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NMCRS, helping Sailors for more than 100 years

By MCC Rosalie Chang
NCBC Public Affairs

For more than 100 years, NMCRS has helped Sailors, Marines and their families deal with emergency situations, prepare for the future and find peace of mind through assistance and education.

"When emergencies occur and it is outside of a family's budget, we are able to step in and offer financial assistance using the donations we receive," said NMCRS Gulfport/ New Orleans Office Director, Alice Huffman. "It could be for emergency travel, rent, a mortgage payment or any basic living expenses."

Other examples of services this military service organization provides include financial assistance and counseling, quick assist loans, education assistance, emergency travel and disaster relief.

"Our biggest goal is to teach financial education; to show clients how to plan for their future wants and needs, to be able to live within their financial means and to be able to save for any emergencies," said Hoffman.

Outside the NMCRS office, the visiting nurse program offers families in-home, clinic or hospital visits to provide hands-on health education and resources information for families with new babies or those with a member who is convalescent after major surgery. This service promotes a continued connection between patients, doctors and military and community resources.

"Our visiting nurse is also a combat casualty assistance nurse and a good part of the work she does is with our veterans and active duty members who deal with challenges from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or physical conditions related to combat," said Hoffman.

The nurses can help in understanding the injuries, diagnosis and recovery or rehabilitation processes. They may also assess the issues and talk about resources that might. Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport kicked off the 2018 Active Duty Fund Drive in support of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), Mar. 1, offering service members a voluntary opportunity to raise funds for the direct benefit and support of fellow Sailors and Marines. The next fundraising event is the ADFD Bee Wash on April 26, at 7:30 a.m.

Service members can learn more through their command's coordinators, who can answer questions and provide contribution forms. Contributions to the 2018 Active Duty Fund Drive may be made through a payroll allotment, check or cash donation, or online at <http://nmcrsfunddrive.org/gulfport/>.



Participants begin their 5K journey at the beginning of the Run For Relief NMCRS 5K March 10 in Gulfport. The Run For Relief 5K is just one of the fundraising event the NMCRS conducts throughout the year. (U.S. Navy Photo by Brian Lamar)>

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Counselors, educators learn transition skills for military children

By Ryan Labadens
NCBC Public Affairs

Moving from one base to the next across the country, and even across the globe, can come with its own unique set of challenges, not only for military members and their spouses but for their children as well.

To help children with these transitions, counselors and educators from NCBC Gulfport, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and various schools and organizations around the Mississippi Gulf Coast attended a course March 12, 2018, called Supporting Military Children through School Transitions: Foundations, to learn more about how they can assist military children with these particulate life changes. Kevin Byrd, NCBC Gulfport school liaison officer, noted the benefits of these types of courses and seminars.

"It becomes a network where we rely on each other and work together to help these kids, because what we want is for every military child to have a soft landing when they hit a new school so that they don't get left behind," said Byrd. The course, which was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, focused

on explaining how transition and separation can impact the military family. It also provided a forum for local counselors and educators to network, learn about and develop action plans for helping military children in grades kindergarten through 12th deal with many of the common issues they face when adjusting to a new environment. Three of these common issues are how to deal with changes in relationships (family, loss of old friends and making new ones), the effects on a child's academics, and adapting to a new community (Finding the Way).

This particular course was hosted by the Military Child Education Coalition, a non-profit organization focused on ensuring quality educational opportu-

nities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition.

"What we do is we come out into a community that serves military children so that way we can empower them to be able to understand military children and their specific needs," said Jennifer Cogbill, MCEC professional development trainer. "For example, with this particular training, we're talking about supporting the military child through school transitions... talking about the academic, the social, the emotional and all the things that come with moving and what that looks like for the child."

Susan Smith, NCBC Gulfport Fleet and Family Readiness Exceptional Family Member Program liaison, praised

the type of training offered through the course and noted some of the information she was able to take away from the training.

"This is great training for folks working with our military children," said Smith. "As we all know, transition is tough for anyone. MCEC provided a lot of great resources and advice to help our transitioning military children.... I especially love the idea of a warm hand-off to the gaining schools and making sure they have all their documents together to minimize any possible delays or frustration for the families and schools."

People with questions about the opportunities available to help their children adapt to a new environment can contact Byrd at 228-871-2117.



Kevin Byrd (left) and Gerry Cross, school liaison officers for NCBC Gulfport and Keesler Air Force Base, respectively, address attendees at the Supporting Military Children through School Transitions: Foundations course at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, March 12, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens/released)



Construction Electrician First Class Travis Walker, a Naval Construction Training Center instructor at NCBC Gulfport, shows students how to use a cordless impact to screw wooden boards together at CLIMB CDC Work Training Institute, Mississippi, March 13, 2018. Seabees from NCBC Gulfport participated in community projects during AmeriCorps Week to help teach basic construction skills to local students looking to enter various trades. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens)



Sawdust flies through the air as Builder First Class James McCullough, a Naval Construction Training Center instructor at NCBC Gulfport, demonstrates how to use a circular saw to cut through a wooden board at CLIMB CDC Work Training Institute, Mississippi, March 13, 2018. Seabees from NCBC Gulfport participated in community projects during AmeriCorps Week to help teach basic construction skills to local students looking to enter various trades. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens)