# **Together We're Stronger**<sup>®</sup>



# MISA Fall Meeting September 23, 2024

## A Bit of History

- Founded in 1969
- For 55 years, we stand up for, support, and enhance the quality of life for every military family through bold advocacy, innovative programming, and dynamic and responsive solutions.
- We are the leading nonprofit dedicated to serving the families who stand beside the uniform.



# The Work of NMFA



## Mission

We work with families to identify and solve the unique challenges of military life.

## Vision

Create a world in which military families are thriving.

## **Focus Areas**

Advocacy
Research
Programs



# Advocating for our Children's Education

We advocate for our military families working with Congress, White House, Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

Through effective communications and expert knowledge on pressing issues, we collaborate with military service organizations and other stakeholders to effect positive change for all military families. Children's education issues for 2024:

- Full Funding for ED & DoD Impact Aid Program
- Respond to individual military family concerns regarding the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children and implementation.
- State Level: advanced and open enrollment options

## Advocacy: Food Insecurity

#### Food Insecurity by the Numbers:

- DoD Surveys: 25% of military families report experiencing food insecurity in the previous 12 months
- Food pantries on or near every military installation

#### **Our Policy Solutions:**

- Increase families access to SNAP and BNA by removing BAH from eligibility
- Increase BAH to cover 100% of housing costs
- Targeted pay increase to junior enlisted (E1 to E4)

# Research & Insights



Hidden Helpers		
77% of respondents are Hidden Helpers.		
Wounded, III, or Injured Service Member Breakdown		
Injury Type	Percent %	Total (n)
None	24	381
Invisible	46	743
Visible	18	291
Both	13	205



Respondents with a service member with a **visible** wound were significantly more likely to report high and moderate well-being compared to those with a service member with an invisible wound.

#### Hidden Helpers and Suicidal Ideation

1 in 4 hidden helpers with a visibly wounded service member or a service member with both types of injuries reported passive SI in the past month.

70% of respondents with a service member with an invisible wound reported preparing to end their life at some time in their lifetime. Population crates of SI = 26% MTES lifetime SI = 38% Our Research + Insights team engages in research, data collection, and analysis to better understand the military community and generate meaningful insights in areas critical to military family well-being.

#### Areas include:

- Health
- Financial security
- Education employment
- Military children and teens

# Programs: Military Spouse Scholarships



# Spouse Scholarships & Support

NMFA scholarships help pay for:

» All degrees from GED's to PhD's

» Professional licenses and certifications, including re-licensure

» Supervised clinical hours

»Business and entrepreneurial expenses

» Continuing education courses

» And more!



# 2024 Operation Purple Camp

National Military Family Association

- 860 attendees out of 869 spots!
- 6 weeks of camp
- 5 Camp Locations: VA, NC, TX, CA, AK



# 2024 Summer Challenge





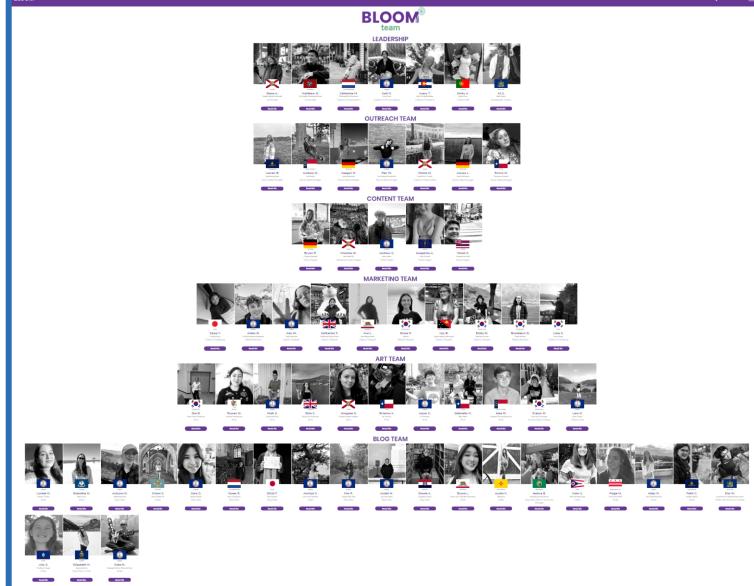




- 960 families registered with 1828 kids
- Over 600 families received free books from UTR
- 96 families got in on the fun with 183 kids earning badges
- Prizes included" iPad Mini, Robot Dog, portable projector, robotics kid and more

## Bloom: Empowering the Military Teen





Bloom elevates the authentic voices of military teens to empower, inspire and connect with each other.

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## www.MilitaryFamily.org

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