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Supporting  
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# Supporting Military Families

Written By Rachel Koepke  
Photos provided by Support Military Families

Perhaps the hardest part of being a military family is leaving your extended family members behind. The separation of being deployed or the constant upheaval from place to place puts a continual strain on families. Support Military Families (SMF), a Christian nonprofit organization serving military spouses and their families, was founded to support military spouses and their children through their care package program.

Founded by Dr. Steven and Diane Rumley in 2009, their dream was to provide comfort to military spouses and their children. They proudly serve military families with God's love, striving to raise awareness for the sacrifices they make. Some of these hardships include frequent moves, being away from family and friends, serving as a single parent while their loved one is deployed, caring for a Wounded Warrior, or being separated during the holidays or other special events.

Since its foundation over ten years ago, SMF is now the largest Christian nonprofit





for military families. What started as small gestures of love and support has grown into a program which has distributed more than 70,000 care packages so far.

SMF hosts two Appreciation Care Package distribution events a year for military spouses and their children (Littlest Heroes): National Military Spouse Day (held in May) and during December for Christmas. The packages contain a variety of gifts including jewelry, Hallmark gifts and Bibles for the spouses, and plush animals, coloring books, crayons, small toys and a book about Jesus for the children. An important part of the package is a handwritten note from patriots across the country, expressing gratitude for the military family's sacrifice. This simple but meaningful gesture powerfully impacts the hearts of many military spouses, encouraging and supporting them through whatever obstacles may lie ahead.

"Our soldiers go through so much and so many organizations think of them, but this is the first one that I've found that actively supports the spouses," said Theresa, an active military spouse. "Thank you for your generosity of spirit, generosity of time, and dedication to support those that are in the direct line of supporting the soldiers and sacrificing right along with them."

While SMF has already helped countless families, their mission continues. They would like to provide over one million families with an appreciation care package, as well as continue







raising awareness and building support for military families to honor their sacrifices.

Support Military Families acknowledges the help and support of their community partners and sponsors. The American Bible Society provides thousands of Bible resources for the appreciation care packages. United Community Bank, Walmart, Penske, Wells Fargo, McDonald's, Hallmark, and Towne & Reese help ensure that 2,000 deserving military spouses and children receive encouragement in the form of an appreciation care package. Individuals interested in honoring military families can sponsor a care package and SMF will deliver it on your behalf.



"With the holidays approaching, there are thousands of military families in the Carolinas in need of encouragement," said Dr. Steve and Diane Rumley, co-founders of SMF. "Join us at 'Santa's Workshop' in the Myrtle Beach Mall this November. Volunteers (Santa's helpers) are needed to assemble 2,000 Christmas care packages for holiday distribution to military families." Registration is required for this event and COVID safety measures will be followed.

To learn more about SMF and how you can get involved, visit [SupportMilitaryFamilies.org](https://SupportMilitaryFamilies.org). Thank you to all military members, both active and retired, for your service to our country. Thank you also to all military spouses, children, and families. Your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

