well as active duty troops embarking on the transition to civilian sector. Through a full-time navigator whose connection to the military provides them with similar experiences, the program works to help the integration process be less stressful and much smoother- providing that much needed "concierge" type service to these men and women as they to navigate the winding road of transition. The USO works to identify healing heroes, as well as active duty troops at Ft Carson, Colo. and assists them and their families to connect with AspenPointe and community resources.

RENOVATINGHOPE: The USO recently launched a new program in partnership with the nonprofit organization RenovatingHope. Through this collaboration, the USO supports recently discharged wounded, ill and injured troops and their families by providing basic housing rehabilitation services. The troops are referred directly from military installation commands and are identified as having an immediate need, living in conditions that are severe, financial strain and family despair, are physically unable to make the repairs themselves, and/or do not have sufficient income to hire qualified contractors to complete the work.

RIDE2RECOVERY: Whether it's climbing a steep mountain or racing across a flat road with their bicycle adapted to fit one leg, one arm or whatever their physical challenge might be, Ride 2 Recovery participants conquer their fears and prove they are warriors even away from the battlefield. The USO partners with Ride 2 Recovery, providing bicycles for participants, as well as adaptive bicycles and support for Project Hero, - a cycling training group based at various hospital and transition facilities that prepares ride participants for their upcoming events. In addition, the Mobile USO provided lunch and support for five rides with two more remaining in 2013.

WARRIOR GAMES: In May, the USO proudly supported the 4th annual Warrior Games held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. More than 200 wounded, ill and injured troops from all branches competed in Olympic-style events such as archery, cycling, wheelchair basketball, shooting, swimming, track & field and seated volleyball. The USO also hosted a family event to support those who went to Colorado to cheer on their loved ones.

FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN: The USO has supported every dignified transfer at Dover Air Force Base since March 1991. USO centers are located in the heart of Dover Air Force Base to support families of the fallen as well as inside the Air Force Mortuary Affairs complex to support the troops who are assigned there. Additionally, as family notifications occur at all times of the day and night, the USO works 24/7 to coordinate among USO centers across the country to support and comfort families traveling to and from Dover, meeting the myriad needs of families who have just received tragic news. In 2012, the USO was there for more than 3,000 family members, attending 310 dignified transfers at Dover last year. The

USO's reach expands beyond Dover, with a vast network of support for our families of the fallen from coast to coast. Year to date, our nation's military have experienced fewer wartime deaths than 2012, but the USO's work to support families of the fallen has increased with more than 700 missions supporting families enduring loss from cancer, accidents and other tragic incidents.

The USO also supports the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice through our partnerships with organizations such as the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), The Moyer Foundation and Fisher House, as well as the support received at various USO centers across the United States. The USO and TAPS also provide Survivor Resource Kits to newly bereaved family members. Filled with comfort items, books of support, personal notes and information these kits provide a warm embrace in the form of a carefully crafted package. Each kit is carefully tailored to the specific family's circumstance of loss, relationship to the deceased, cause of death and other family needs that are shared with us. For our nation's smallest heroes, the USO supports TAPS Good Grief Camps. The camps provide a safe atmosphere for children to connect with others coping with similar feelings, helping them to establish a support system. No matter what the hour or the need, the USO is there for the families of the fallen.

WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED: In April 2013, the USO announced its support of Walking with the Wounded's 2013 South Pole Allied Challenge, the organizations first multi-national expedition. Teams from the U.K., U.S. and the Commonwealth (which includes Australia and Canada) will undertake a 208-mile trek to the South Pole. As part of its ongoing mission to support wounded, ill and injured troops through their recovery process, the USO will sponsor one athlete, Margaux Mange, from the U.S. team as she prepares for and undertakes this extraordinary challenge. The athletes are joined by celebrity team members Alexander Skarsgard for the U.S., Prince Harry for Team UK, and Dominic West for Team Commonwealth. The teams will begin the race in November, battling arctic conditions of -35° degrees and 50 mph winds while hauling more than 150 pounds of gear.

Providing the resources for USO programs and services

We often hear from people who say they want to give back to our nation's servicemen and women but they don't know how to get involved. The USO provides Americans with a variety of ways to show their support and appreciation for our military heroes and help make a difference in their lives. Individuals, corporations or organizations can find creative ways to give at www.teamuso.org, choosing from a number of fundraising options such as competing in an athletic event, taking part in the USO's Barbecue for the Troops or Dance for the Troops campaigns, or organizing a custom event. In addition to shopping the virtual gift catalog at www.usowishbook.org, Americans can also visit www.uso.org to make their online donation.

OPERATION ENDURING CARE: The USO launched Operation Enduring Care, a major fundraising effort, to support America's healing heroes and their families and our families of the fallen. This campaign is the USO's largest commitment in its history and will deliver the resources needed to support our healing heroes, their families and caregivers through their recovery process. The funds will be used to build two, innovative Warrior and Family Centers, deliver vital programs and ensure that these facilities continue providing the critical support for our healing heroes, their families and caregivers.

USO WISHBOOK: Found at USOWISHBOOK.org, this comprehensive gift catalog featuring dozens of virtual gifts that support troops and their families. USO Wishbook provides donors with a unique away to give a gift that gives twice – once to a friend or family member and then again to those who need us most: deployed troops, wounded ill and injured troops and their caregivers and families of the fallen. Throughout the year, gifts are added in honor of special gift giving occasions and as USO programs and

services expand. Recently, Americans were given new opportunities to give back to our nation's wounded warriors and their families, with the inclusion of gifts like "Flight Home Comfort Kit" and "Writing the Right Resume." To date, more than 34,000 gifts have been purchased. The most popular gifts are "Phone Calls Home," "Comfort Food Package" "Deployment Kit" and "Long Distance Bedtime Stories."

USO meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability.

To learn more about the USO and how we serve our troops and their families, visit us at:
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