



OCTOBER 2008



Program Coordinator

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www.guardfamilyyouth.org

**Call Toll Free:
1-877-715-7817**

**Check us out on the
Web!!!**

[http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/
famredi.php](http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php)

Guard En Of Youth

You should never let your fears become the boundaries of your dreams.
Submitted Robin Age 15

NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAMS STATE VOLUNTEER & YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

**This years State Volunteer and Youth
Symposium will take place on
November 7th-9th 2008.**

The symposium is for ALL Family members, volunteers and military points of contact for the Army and Air National Guard. Registered adults attending are invited to bring their youth ages 6-18

This will be held at DMNA – JFHQ
330 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY.

The host hotel will be the Holiday Inn Turf
Wolf Road in Latham, NY.

A full program of fun for kids 6-18!!!

REGISTRATION ENDS OCTOBER 10th

To Sign up for this fun event please see registration form at the end of the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing all of you!!!

From all of us at Family Programs!!!

YMCA Memberships and Respite Care for Eligible Military Families

The Department of Defense has partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to fund memberships at participating YMCAs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for the following groups:

- Families of joint deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps)
- Active duty personnel and their families at independent duty stations

Active duty families assigned to newly established joint bases
Relocated spouse and family members of deployed active duty personnel

FITNESS FACILITY MEMBERSHIPS

The DoD will also buy down memberships at local fitness facilities (e.g. Gold's Gym/Bally's/24 Hour Fitness, etc) for single active duty personnel at independent duty stations.

RESPITE CHILD CARE

Deployed Guard and Reserve personnel and independent duty personnel with children up to age 12 of will be authorized free respite child care up to 32 hours per month, per child in YMCA facilities in states approved by DoD.

GET STARTED!

1. Complete the [YMCA/DoD Eligibility Form](#).
2. Visit www.YMCA.net to find a participating, local YMCA.
3. Take the eligibility form, a copy of your deployment orders, and your military ID card to your local YMCA.

CHILD CARE NEWS

Child Care \$\$\$ Available

Active Duty National Guard serving under Title 10 or Title 32, United States Code (U.S.C.) military families are now eligible for Child Care subsidy benefits subject to eligibility requirements and availability of funds. Please visit the NACCRRA website, www.naccrra.org, for further information regarding this subject.

When you reach the site click on (Click here for Military Child Care) lower left hand corner, then click on Army, then Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to call me.

National Guard TITLE 10 Activated military Spouse, If you are:

*Employed

*Seeking employment (for 60 days)

*Going to school

You qualify for \$100 per month per child for full time care
(Licensed Provider Required).

Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply!
1-888-NGCCP-99 (888-642-2799) or ngccp@guardfamily.org

Child Care for Families of Severely Injured Military Service Members

NACCCRA and the Department of Defense (DoD) have partnered to provide families of severely injured military members with assistance to find and pay for safe, licensed child care services for a period of six months during their period of recuperation. The program is available nationwide wherever the injured member is receiving either in-patient or out-patient medical care.

To apply for any of these programs, families and service members can call 1-800-424-2246 or visit <http://www.NACCRRA.org/military>.

To find suitable child care please visit: www.childcareaware.org

If you have any questions on how to apply, or if you need help with completing the application to receive assistance, please contact me at:

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

914-788-7405



Do you have school-aged children who play sports?

Or do they take dance, music or arts classes?

Maybe they would they like to try something new... like Karate?

Could your child benefit from a tutor to stay at grade level?

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions,
Our **Military Kids** grant program may be able to help.

Our **Military Kids** pays the fees for children of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the soldier is deployed overseas.

It is simple to apply to the program...

Just fill out the attached application. Send it in with a copy of the deployment orders and a flyer or other information that lists the activity and the fee for the activity. The child is limited to one grant for one activity. Grant will cover up to six months of instructions, lessons, tutoring with maximum award of \$500.00 per child.

If everything is in order and if funding is available, within two weeks a check will be sent to the organization and the child will be notified of the award.



6861 Elm Street, Suite 3F • McLean, VA 22101 • 703.734.6654 • www.ourmilitarykids.org

TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION PLEASE VISIT: www.ourmilitarykids.org

PROJECT PEN PAL

With Project Pen Pal you will meet other military children around the world. You can make friends, learn about their traditions, culture's, how they feel about their schools and their hobbies. In addition, Project Pen Pal encourages you to write about the challenges you face being a Military Youth, and share those feelings with children from different backgrounds who are dealing with similar issues like, military life, deployments and relocation, just to name a few.

ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!!

We have Pen Pals from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey, Nevada, Vermont, California, Connecticut, Ohio , Wyoming and NEW MEXICO is now on board!!!

UNITY IS STRENGTH!!

To sign up please fill out permission slip at the end of this newsletter and fax or mail it to:

Shelly Aiken~NY National Guard Youth Program Coordinator

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

Fax: 914-788-7407

Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)

ATTENTION ALL MILITARY FAMILIES!!

Christmas is coming. Register your children (birth-16 yr old) for a Christmas gift today. Operation Holiday Cheer is now accepting registrations! As you may recall, the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine launched Operation Holiday Cheer last year to provide a holiday gift to the children of Maine's military families. The program resulted in the distribution of over 8,000 gifts to over 140 cities in towns throughout the State of Maine!

As with prior year, the program is NOT based on need, military rank, or branch. The people of Operation Holiday Cheer issue the gifts as a way of showing appreciation for the bravery and courage exhibited by our children. Even if the military parent is not currently deployed, the child will be given a top quality gift.

There will be no wish lists. Each gift will be based on age (newborn to sixteen), gender and valued at \$25-\$30.

Each gift will be sent to the child, individually wrapped and shipped, even if there are multiple children in a household. The package will include a Letter of thanks and appreciation for all they sacrifice for having a parent in the military. It is estimated there are over 9,000 military kids in Maine who could benefit from this project. Military service men and women who are interested in participating will have until November 1 to provide their name, rank, unit, address, phone number, email address, child's name, age, gender, and shipping address.

This can be done by calling a separate, dedicated line (207-221-0296) or registering online at www.KiwanisOperationHolidayCheer.org. All information is kept strictly confidential. OHC is a first-come, first-serve program and monies to support this project will come from corporate sponsors, communities, and other organizations all over the State of Maine who want to participate. If you know of any businesses or donors that would be interested in donating to Operation Holiday Cheer to ensure that no child is refused a gift, please call 207-221-0296 or donate online at the website.

For more information please email kerry.birmingham@us.army.mil or call the FAC Hotline at 1-888-365-9287.

REMEMBER NOV 1 IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER

so spread the news far and wide to ALL Maine military families with dependant children and to call or register ASAP!!

October 2008 Support Group for Families of Deployed Military Members

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FALL HARVEST EVENT AND FAMILY FUN DAY
TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This is a free fun filled fall harvest event in conjunction with Choices 301, Inc., The Blue Star Mothers, Military Moms in Action, and invited guests, the American Red Cross Support Group.

The activities will include the oldies band "5 Karat Gold", pony rides, hay rides, bouncy bounce and a chicken barbeque dinner will be available for the cost of \$8. Operation Safe Child will be available for all parents and their children.

The Military Moms in Action, will be collecting and packing **250 boxes** of non-perishable items to be shipped to our troops. Anyone wishing to bring a non-perishable item will be greatly appreciated.

RSVP to Barbara Gray at 518-458-8111 x3033 or by email at gray@redcrossny.org. The first 30 people who RSVP will receive a free gift!!!

This Patriotic day is in honor of the late Joe Abbruzzese, a Marine Corp veteran and his wife Ellen, who will be celebrating her 86th birthday on October 14th as well as the 40th Anniversary of Altamont Orchard.

Please join us:

When: October 12, 2008 @ 1:00 pm

Where: Helderview Pavilion, Orchard Creek Golf Club
6654 Dunnsville Road
Altamont, NY 12009

Red Cross Registration will begin at 12:45PM. Be there on time to hear 5 year old Nicaya Rios, daughter of GySgt Nicasio Rios of H & S Company, 2/25 Marines as she opens the event by singing the National Anthem!

Homecoming Preparation

Sponsored by: WNY Family Readiness Groups & Buffalo Vet Center

Reunion is a time of celebration and change. It is important to remember that you, along with your children have grown emotionally and physically.

Who: **Spouses, Parents, Aunts, Uncles, Significant, etc.**

When: Saturday, 25Oct08/11AM-3PM

Location: 184 Connecticut St, Buffalo, NY 14213

Purpose: Reunion Preparation/Children Halloween Party

RSVP: ___Adults ___ Children NLT: 21Oct08

Contact: FRG Leader or John Cardarella @ 888-5618

Cost: FREE

Food/Beverage: Bring a dish to pass

Topics: Vet Counselor – Anticipation

Tri-care after deployment – TAMP 180days

Life Consultant for Adults about changes with children/teens

Town Meeting – Question/Answer Period (by a panel)

Armory Tour – Armory Historian (Warren Baltes)

Children's Haunted House Party

Children Costumes Optional

Who: **“Only children of military families”**

Location: 184 Connecticut St, Buffalo, NY 14213 (GYM)

Events: Life Consultant with children

Haunted House/Hall

Halloween Party (games, prizes, snacks)

RSVP: Release form to FRG Ldr or John Cardarella (Signed/children's ages) NLT 21Oct08

Supported by:

Corp of Cadets

St Pius X Church

Loosing Patience?

Feeling Lost?

Looking for someone to talk to?

I'm not the same as when you left!

FeelINGS

How do **YOU** feel about your parent's **DEPLOYMENT?**

Negative?

Positive?

Mixed up?

Nothing at all?



4 Army Teens Talk

Can't connect with anyone?

Missing you!

I've changed!

Will you be the same?

Youth Registration Form

Parental / Guardian Emergency Notification Information Required

Child's Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Please have Youth Registration Forms submitted by October 21, 2008

Mail to

John Cardarella, 27 Masten Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222, Fax: (716) 888-5680, email: john.cardarella@us.army.mil

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT AUTHORITY: 10 USC, Section 1558, Secretary of the Army; E.O. 9397 (SSN); and Army Regulation 608-1, Army Community Service Center.

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To prepare travel orders for training for voluntary services provided by an individual and to obtain agreement from the volunteer on the conditions of accepting the performance of voluntary service.

ROUTINE USES: None

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to complete the form may result in an inability to provide training for voluntary services.

This form serves as permission and waiver to participate in physical activities and releases the New York National Guard Family Programs, New York National Guard Youth Programs from any and all liability.

Parental Signature: _____ Date _____

Parental Printed Name: _____

'My Military Family'

Armed Services YMCA Art Contest 2009

Entry Form

Due to the fact that some entries may be used for display and publicity purposes, all information must be attributable to the artist, so this form must accompany all entries (attached/taped to the back of the original entry) and must be filled out completely (either typed or printed). Entries should be of the student's military family. Drawings should be in color, and the artwork should be 6 by 8 inches in size. Black and white drawings may be entered but are less likely to be selected as top winners. Oversized and three-dimensional entries will not be judged. Please do not identify family members on the drawing.

Contestant's name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone (must include area/country code): _____

Military parent's rank and name: _____

Other parent's name: _____

Parent's Work Phone: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Military branch (please circle):

Army

Navy

Marines

Air Force

Coast Guard

National
Guard/Reserves

The Armed Services YMCA will award six U.S. Savings bonds of \$500 for first-place entries, and \$100 bonds for second place. **Dependents of active duty military or retired from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard/Reserves, in kindergarten through sixth grade, are eligible to enter.** The top military entries will be used on the 2008 Military Family Month poster sponsored by GEICO Direct. Winners must have a Social Security number to be issued bonds.

For additional information, visit the Armed Services YMCA web site at www.asymca.org, or call 703-313-9600 ext. 10. Email questions may be sent to tharper@asymca.org. Deadline for entering is Friday, February 20, 2009. All entries must be postmarked by this date. However, entries will not be accepted before November 1, 2009.

Mail entries to:
Armed Services YMCA
Attn: Art Contest
6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22310

CALLING ALL YOUTH

Authors: Do you know funny jokes? Do you have a story you want others to know about? Write an article for us. Please share with us. Make this YOUR newsletter.

Artists: We need your help now. Send us your artwork to be published in YOUR newsletter.

Designers: Do you have a flair for design? Help build a website, suggestions for your Newsletter. **CREATE a LOGO** for the youth Program. Let us know!!

Recipes: Do you have any Yummy recipes you want to share? Send them to us.

Photographers: Photo of the Month, Photos of special events, share a smile

Poets: Do you have a poem about your parent being deployed? Do you have a poem about being a military kid? Any poetry that you would like share?

If you are between the ages of 1 and 18, email or fax your gifts to the Youth Program.

All submissions should be sent to:

Shelly Aiken

Camp Smith Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax: 914-788-7407

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil



Website Allows Deployed Parents to Connect with Children

MyChildMyMilitary.com is an interactive website designed to provide military families with a real-time platform to share books and activities with their children. MyChildMyMilitary.com's activities are geared towards children of all ages, interests and educational levels, with books for pre-readers, advanced readers and struggling readers on a broad range of topics. Thanks to grant funding, the website's service is currently offered free to military families. To learn more about this site please visit:

<http://mychildmymilitary.com/>

NCMEC Introduces Website for "Tweens"

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has created a new website to educate "tweens," children aged 8-12, on ways to navigate the internet safely. NSteens.org highlights the potential dangers of cyber bullying, along with ways to responsible use social networking sites. The website utilizes animated videos and online comics to reach out to today's youth. Visit the website at: <http://www.NSteens.org>

Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Offers Scholarships for Military Children!

This year 600 military children were awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the Scholarships for Military Children Program. The scholarship program began in 2001 and has awarded more than \$6.4 million dollars in scholarships to more than 4,000 children in military families. Military children have responded with nearly 46,000 applications since the program began. The 2009 Scholarships for Military Children season kicks off Nov. 1, 2008. For more information about the program, go to DeCA's website at

www.commissaries.com

or the Military Scholar website at www.militaryscholar.org.

Teaching Children How to Make Healthy Choices

The US Department of Agriculture's website features a section designed for children on how to be more physically active and make healthy food choices. The website includes an interactive computer game where kids can plan their own meals and snacks. To learn more, go to:

www.mypyramid.gov



Sesame Street in October

Sesame Street partners with the USO to bring the furry, fuzzy and friendly Muppets to military families across the country.

This program is FREE admission and exclusively for military families and their children. It's a 60-minute experience: mini-show, giveaways, and outreach materials. They will be in New York on October 28 & 29th at Ft. Drum in Watertown. For more information, please visit www.sesamestreet.org/tic

Super Saturday!



To support the many families affected by the stressors of deployment, Fort Hamilton Child & Youth Services extends an invitation for Military Families to join us for our very first Super Saturday childcare event February 9, 2008 from 0800-1600 hours. Childcare, for ages 0-10, is provided free of charge to families affected by deployment. All others may be provided space on a first come first served basis and will pay the current hourly care rates. *Some restrictions apply.*

All families must be registered with CYS to participate in this Super Saturday event.
Call to register today: 718-630-4805/4812



Let America help fulfill your family's holiday wishes.



1 Visit www.sears.com/wish to register today.



2 Americans help fulfill your family's wishes.



3 Your family opens their wishes.

In this season of giving, Sears is enabling America to thank you for all of the sacrifices that you make for our country by fulfilling the wishes of your family this holiday season.

Sears created the Heroes at Home Wish RegistrySM so that the American public can help make your family's wishes come true during this holiday season. The idea is simple. Sears will feature the wish lists of selected military families and will allow American to fulfill those wishes by purchasing and donating Sears gift cards.

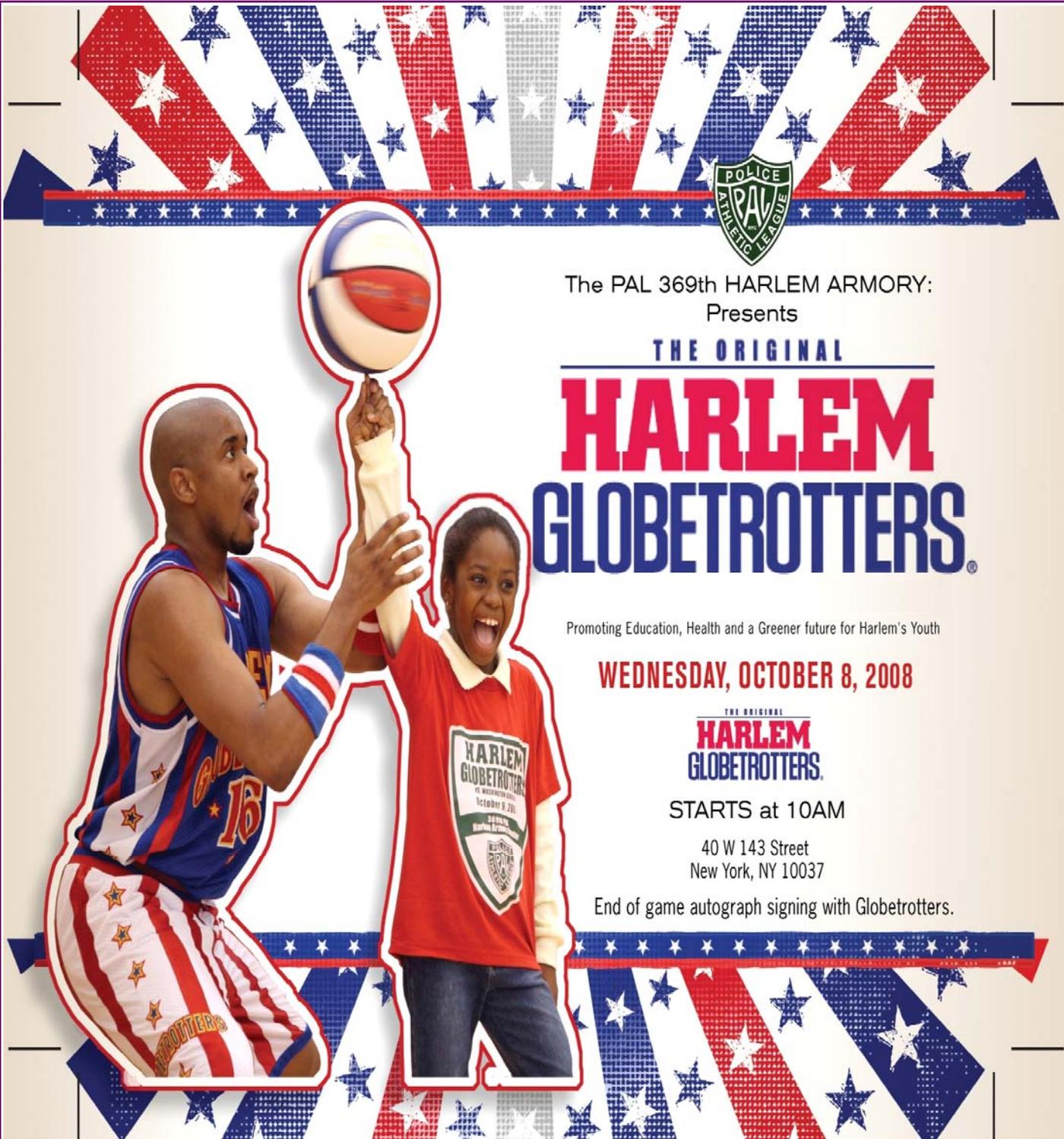
It's easy for you to be included. Simply go to www.sears.com/wish and provide the basic information requested between August 27th and September 17, 2008. Sears will review your information and verify you meet eligibility requirements.

Donations made to the wish registry are not tax deductible. 100% of donations to the wish registry will be used to purchase Sears gift cards for Heroes at Home Wish Registry participants. Participation in the registry does not guarantee that you will receive a gift. In the event registries hit their maximum amount, the USO will receive any additional funds from the Heroes at Home Wish Registry. Other Terms and Conditions apply; please see www.sears.com/wish for full program details.

About the USO: For more than 66 years, the USO (United Service Organizations) has been providing morale, welfare and recreational services to U.S. military personnel and their families. The USO is a nonprofit, charitable organization, relying on the generosity of the American people to support its programs and services.

Go to www.sears.com/wish and learn how you can help fulfill the wishes of your loved ones this holiday season.





PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 6th!!!

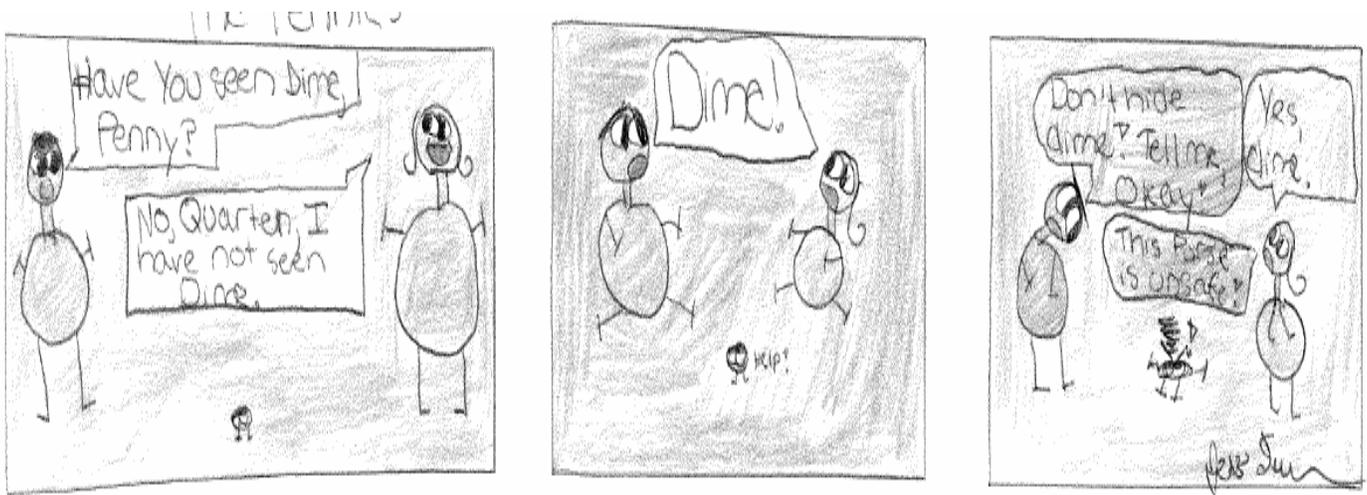
Amy Maniscalco-Military Family Assistance Specialist

Amy.maniscalco@us.army.mil

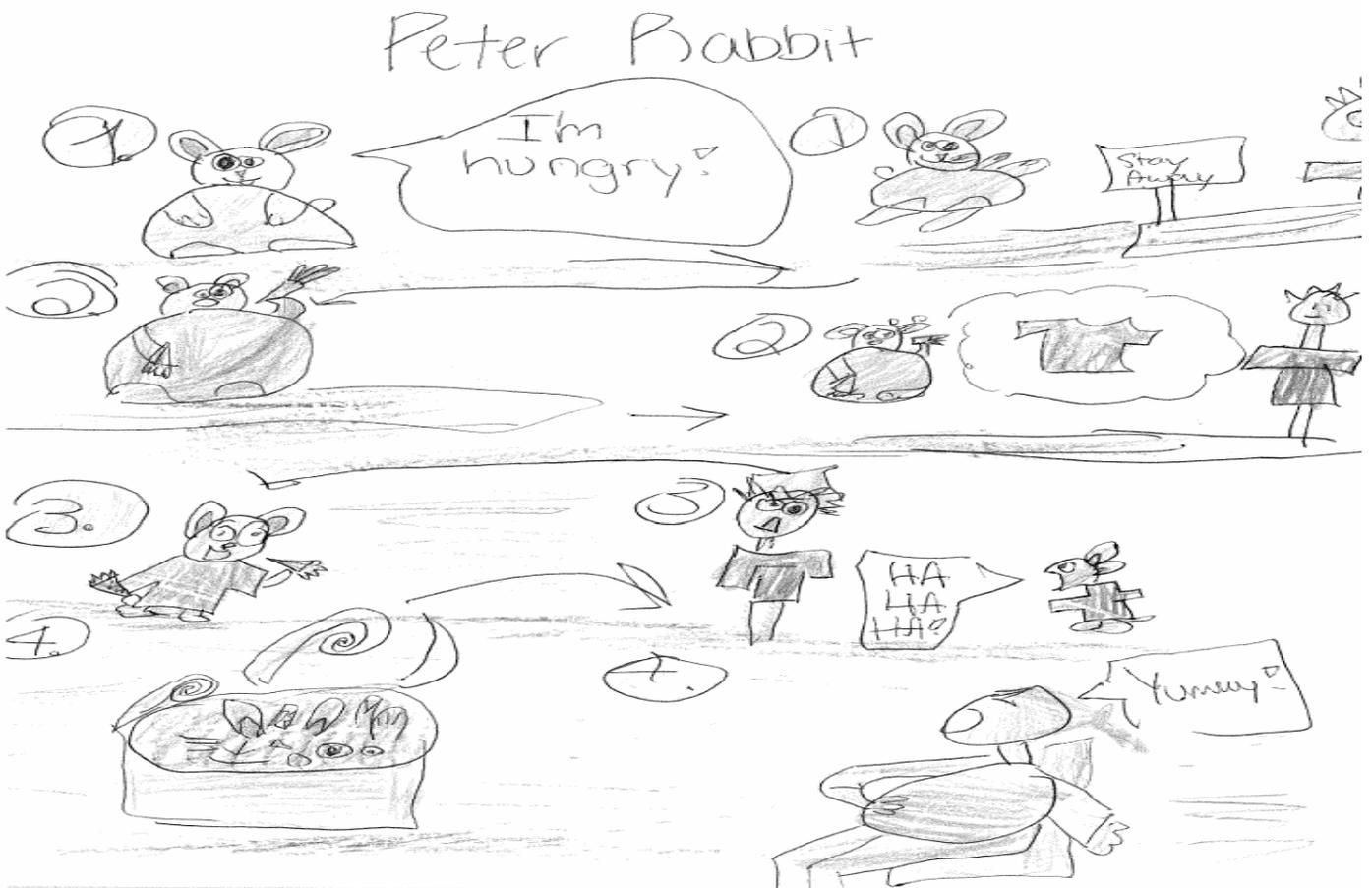
Phone: 718-302-7204

THE PENNIES

Artist Jessica Turner is a New York National Guard Youth and has submitted this comic strip "The Pennies" to feature for the next year!! Thanks Jessica and we all look forward to the next Comic strip!!!



And a little extra Funny!!!





New York National Guard Family Programs Family Volunteer and Youth Symposium



Youth Registration Form

November 7,8 & 9 2008

Youth Volunteer Full Name _____

Name Tag Preference _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) ____ - _____ Cell (____) ____ - _____

Youth Tee shirt: Y- Med__ Y- Lg__ A-Med__ A-Lg__ A-X Lg__ A-XX Lg__ A-XXX Lg__

Age: _____

Parental / Guardian Emergency Notification Information Required

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Please have Youth Registration Forms submitted by October 10, 2008

Mail or Fax to:

Shelly Aiken/Youth Program

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax: 914-788-7407

Phone: 914-788-7405

Shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT AUTHORITY: 10 USC, Section 1558, Secretary of the Army; E.O. 9397 (SSN); and Army Regulation 608-1, Army Community Service Center.

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To prepare travel orders for training for voluntary services provided by an individual and to obtain agreement from the volunteer on the conditions of accepting the performance of voluntary service.

ROUTINE USES: None

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to complete the form may result in an inability to provide training for voluntary services.

This form serves as permission and waiver to participate in physical activities and releases the New York National Guard Family Programs, New York National Guard Youth Programs from any and all liability.

Parental Signature: _____

Date _____

PROJECT PEN PAL

Permission Slip

Would your child be interested in making a new friend and getting to know another child like him/herself? **Why not sign them up for the Project Pen Pal.** What a great way for them to share stories about Military life and learn different cultures from around the Globe. If your child is interested please fill out the information below. Parents, **please don't forget to sign** the permission slip and either fax it or mail it to the number below.

Child's Name _____ **Age/Grade** _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

What Language do you speak and write? _____

PROJECT PEN PAL PERMISSION FORM

I, _____ (parent/guardian) give my permission for
_____ (child's name) to participate in Project Pen Pal.

I understand that it is my (parent/guardian) responsibility to supervise my child's contact with another Military child and not the responsibility of the New York National Guard Youth Program.

Date _____ **Email address** _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Address _____

Phone/Fax _____

***Please mail or fax this permission slip to:**

Shelly Aiken

NY National Guard Youth Program

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax (914-788-7407)

*If you have questions about Project Pen Pal please **email Shelly** at:

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil Or Call me at 914-788-7405

Project Pen Pal Code of Conduct

- No obscenities in written or electronic correspondence
- No illegal material mailed or emailed
- No attempt to harm others in correspondence (making threats, making fun of another person, bullying behaviors, etc.)