



MCCS...VITAL PROGRAMS FOR MARINES, SAILORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Marine Corps Community Services provides vital programs essential to Marines, Sailors and their families. Each program is designed to make a positive impact on the lives of service members and their families. The programs focus on building morale, providing recreation and adding welfare support where needed.

American Friends of our Armed Forces began sponsoring MCCS programs in 2005 and has for the last 3 years provided annual support in excess of \$100,000. Through AFAF sponsorships, MCCS has been able to dramatically expand the number, quality, and content of the programs they offer.

YOUTH SPORTS BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

MCCS offers more than 20 sports programs for children of all ages, offering broad appeal sports such as soccer, baseball, track, basketball, golf and flag football. Also offered are dance and cheerleading programs. All in all, children can select from a variety of sports for enjoyment and healthy lifestyle.

AFAF plays a vital role in making it all possible and affordable through an annual donation of \$35,000. Military parents can save 50% of the normal registration fee with children receiving authentic uniforms and equipment to make the sports program even more attractive for potential participants. Over 1600 children participate in the MCCS Youth Sports Program.

Everything adds up to lots of fun for moms, dads and their kids. And at a cost that is affordable. AFAF is proud to be the sponsor of such an outstanding MCCS program.

SPECIAL EVENTS CAN MAKE THE DAY!

How about a concert with big name entertainers? Want to spend a day with your family relaxing and enjoying games, refreshments, entertainment and a real down home BBQ? Do you have time for a winter festival or to attend an ugly gown ball? (Yes, we said ugly) And let's not forget the ladies night out bowling party.

All this and more is available through MCCS' Operating Enduring Families program. Each event is creatively designed and brings out the best from marines, sailors and their families.

The Ugly Gown Ball attracts over 100 attendees who don their most hideous gowns, plaster their faces with outrageous makeup and tease their hair to perfection. It's an evening of fun and hilarity for spouses of our deployed marines and sailors.

There are many **winter festivals** but none like the one provided by MCCS. Over 2000 attendees wait for Santa to make his special visit to the kids. There is also a toy giveaway, face painting and lots of food and games. The event includes musical entertainment and prizes for the entire family. What a great way to usher in the holiday season.

MCCS salutes the troops and their families with a spectacular annual **We Salute You Celebration**. Over 12,000 people attend to recognize those who sacrifice so much to serve our country. There is something for everyone on this fun-filled day. Free beverages, a great BBQ, booths with fun games and gifts for the kids, and outstanding concert performers. AFAF has played a leading role in making this one of the biggest days of the year at the base.

Marines and their families want to stay fit. What better way than to be a participant in the **Semper Fits Gym Rat Program**. Aside from basic workouts, patrons can participate in boxing classes, group fitness classes and even blood drives to earn points. It all adds up to family fun while staying fit.

Care packages for the troops. There is still a great need to help the troops in the field. Sponsorship from AFAF makes it possible to support the troops that live on the base and do not have families and also to send care packages to marines and sailors deployed in the Middle East through the monthly **MCCS Desert Mail Call Program**.

If this sounds like a lot, it is. MCCS does an outstanding job meeting the needs of our troops and their families and AFAF is proud to be the key sponsor of the valuable programs available at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California.