

★ ★ OUR ★ ★
MILITARY
KIDS

**2023 Annual Survey
Data Report**



Prepared by:
Erica M. Hawvermale
July 2023

CONTENTS

Executive Summary 4

Introduction 13

 Background 13

 Process..... 13

Chapter 1: Deployed Program Findings 16

 Demographics..... 16

 Military Service 16

 Children 17

 Child Outcomes 18

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 25

 Family Outcomes 26

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 31

 Finances 32

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 34

 Finding OMK 34

 Opportunities and Suggestions 35

Chapter 2: Combat Injured Program Findings 40

 Demographics..... 40

 Military Service 40

 Children 41

 Child Outcomes 42

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 48

 Family Outcomes 49

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 54

 Finances 54

 Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups 56

 Finding OMK 56

 Opportunities and Suggestions 57

Chapter 3: Program Comparison62

 Demographics.....62

 Family62

 Children.....63

 Child Outcomes63

 Family Outcomes65

 Finances.....66

Conclusion.....69

References73

Appendices 80

 Appendix A: Deployed Program Survey Instrument 81

 Appendix B: Deployed Program Response Frequencies.....103

 Appendix C: Deployed Program Crosstabs115

 Appendix D: Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument.....134

 Appendix E: Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies 158

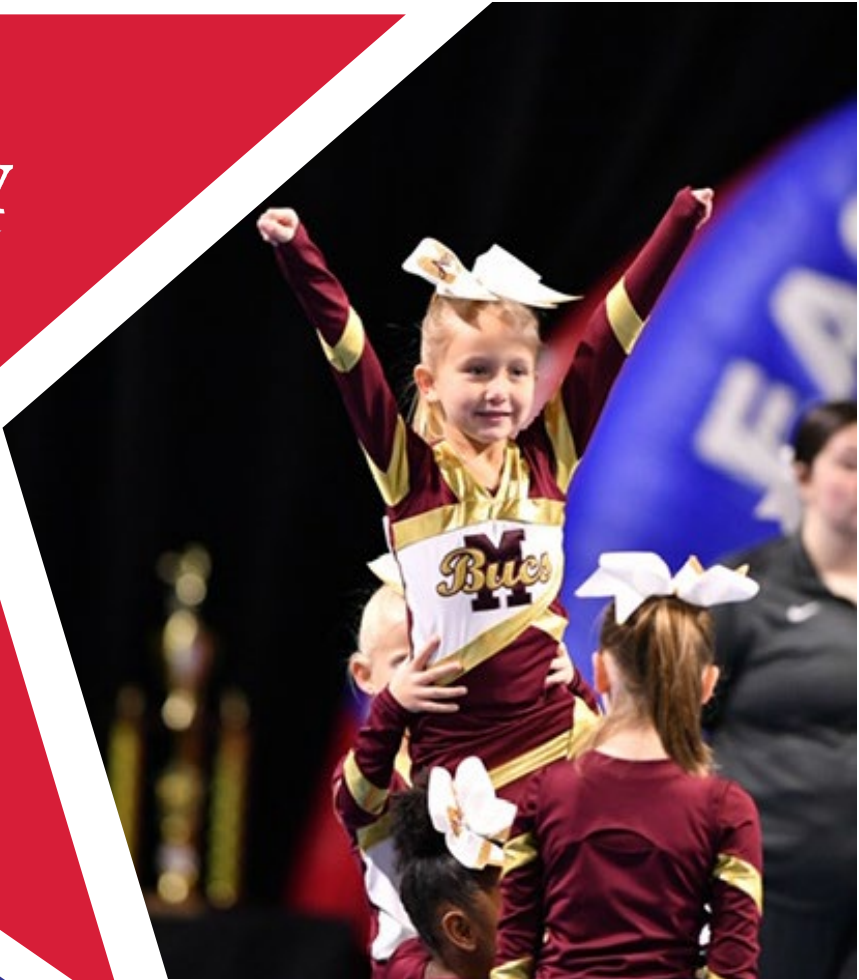
 Appendix F: Combat Injured Program Crosstabs171

 Appendix G: Deployed Program and Combat Injured Program Comparisons190

2023 Annual Survey Data Report



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



**E
X
E
C
U
T
I
V
E

S
U
M
M
A
R
Y**

Executive Summary

This report reviews the findings from the 2023 Annual Survey of OMK families across their two programs. The Deployed Program consists of Reserve and National Guard families who experienced a stateside activation or an overseas deployment. The Combat Injured program consists of families whose service member/Veteran sustained a post-9/11 combat-related injury and is in recovery for their injuries. Across both programs, children between the ages of 3-18 were eligible to receive a grant of up to \$300 to cover the costs of participating in an extracurricular activity of their choice. Here we review the data highlights of both programs, as well as the differences between them and families' suggestions for improvement.

Deployed Program

Demographics

Of the 828 families surveyed, 71% of the respondents identified as the caregiver and 78% as the mother of the children who received the OMK grant. Nearly two thirds (63%) had an enlisted service member in their household.

The majority of families (80%) identified their children as white or Caucasian, and only 18% identified as Hispanic or Latino/a/x. The children who received grants were relatively evenly split in terms of gender (53% male, 47% female), and two thirds were in between the ages of 5-12.

Youth Impacts & Outcomes

Although only 28% of children experienced academic decline as a result of their service member's deployment/activation, **nearly half (48%) experienced improvement in their academics as a result of their OMK-sponsored activity.**

Children experienced a variety of psychosocial symptoms, the most common being the following, with **86% seeing an improvement in their symptoms** due to participation in their OMK-sponsored activity.



37%

Crying or Depression



31%

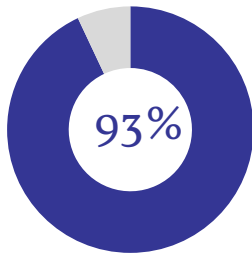
Acting Out or Aggression



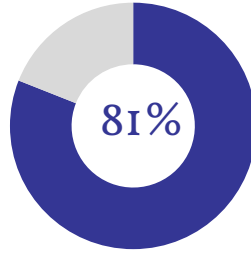
27%

Attention Difficulties

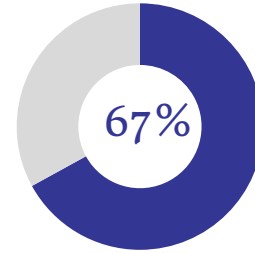
Participating in OMK-sponsored activities also helped children stay active and/or keep busy during the deployment/activation, provided kids with something to look forward to, and helped children build self-confidence:



Stay Active and/or
Keep Busy



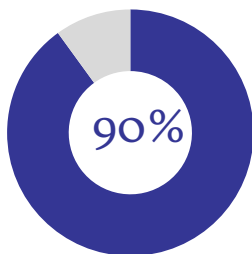
Something to Look
Forward To



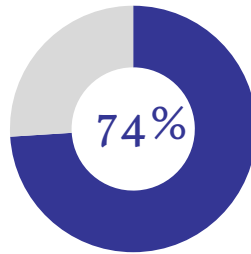
Build Self-Confidence

Family Outcomes

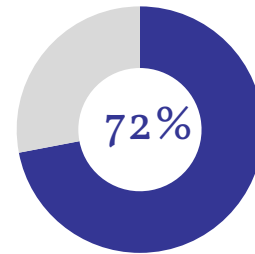
Receiving an OMK grant and participating in the funded activity(ies) had a **positive impact on family well-being for 95% of families**. The grants also helped families feel appreciated, helped families maintain a sense of normalcy, and gave children something to talk to their service member about during their separation. Additionally, 87% felt more connected to the military community, and 82% felt more connected to their local community.



Felt Appreciated



Maintained Sense of
Normalcy



Gave Children Something
to Talk About

Finances

The deployment/activation made finances more difficult for 48% of families. Without the help of OMK, 89% of families indicated that they would have been unable to afford their child(ren)’s activity on their own, or that it would have caused financial strain.

Differences Between Sub-Groups

Although the type of separation (overseas deployment vs activation) and the current location of the service member parent (present or absent) had no discernable impact on parent reports of child outcomes, several differences emerged between the other sub-groups within the Deployed program.

Child Gender

- Female children were significantly more likely to experience fearfulness or nightmares. Male children were significantly more likely to experience attention difficulties and negative or morbid thoughts.

Child Age

- Younger children were significantly more likely to experience acting out or aggression, crying or depression, headaches or stomachaches, and fearfulness or nightmares. 13-18 year olds were also reported as having significantly fewer symptoms than the other age bands.
- 13-18 year olds were reported as significantly more likely to have found a mentor figure through their activity than the other age bands.

Minority Status

- Minority children were also significantly more likely to experience attention difficulties or report no symptoms at all.
- Non-minority children were significantly more likely to experience crying or depression, headaches or stomachaches, and fearfulness or nightmares.

Respondent Type

- Service members were significantly more likely to report that the grant made them feel more connected to their local community than caregivers.
- Service members also reported a significantly higher impact on their own morale than caregivers did.
- Caregivers were also significantly more likely to report that the grant activities helped their family maintain a sense of normalcy than service members were.
- Service members were significantly more likely to report financial difficulty than caregivers.

Combat Injured Program

Demographics

Of the 326 families who completed the survey, roughly half of the surveys were completed by the injured service member/Veteran and half were completed by the spouse (49% and 48% respectively). Nearly two thirds (62%) identified as the mother of the children who received the OMK grant. The majority (86%) of families had a service member/Veteran who was enlisted.

Nearly two thirds (65%) identified their children as White or Caucasian, and a quarter of families identified as Hispanic or Latino/a/x. Children were roughly split into thirds

across age bands, with 31% being 3-8, 35% being 9-12, and 34% being 13-18. 53% of the children identified as female, and 46% identified as male.

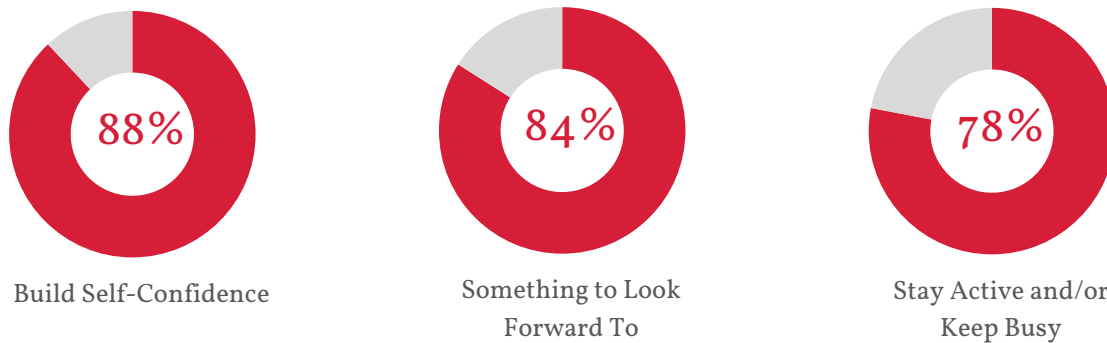
Youth Impacts & Outcomes

One third (33%) of children within this program experienced academic decline as a result of their service member/Veteran’s injury. However, **over half (58%) experienced improvement in their academics as a result of their OMK-sponsored activity.**

Children experienced a variety of psychosocial symptoms, the most common being the following, with **nearly all (95%) experiencing an improvement in their symptoms** due to participation in their OMK-sponsored activity.

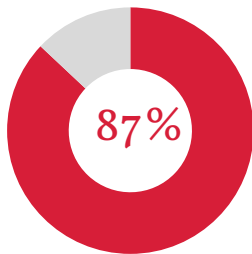


Participating in OMK-sponsored activities also helped children build self-confidence, provided kids with something to look forward to, and helped children stay active and/or keep busy during the injury recovery:

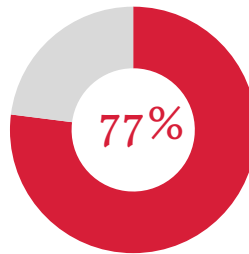
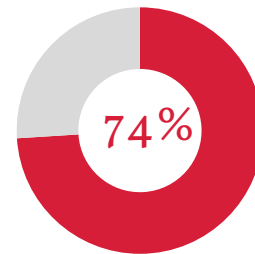


Family Outcomes

Receiving an OMK grant and participating in the funded activity(ies) had a **positive impact on family well-being for 96% of families.** Additionally, 91% felt more connected to the military community, and 87% felt more connected to their local community. The grants also helped families feel appreciated, helped families meet others in their community, and helped families maintain a sense of normalcy.



Felt Appreciated

Helped Family Meet
Others in CommunityGave Children Something
to Talk About

Finances

The injury and the injury recovery process made finances more difficult for 91% of families and made it difficult for either the service member/Veteran or the other caregiver to work outside the home in 89% of families. Without the help of OMK, 98% of families reported that they would have been unable to afford their child(ren)'s activity or that it would have caused financial strain.

Differences Between Sub-Groups

Minority Status

- Non-minorities were significantly more likely to report children experiencing acting out or aggression and headaches or stomachaches than minorities were.
- Families with minority children were significantly more likely to report using the activity as a reward for doing well in school.

Respondent Type

- Caregivers reported significantly stronger financial difficulties due to the service member's injury recovery than the service members/Veterans did, however service members/Veterans reported significantly greater difficulties in their children's other parent/caregiver to work outside the home.
- Caregivers reported significantly more positive effects on overall family well-being than service members/Veterans did. However, service members/veterans were significantly more likely to report that the activities gave them time with their family and space to bond than caregivers were.
- Caregivers were significantly more likely than service members/Veterans to report that the activities helped their child(ren) stay active or keep busy and gave their child(ren) space to "be a kid", whereas service members/Veterans were significantly more likely to report that the activity served as a reward for doing well in school.

Program Comparison

Demographics

The families that make up the two programs look significantly different from each other – Deployed Program families have a higher ratio of officer paygrades and are more likely to have the non-service member caregiver fill out the survey. Combat Injured Program families have a higher ratio of enlisted paygrades and are split relatively evenly between caregiver and service member/Veteran respondents. The children within the Combat Injured Program also tend to be older than those in the Deployed Program, and have, on average, received more cumulative grants per child. The children within the Combat Injured Program were also more diverse with significantly fewer White/Caucasian children than the Deployed Program.

Child Outcomes

Combat Injured Program Families reported significantly stronger academic improvements and improvements in psychosocial symptoms than those in the Deployed Program. Families in each program were significantly more likely to report:

Deployed Program	Combat Injured Program
<p><u>Psychosocial Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crying or depression 	<p><u>Psychosocial Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention difficulties • Headaches or stomachaches
<p><u>That the activities...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped children stay active or busy 	<p><u>That the activities...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped children build self confidence • Gave children space to “be a kid” • Taught children valuable life skills and/or values • Served as a reward for doing well in school

Combat Injured Program families also agreed significantly more strongly than Deployed Program families that their children found a mentor figure and that their children made friends/found a sense of community within the activity.

Family Outcomes

Across all family level outcomes, program participants either did not differ significantly or the Combat Injured Program participants reported significantly more positive outcomes. In no area did Deployed Program families report significantly stronger outcomes.

Finances

Combat Injured Program families reported significantly greater financial difficulty than Deployed Program families. Additionally, they reported significantly greater challenges in affording the activity entirely on their own, with 37% of Combat Injured Program

families reporting that they would be unable to afford the activity on their own, compared to 19% of Deployed Program families.

Significant Differences Across Programs

Although some of the significant differences seen between groups were only experienced within one of the programs (those which are reported above), some of the differences were seen within both programs.

Child Gender

- Males in both programs were significantly more likely to experience acting out or aggression, while females were significantly more likely to experience crying or depression.

Child Age

- Older children were significantly more likely to experience social withdrawal than younger children.
- There were also significant differences regarding the ability of the grant to fully cover costs of activities between age groups, with older age groups reported as significantly less likely to be fully covered by the grant.

Minority Status

- Minority children were reported to have significantly stronger academic improvements than non-minority children.

Respondent Type

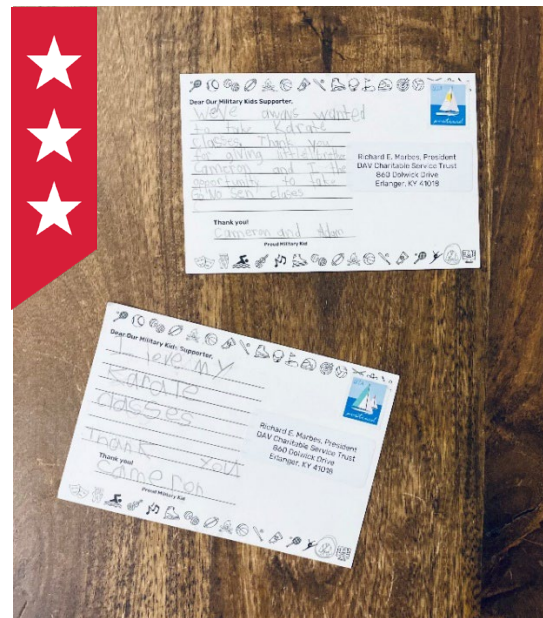
- Caregivers reported significantly more psychosocial symptoms in children than service members did.

Opportunities & Suggestions

Families across both programs reported being receptive to and likely to participate in additional activities if program eligibility was extended to children in the 1-2 year age group. Additional suggestions from families for improving this program clustered around the following:

- **Expanded application portal features** - such as auto-population of information from previous submissions, a saved profile for each child, and a way to see how many grants were remaining for each child. This portal could also offer a way for families to follow their application status and review expected timelines.
- **Reimbursement Alternative** - the ability to have families submit for reimbursement when activities require payment before a check from OMK can be mailed.

- **Broadening of Activity Eligibility** - to include family activities or a pass (such as a museum or recreation center) for families to engage in activities together at their own pace and schedule. Since OMK provides grants for family memberships to local YMCA, parks & rec, and family pool or zoo memberships, OMK will add this information to their FAQs.
- **Broadening Grant Applications** - to include required gear and other costs after the activity fees had been covered, as well as additional activities such as mission trips. Since OMK covers required equipment and uniform fees when they are purchased directly from the organization, OMK will add this information to FAQs.



2023 Annual Survey Data Report

I N T R O D U C T I O N



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



Introduction

Background

Our Military Kids (OMK) is a nonprofit organization that recognizes the sacrifice of children of deployed National Guard, deployed Reserve, or post 9/11 combat-injured service members in treatment for combat related injuries by offering extracurricular activity grants that build the child's self-confidence, enhance family wellness, and strengthen a shared sense of community. These grants help children participate in extracurricular activities of their choice that may otherwise may not be financially feasible to their families. Once awarded a grant, all recipients receive an award packet with tokens of appreciation such as a certificate with their name on it and a letter acknowledging their sacrifice. This packet also includes a \$300 check made out to the organization the child has chosen to participate in. Families in the Combat Injured Program are able to receive up to 4 grants for each child ages 3-18. Families in the Deployed Program are eligible to receive one grant for each child ages 3-18.

Additionally, this year, Deployed Program families were also eligible to receive a second grant for a deployment greater than 180 days, and Combat Injured Program families could apply for an additional Flexible Extra (FLEX) grant. FLEX grants are awarded to each child only once but can be used at any time.

Process

The 2023 OMK annual survey was fielded from February 1, 2023-April 18, 2023 via Alchemer, a flexible platform that enables efficient data collection and analysis for businesses. Families in the Deployed Program and families in the Combat Injured Program who received grants in 2022 were provided separate surveys (included in Appendices A and D). Within the Deployed Program, the survey was sent to 1,652 families, and received 828 complete responses (50% response rate). Within the Combat Injured Program, the survey was sent to 511 families, and received 326 responses (64% response rate). Both response rates are slightly lower than response rates from previous years.

For both programs, the data was downloaded and imported into SPSS for analysis. Open ended questions were coded thematically, and direct quotes from these responses are included throughout the document to support and elaborate on quantitative findings. Additionally, the following sub-groups were compared against each other to see if any significant differences in responses existed:

- Child Gender (Male | Female)
- Child Age (3-4 | 5-8 | 9-12 | 13-18)
- Minority Status (Minority | Non-Minority)

- Paygrade (Enlisted | Officer | Warrant Officer)
- Respondent Type (Service Member | Caregiver)

Additionally, within the Deployed Program, separation type (overseas deployment | stateside activation) and service member location (present | absent) were also examined. Finally, tests were run comparing the two programs. Significant differences between groups are identified and described in the body of the report, with the test used and the significance level (.05, .01, or .000) identified in the footnotes. For full test information, please see Appendix C (Deployed Crosstabs), Appendix F (Combat Injured Crosstabs), and Appendix G (Deployed Program and Combat Injured Program Comparisons). Each program is reported separately, followed by a brief comparison between the two.



Deployed Program Findings

C H A P T E R O N E



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



Chapter 1: Deployed Program Findings

Demographics

Of the 828 families who responded to the survey, 26% of respondents identified as the service member in their family (Figure 1.1). 71% identified as the service member’s spouse. Of the 2% who indicated another identification, write-ins primarily identified the respondent as the service member’s ex-spouse or ex-partner. For the purposes of statistical analysis, all participants who did not identify as being the service member have been classified as “caregivers” within analyses comparing service members to non-service members. 78% of respondents identified as the OMK recipient(s)’ mother, and 21% identified as the father (Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.1. Status

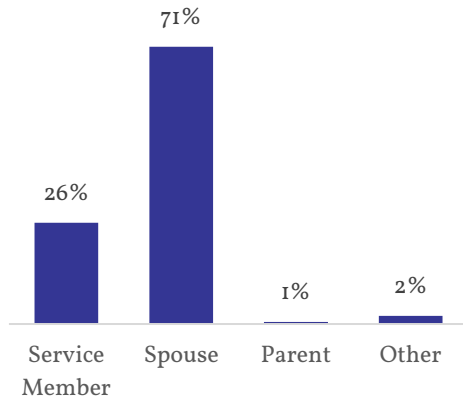
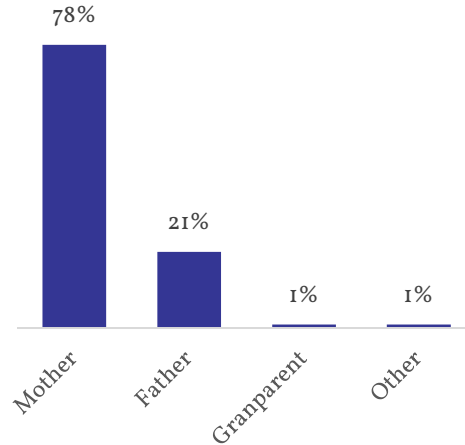


Figure 1.2. Relationship to Child



Military Service

63% of the families had an enlisted service member in their household, with 31% having an officer and 6% having a warrant officer (Figure 1.3). Families came from a variety of service branches (Figure 1.4), with the Army being the most common (56% National Guard, 12% Reserve), followed by the Air Force (16% National Guard, 7% Reserve). 7% served in the Navy Reserve. For 79%, the OMK grant was provided during an overseas deployment, with 21% receiving the grant for a stateside activation (Figure 1.5). Within each group, 46% of families still had their service member deployed, and 54% still had their service member activated stateside.

Figure 1.3. Paygrade

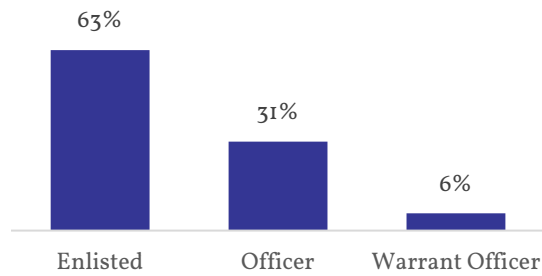


Figure 1.4. Branch

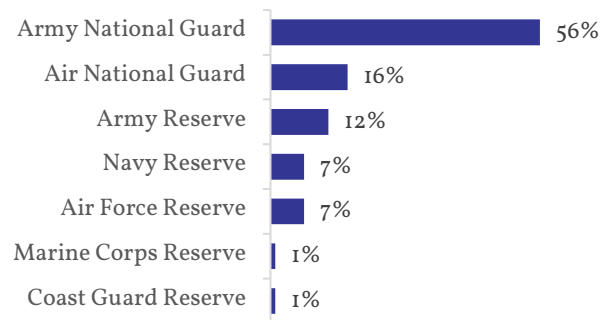
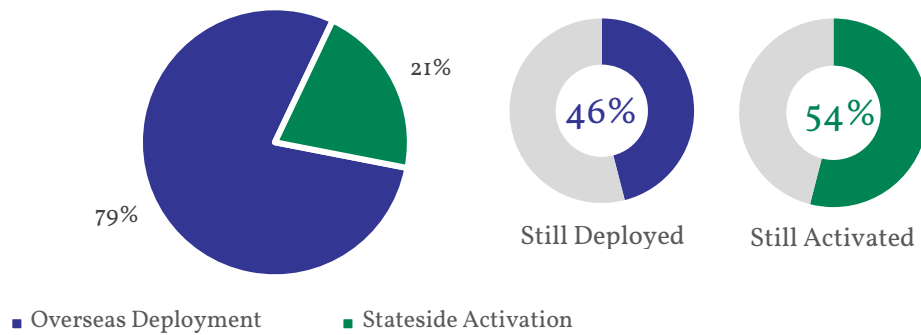


Figure 1.5. Separation Type

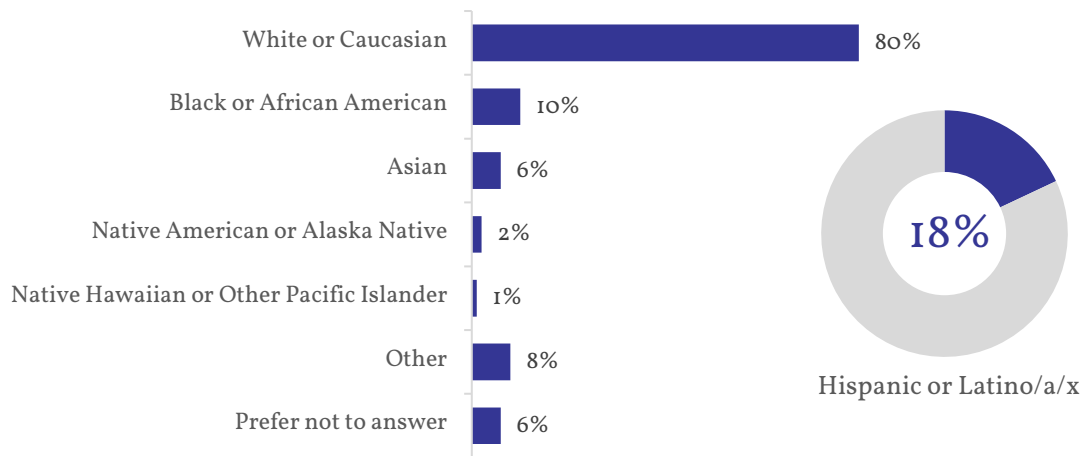


Children

As in past surveys, when asked to select all of the races that best described their child(ren)’s race, the majority (80%) of families identified as white or Caucasian (Figure 1.6). 11% selected more than one race, with some families selecting up to four. In a separate question, 18% of families identified their children as being Hispanic or Latino/a/x. For the purposes of statistical analysis in order to better understand the impacts of race and ethnicity on youth outcomes, children were binarily coded between “Non-Minority” (white-only, non-Hispanic), and “Minority” (all others). Those who selected “prefer not to answer” to either the race or the ethnicity question are excluded from subsequent analysis comparing outcomes across the minority/non-minority domain.

Although families reported having up to seven children who received an OMK grant in 2022, the majority (82%) of families had only one or two children receive a grant.

Figure 1.6. Childrens' Race & Ethnicity



Grant recipients were relatively evenly split between gender (53% male, 47% female). Although “prefer to self-identify” was a new option this year, none of the respondents selected this option to identify their children. 16% of the children represented by this survey were 3-4 years of age. 36% were 5-8, 31% were 9-12, and 18% were 13-18 (Figure 1.7). Although a minority of the overall number of children who received a grant, 121 children (8%) were reported to have a disability (physical, cognitive, and/or mental impairment).

Figure 1.7. Age

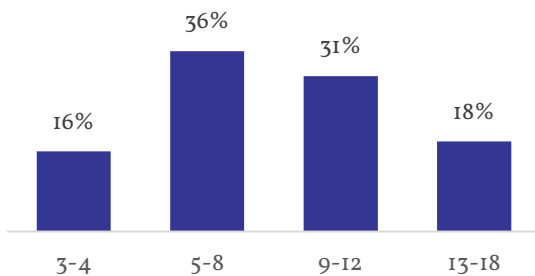
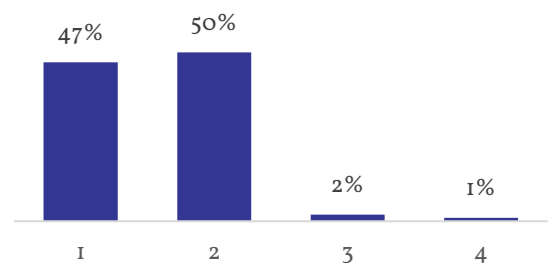


Figure 1.8. Number of Grants Received



Nearly all (97%) of the children represented had received only one or two grants from OMK, however 2% had received three and 1% had received four (Figure 1.8). Due to the small base sizes for children receiving 3-5 grants, statistical analysis cannot be performed at this time to better understand the additive impact of multiple grants. However, this should be investigated in the future.

Child Outcomes

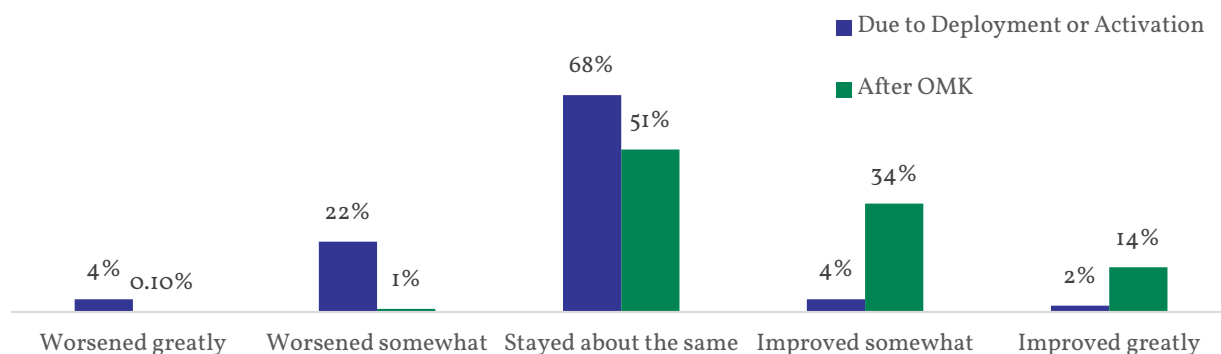
Concern about the safety of their service member, the disruptions in routines that the separation caused, and/or simply missing their deployed/activated parent all can

contribute to challenges in the academic space (Chandra et al. 2010; Richardson et al. 2011). As one parent described:

“My child experienced emotional days from missing her father, so learning was somewhat difficult.”

Just over one quarter (28%) of the children experienced academic performance that worsened “somewhat” or “greatly” as a result of the service member’s deployment/activation (Figure 1.9). Regardless of whether their academic performance had worsened or stayed the same, parents reported that nearly half (48%) of children experienced academic improvement as a result of their OMK-sponsored activity. Just over half (51%) remained the same, and close to none (1%) were reported to have had their performance in school worsen as a result of their OMK-sponsored activity.

Figure 1.9. Academic Impact



Participation in OMK-sponsored activities helped facilitate improved performance in school by first improving the overall well-being of the children:

“My daughter [took] it hard for the very beginning of the deployment and showed some hardship at school. It is important that my daughter attend dance class to help with her motivation to have an activity outside of school.”

“Staying active in extracurricular activities helps their overall mental health, sleep, social skills, confidence and more. All of these things prepare them to do well in school.”

“She was able to get out excess energy with the gymnastics and thus able to focus better on schoolwork.”

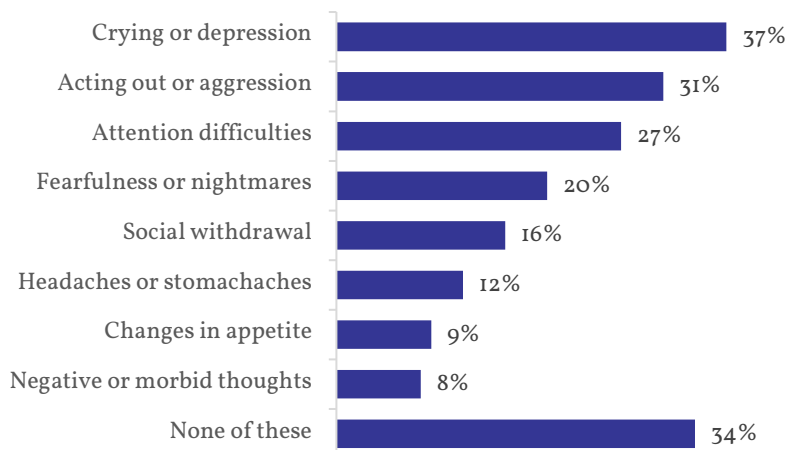
Improvements in well-being were an important impact of participation in OMK-sponsored activities, as many children experience emotional challenges, including anxiety, depression, and/or feelings of isolation during a military induced separation

(Chandra et al. 2010; Jaycox et al. 2016; Lester et al. 2010; Shiffer et al. 2017; Sonethavilay et al. 2018; Richardson et al. 2011). Children can also exhibit behavior challenges, such as internalizing/externalizing behaviors, aggression, risky behavior, attention difficulties, destructive behaviors, withdrawal, and sleep difficulties (Achenback and Ruffle 2000; Kelley 1994; Richardson et al. 2011; Aranda et al. 2011; McGuire et al. 2016; Henderson 2006). This year, two thirds (66%) of children experienced at least one negative psychosocial symptom as a result of their service member's deployment/activation. One mother described her daughter's challenges as follows:

“My daughter would wake up in the middle of the night crying for dad. She would also randomly ask if I was going to get older and die. Sometimes she would get scared at night asking what do we do if bad guys come since dad wasn't home. I'm not sure where those thoughts came from.”

Quantitatively, the most common psychosocial symptom reported by parents was crying/depression (37%), followed by acting out or aggression (31%), and attention difficulties (27%) (Figure 1.10). Although 34% were reported to have no symptoms, some children were reported to have up to all eight, with 38% reported to have between two and four symptoms.

Figure 1.10. Psychosocial Symptoms

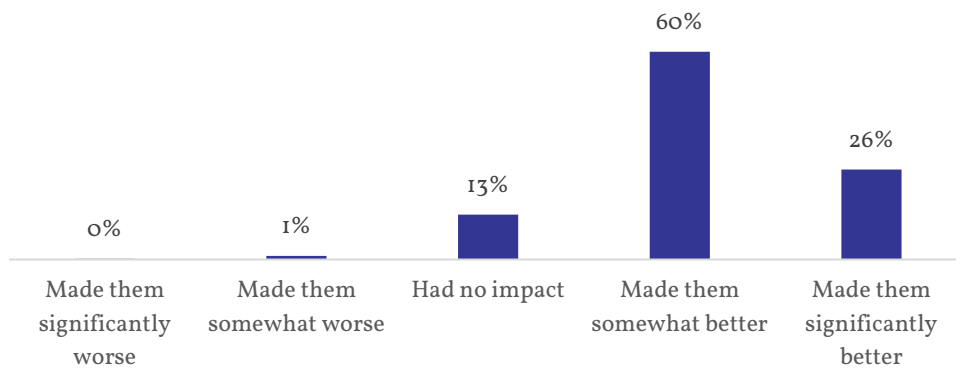


There appears to be a general trend towards more negative academic outcomes for children experiencing a greater number of psychosocial outcomes. Although due to low sample sizes of children with higher symptom counts it is not feasible to significance test this, it does help illustrate the connection between child well-being and academic success. This is further highlighted by the following quote, which describes the related impacts of wellbeing and academics:

“He started Karate which has helped teach him to be disciplined and focused. He has gotten better about completing his homework and having more self control with his emotions and letting his teacher know when he needs a break.”

For those children who experienced at least one symptom, OMK was reported to have had a positive effect for 86% (Figure 1.11). Additionally, there appears to be a general trend towards stronger positive outcomes due to OMK for individuals who experienced more psychosocial symptoms, though low sample sizes of children with higher symptom counts make it unfeasible to significance test this.

Figure 1.11. Impact on Symptoms



The grants were also reported to have a wide array of additional impacts. Nearly all families (93%) reported that the activities helped children stay active and/or keep busy while their service member was away. Related to this, 60% reported that the grants provided a way for children to burn off extra energy or tire children out. In both cases, the activity served as a way not only to distract children from the absence of their service member, but also improved sleep patterns for some:

“Playing competitive sports is a pleasant distraction from missing dad. Staying active also helps with sleep. I’ve found bedtime is usually when tears and sadness come.”

“Having an activity helped wear them out at night which helped regulate their emotions and sleep.”

Additionally, participation helped children build self-confidence (67%), and taught children valuable life skills and/or values (49%).

“The activity provided an outlet for creativity, physical activity, goal setting, teamwork, and improved self confidence. Participating in something he enjoyed improved sleep pattern, concentration, and mood at school.”

“It gave them confidence, self control. It kept them busy and healthy (physically and mentally). I saw a 180 turn on my 13 year old. From being so self conscious to thriving.”

During a deployment or activation, military kids may be asked to “step up” or perform tasks to assist their at-home parent (Chandra et al. 2010). Nearly half (49%) of the families surveyed reported that participating in an OMK-sponsored activity gave children a space to just “be a kid.”

“Allowed them to have something fun to look forward to and not think about me being gone. They were able to be kids for a couple hours during gymnastics.”

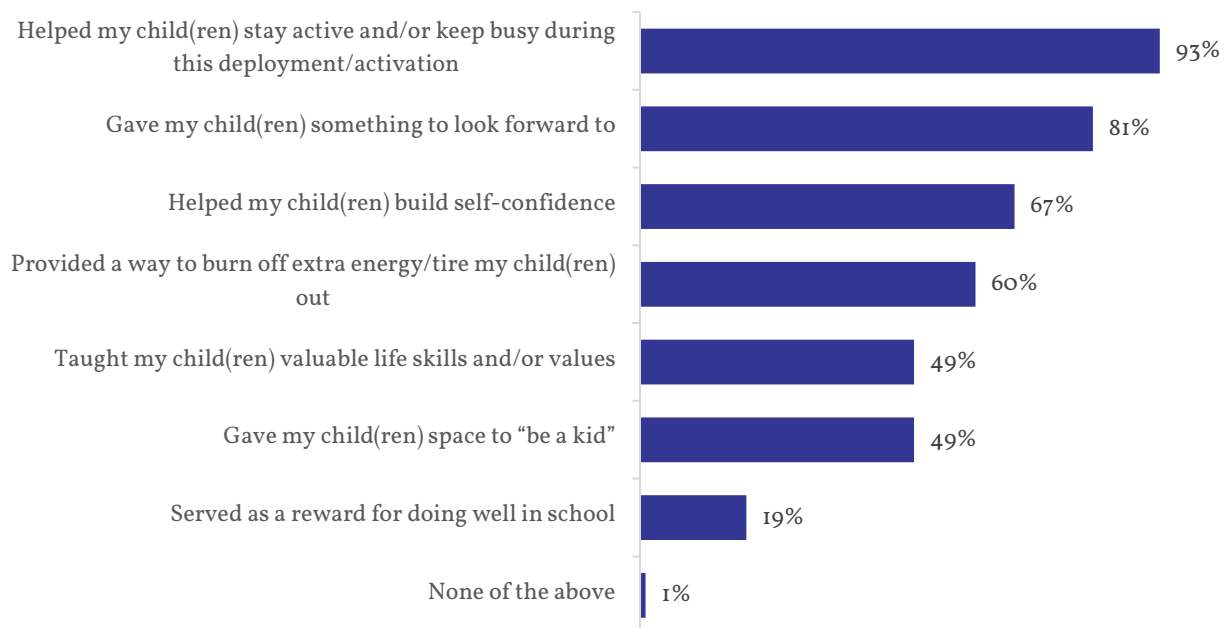
“It gave my daughter the opportunity to do a special activity that helped get her mind off of the deployment and focus on having fun and being a kid.”

Finally, the activities gave children something to look forward to (81%), and for a minority of children (19%), the grant activity served as a reward for doing well in school.

“Both have started taking school a little more seriously. They have been told that they have to continue doing good in school in order to keep up with sports.”

“It was something they had to look forward to when they finished their school work. It was an incentive for them to do better!”

Figure 1.12. Child Outcomes

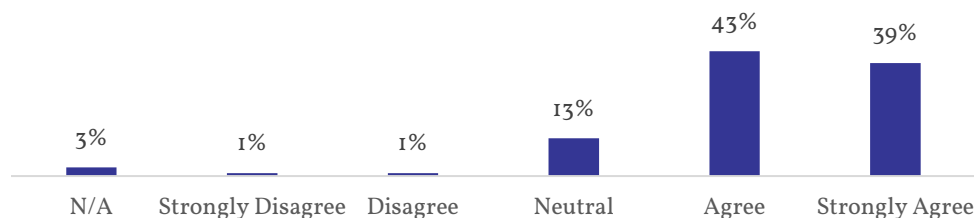


Beyond improvements in psychosocial symptoms and individual-level outcomes (which are summarized in Figure 1.12), the OMK-sponsored activities provided a mechanism for children to connect with others. 82% were reported to have made friends or found a sense of community with others through their OMK-sponsored activity (Figure 1.13).

“Participation in the sponsored activities has given my oldest daughter something to look forward to outside the home with her second family- her dance family. Transitioning to high school and all that comes with it is difficult in itself, but with a parent deployed for a year it can be a lot. Dance has been a great outlet for my daughter to express herself and take her mind off things that stress her out, all while being supported by a great group of girls and teachers.”

“Playing on a sports team offered friendship and camaraderie that was missing during my deployment.”

Figure 1.13. Made Friends or Found a Sense of Community



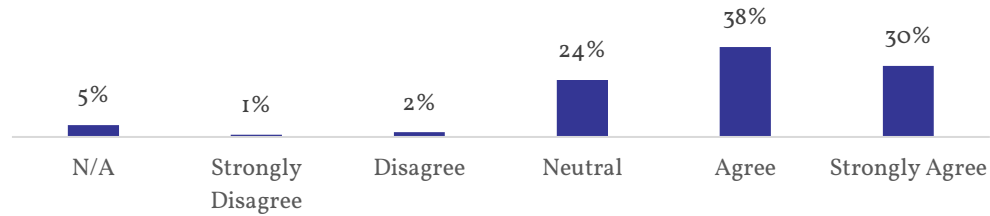
Extracurricular activities such as the ones that OMK sponsors have been shown to facilitate a sense of community across a wide range of applications (Finn 1989; Faircloth and Hamm 2005; Cohen 2012; Hawvermale 2017). This sense of community has repeatedly been linked to a number of positive outcomes, including reduced mental health challenges, decreased feelings of loneliness, improved perceptions of personal well-being, and improved self-worth and esteem (Chipuer et al. 2003; Cohen and Willis 1985; Antonucci and Israel 1986; Baumeister and Leary 2014; Vieno et al. 2005; Henry and Slater 2007; Pretty et al. 1994; Maton 1990; Gronlick et al. 1991; Garcia-Reid et al. 2013; Ryan et al. 1994).

Additionally, over two thirds (68%) found a mentor figure, such as a coach, teacher, or role model, through their activity (Figure 1.14), which has been demonstrated to help military youth cope with the stressors of military life, such as deployments (Wong and Gerras 2010).

“It was great to take up her time with an active sport. She got a lot of energy out and had friends. Her coach was also an additional mother to her while I was gone.”

“My son was able to have a male role model in his drum teacher even while he is struggling with his daddy being gone.”

Figure 1.14. Found a Mentor Figure



New this year, the survey asked parents of 13-18 year old children the extent to which those children were considering military service. Children were split roughly into thirds, with 28% reported as being “somewhat” or “very” likely to serve, 35% reported as being “unsure” and 36% reported as being “somewhat” or “very” *unlikely* to serve (Figure 1.15). When asked how influential OMK has been in their consideration of service, over half (56%) felt that receiving the grant was either “slightly” or “not at all” influential (Figure 1.16). This finding is not unique when looking at retention and service interest; previous research (Hawvermale 2020) also found that programs such as this, while providing profound impact on families and kids, may not be seen as influencing an individual’s decision about military service, as program benefits and military service are instead seen as occupying two different roles, or existing separately from each other.

Figure 1.15. Likelihood to Serve

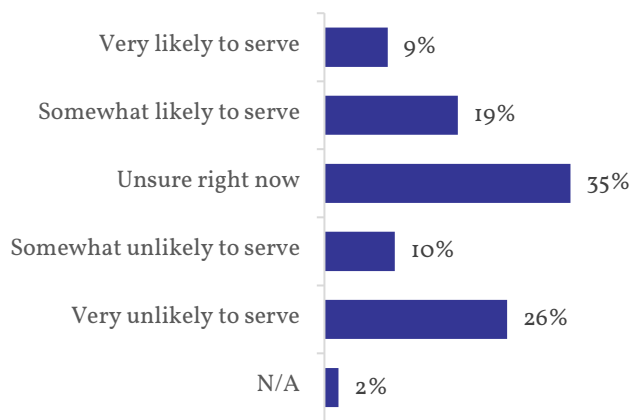
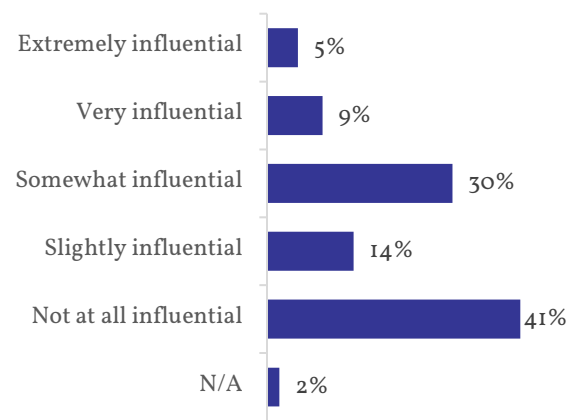


Figure 1.16. Influence of OMK



Despite the low reported influence of OMK on children’s likelihood to serve, a much higher percentage of children within the Deployed Program indicated interest in service than in a 2022 DoD national sample. Within the national sample, an average of 12% of 16-18 year olds indicated that they would “probably” or “definitely” serve (Office of People

Analytics 2023), compared to 28% of Deployed Program youth across similar answer options.

Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Although the type of separation (overseas deployment vs stateside activation) and the current location of the service member parent (present or absent) had no discernable impact on parent reports of child outcomes, several differences emerged between the other sub-groups within the Deployed program.

Minority children were reported to have significantly¹ greater improvements in their performance in school^{***}. There were also significant differences between several sub-groups in regard to how symptoms were reported. Minority children were significantly² more likely to experience attention difficulties^{**} or report no symptoms at all^{**} (incidentally, minority children were also reported as having significantly³ fewer psychosocial symptoms^{*}). Non-minority children were significantly more likely to experience crying or depression^{**}, headaches or stomachaches^{*}, and fearfulness or nightmares^{*}.

In terms of gender, female children were significantly⁴ more likely to experience crying or depression^{***} and fearfulness or nightmares^{**}. Males were significantly more likely to experience acting out or aggression^{**}, attention difficulties^{*}, and negative or morbid thoughts^{*}. Gender differences are common during deployments, but vary from study to study (Richardson et al. 2011; Lester et al. 2010).

Symptoms were also experienced differently across the four age bands, with younger children significantly⁵ more likely to experience acting out or aggression^{***}, crying or depression^{**}, headaches or stomachaches^{**}, and fearfulness or nightmares^{***}. Older children were significantly more likely to experience social withdrawal^{***}. 13-18 year olds were also reported as having significantly⁶ fewer symptoms than the 3-4^{**}, 5-8^{**}, and 9-12^{**} age bands. Other studies have also found differences in symptoms across age groups (Chartrand et al. 2008; Hall 2008; Meadows et al. 2016), with older children possibly less likely to experience symptoms as they may feel like they have more room to explore being independent with only one parent at home (Wong and Gerras 2010),

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

¹ Mann Whitney U-Test

² Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

³ Mann Whitney U-Test

⁴ Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

⁵ Pearson's Chi Square

⁶ Mann Whitney U-Test

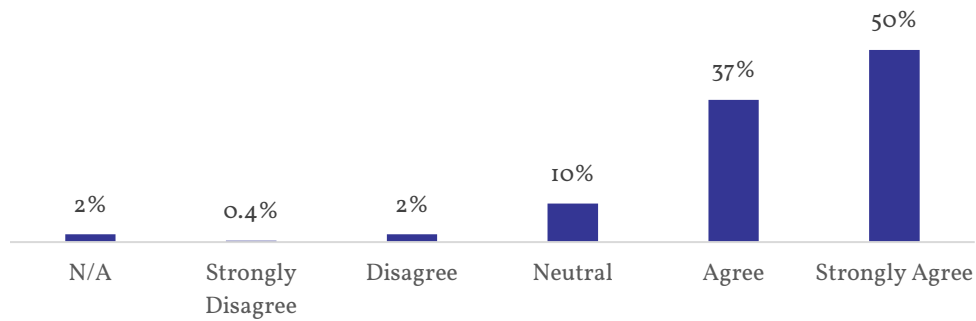
however this can lead to greater challenges when their service member parent returns (Meadows et al 2016).

Regarding reporting, caregivers reported significantly⁷ more symptoms than service members did^{***}. This may be because the caregiver was at home with the child(ren) and able to witness more psychosocial challenges. However, following a history of home life being factored into a service member’s promotion, although this practice has been officially struck down, service members may still feel reticent to report on challenges at home (Reger et al. 2008; Fenell 2008; Hall 2008; Military Child Education Coalition 2019; United Service Organizations, INC 2018; Kizer and Menestrel 2019). 13-18 year olds were reported as significantly⁸ more likely to have found a mentor figure through their activity than the 3-4^{*}, 5-8^{**}, and 9-12^{*} age bands.

Family Outcomes

The impacts of participating in an OMK-sponsored activity extend to the family as well. 87% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the grant made them feel more supported by/connected to the military community (Figure 1.17), and 82% felt more supported by/connected to their local community (Figure 1.18).

Figure 1.17. Felt Supported by / Connected to the Military Community



*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

⁷ Mann Whitney U-Test

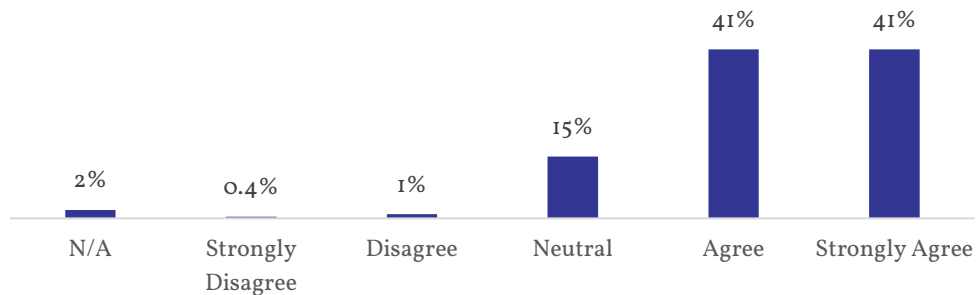
⁸ Mann Whitney U-Test

In open-ended questions, families described how they connected receiving the grant itself to the larger military community:

“As a reserve family you always feel forgotten. The world doesn't do it on purpose, but they do it regardless. Active duty thinks of you as a lesser part of the military, and the rest of the world just doesn't notice you at all. OMK makes you feel at least like you exist, and you are part of the military. :)”

“Made my spouse (non-military) feel some support from the Army... that they cared about our family while I was frequently away.”

Figure 1.18. Felt Supported by / Connected to Their Local Community



95% of respondents felt that their child(ren)’s participation in an OMK-sponsored activity a positive effect on their family’s overall well-being (Figure 1.19). Parent stress during a deployment has been linked previously to negative child behavioral outcomes (Dimiceli et al. 2010). As such, it is unsurprising that since OMK-sponsored activities

Figure 1.19. Impact on Family Well-Being

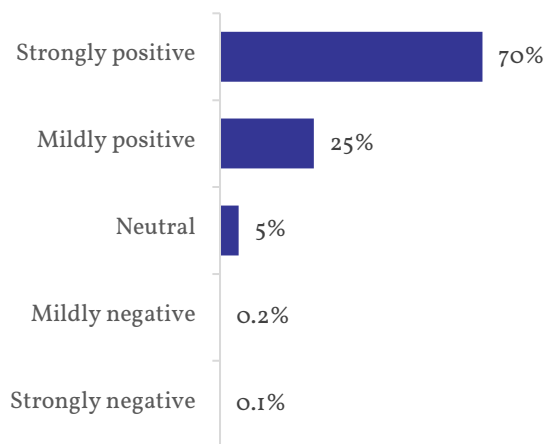
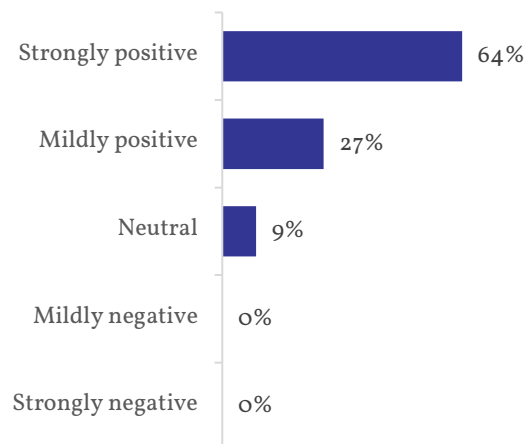


Figure 1.20. Impact on Service Member Morale



improve child outcomes, they also improve overall family-wellbeing. When asked about the impacts the grant had on the service member's morale during the deployment/activation, 91% reported a positive impact (Figure 1.20). This is unsurprising considering that service member morale is strongly linked with family well-being (Park 2011; Hall 2008; Hawvermale 2020).

Receiving the OMK grant helped families and kids to feel appreciated (90%), both because families recognized that others had made the conscious decision to donate, but also because of the way in which the grant is presented to the children with the certificate and dog tag:

"The grants really made my family feel appreciated - it was amazing to know that people took time and donated money to help my kids and all kids of deployed parents feel normal and engaged."

"[My son] really loved the dog tag necklace send in the award package too and wore it all the time. There aren't a lot of programs to acknowledge his sacrifice and also give him a tangible appreciation. I think without those lessons he may have shrunk during the deployment rather than grown."

"They understand their role in supporting our nation, as their dad takes leave. I think they flipped from feeling abandoned to feeling involved and proud to be military kids getting the packets in the mail."

Additionally, participating in the activities helped nearly three quarters (74%) maintain a sense of normalcy, either by providing an activity to structure a routine around, or by allowing families to continue activities they would have otherwise had to drop out of:

"As a result of being able to attend a consistent weekly program, my daughter made friends, had something to look forward to, obtained a routine/sense of normalcy while her dad was deployed. In turn, her anxiety/tearfulness improved, she enjoyed showing others what she was learning and the entire family benefitted."

"It helped to pay for an activity that my child was already participating in so we were able to keep some normalcy for him and alleviate a bit of financial strain."

"Before applying for Our Military Kids we were struggling financially and with time. We were concerned if she would be able to continue her activity. This helped us keep some type of normalcy during the deployment."

“While I deployed, it meant so much to me that my children were able to continue their routine and have that continuity of those other positive role models in their lives, like their coaches.”

Routines can serve as an important mechanism for maintaining stability for children during a deployment, regardless of whether they are new or maintained from before the deployment (Beets 2022). 30% felt that the grant provided their family with time together and gave them a space to bond. This is particularly important, as higher family cohesion during deployments has been linked to reduced negative child behavior (Kelley 1994). More specifically, 72% reported that the activity gave the children in the family something to talk to their service member about during the separation.

“Their focus moved from sadness about Dad’s absence to excitement about doing these activities and getting better at them. Also gave them something new to share with Dad about over the phone when he would call. Thank you for this grant it changes kids lives!”

“I take videos of the kids practicing gymnastics and send them to my husband. The kids are motivated to do their best so they can later hear how proud of them he is and it gives them something to chat about when we get to talk to him.”

“Having the physical outlet and increased social interaction helped with the stress of separation and took their mind off it. It gave them exciting things to tell their mom when she was able to call. That helped her too.”

Having a positive topic for children to engage with their service member about during conversations can be critical to the overall morale of the service member. Soldiers and families may experience communication challenges because their lived experiences are so radically different (Gottman et al. 2011). Similarly, talking about family challenges that the service member can do nothing to help with can also lead to stress and decreased morale (Applewhite and Segal 1990; Ender 1995; Bell et al. 1999; Greene et al. 2010; Cigrang et al. 2014; Durham 2010). Having a positive topic of conversation, however, allows families and service members to benefit from communication with each other, including improved morale and more positive outcomes post-deployment, without the negative outcomes that arise from communication challenges (Applewhite and Segal 1990; Houston et al. 2013; Bell et al. 1999).

For 57%, the grant activity helped them meet others in their community and 30% reported that other parents in their activity supported their family. Because National Guard and Reserve families are both at greater risk for isolation during separations, this support network can be fundamental (Hall 2008; Henderson 2006, 2008).

“Our military kids helped us get connected with a local taekwondo community who has supported my son throughout this deployment. Not only did we find an activity that my son loves and thrives in, we also found a support system who encourages him to grow many skills and positive attributes.”

“It was great that the grant came with something that my kid could understand. The financial help was great but it was so meaningful that she was able to feel connected and supported by the military community.”

Finally, 36% reported that the activity gave the caregiver time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks around the house.

“It allowed my children to make friends and learn to work with other children. It also allowed me time to go get some much needed time by myself.”

“Having the grant has been extremely helpful in paying for my children to go to gymnastics. my kids love it and it's so great to have an hour to run errands during that time outside of work.”

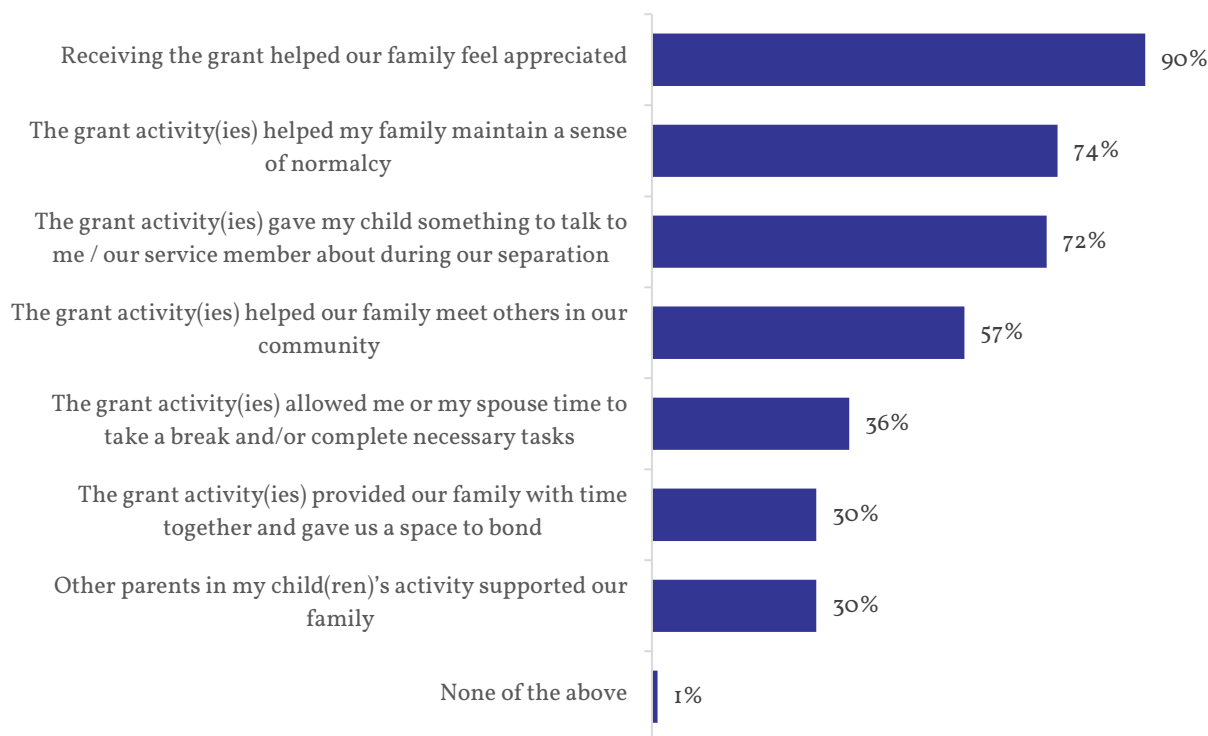
Some parents elaborated on this, noting that with a service member deployed, the remaining caregiver performs essentially as a single parent:

“With a toddler, just doing school without any after school programs (we chose a ballet dance studio) can be challenging to keep them occupied. Having another activity to look forward to is a key part of navigating the challenges that being effectively a single parent becomes.”

The different family level outcomes are summarized in Figure 1.21.



Figure 1.21. Family Level Outcomes



Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Although the type of separation (overseas deployment vs stateside activation) and the current location of the service member parent (present or absent) had no discernable impact on family level outcomes, there were limited significant differences between service members and caregivers, as well as different paygrades.

Service members were significantly⁹ more likely to report that the grant made them feel more connected to their local community than caregivers^{**}.

Interestingly, service members reported a significantly¹⁰ higher impact on their own morale than caregivers did^{**}.

Caregivers were also significantly¹¹ more likely to report that the grant activities helped their family maintain a sense of normalcy than service members were*.

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

⁹ Mann Whitney U-Test

¹⁰ Mann Whitney U-Test

¹¹ Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Finances

Families elaborated at length this year on two unique financial challenges brought about by an activation or deployment within the National Guard or Reserve. First, many service members receive a lower income while activated than in their civilian job (Hall 2008; National Healthy Marriage Resource Center 2017; Henderson 2006):

“It helped relieve the financial strain we were having with the activity and deployment. My husband is in the Reserves and his civilian job paid more, so it somewhat hindered what activities my daughter could do while he's deployed.”

“This grant has been a big deal for our family! It is so generous and such a financial boost during deployments. Because my husband can make more money with his civilian job, our finances change when he deploys. He did not join the military for the money. It really was to serve this country. It's been a harder commitment than we anticipated and the National Guard is often overlooked.”

Second, when families are reduced to a single parent household, it can have profound impacts on the remaining caregiver's ability to work outside the home, further impacting the family's financial status.

“Without the grant, my children would have been unable to participate in gymnastics. Due to my husband's deployment, as well as my schedule, nearly all of my salary would have been depleted on child care alone. We made the decision together that I would take a leave of absence this year to be able to care of our kids while my husband is deployed. Without my salary, his alone would not have been enough to continue extracurricular activities.”

“Despite missing their dad immensely, the grant we received enabled us to continue sending our children to gymnastics, despite myself having to take an unpaid leave of absence for my job, while my husband is deployed. Without the grant, the children would not have been able to attend gymnastics, and I am certain the lack of it would have affected them more greatly in their school environment. It has given them something to look forward to and helped us to maintain stability throughout this uncertain time.”

“I couldn't be able to pay all the activities for kids due to reduced working hours but my kids were able to go without stopping their activities. They were so happy. Thanks.”

Ultimately, 46% of families reported that the deployment/activation made their family’s financial status “somewhat” or “much” more difficult (Figure 1.22), and 80% reported that the experience made it “somewhat” or “much” more difficult for their or their child(ren)’s other parent/caregiver to work outside the home (Figure 1.23). Although these two questions are asked every year in the annual survey, this is the first year that families discussed these challenges at length through the open ends.

Figure 1.22. Impact on Family's Financial Status

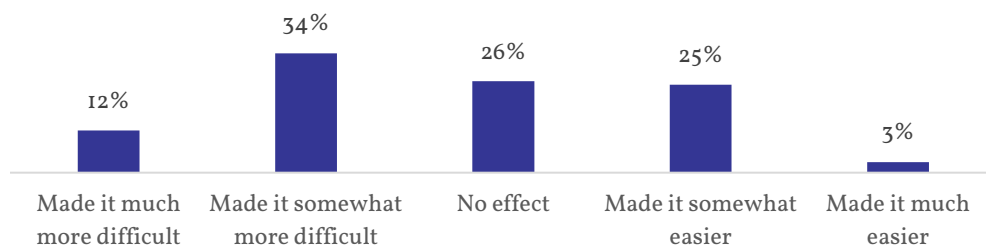
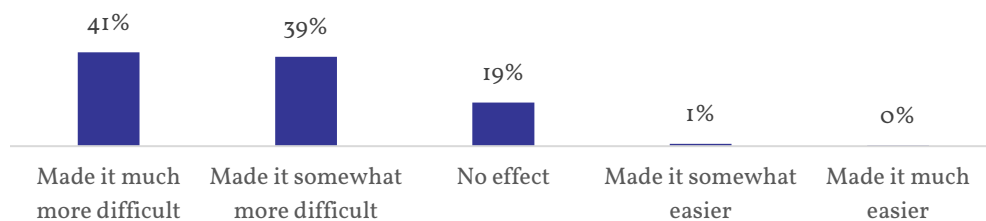


Figure 1.23. Impact on Children's Other Caregiver to Work Outside the Home



Only 12% of families would have been able to afford their child(ren)’s activities easily without the grant. 19% would have been unable to afford the activities, and for 70% it would have caused financial strain.

“It provided the money needed for my child to participate in her activity. This year we would have been hard pressed to afford it otherwise. Thank you!”

“My daughter was able to focus on colorguard and not worry how my husband and I would be able to afford the fees. While a financial burden should never be on the mind of a child, my daughter is extremely considerate and selfless.”

As highlighted by the latter quote, financial challenges not only affect the adults in a family but can have trickle-down impacts on the children as well, which can further negatively impact child well-being.

The grant fully covered the costs for over two thirds (69%) of the children’s activities. Parents reported that the grant amount enabled 88% of the children covered by this

survey to select their preferred activity, and nearly three quarters (73%) of the children were reported to be likely to continue their activity after it was no longer funded by the grant. For 78%, the opportunity for a second grant during a deployment lasting greater than 180 days gave families more selection in choosing an activity.

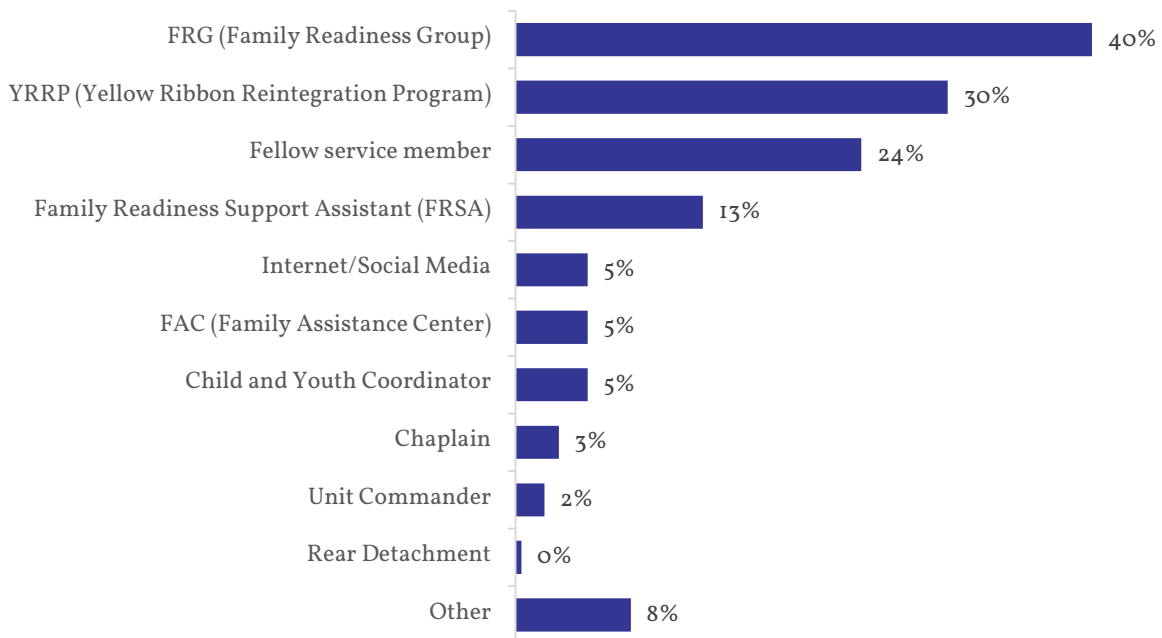
Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Respondents who identified as being service members were significantly¹² more likely to report financial difficulty than caregivers^{**}. Additionally, there were significant differences regarding the ability of the grant to fully cover costs of activities between age groups, with older age groups reported as significantly¹³ less likely to be fully covered by the grant. The only two age bands that were *not* significantly different from each other were the 5-8 and 9-12 age bands.

Finding OMK

Families heard about OMK from a variety of different sources, with the most common being their Family Readiness Group (40%), followed by the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (30%) (Figure 1.24). Word of mouth through fellow service members was selected by nearly a quarter (24%) of respondents, with one respondent expressing how they share their experience with other service members:

Figure 1.24. How Families Heard About OMK



*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

¹² Mann Whitney U-Test

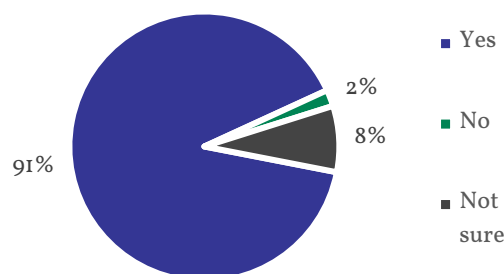
¹³ Mann Whitney U-Test

“Learning about OMK made us feel so appreciated and loved. [...] the program helped SO MUCH. I have been telling Soldiers about OMK since I heard about it.”

Opportunities and Suggestions

Currently, OMK grants are only available for children 3-18 years of age, however, parents have suggested expanding this age range to include 1-2-year-olds in their open-ended responses to previous years' surveys. In order to assess broader interest in this age group, we asked families if they had a 1- or 2-year-old in their household, and if they would have enrolled their 1-2 year old in an OMK-sponsored activity had they been eligible. Of the 21% of families who had a child in this age band, 91% indicated that they would have enrolled them in an activity had they been eligible (Figure 1.25). This indicates that as suggested in open-ended questions over the previous two years, families with 1-2 year old children would utilize the grants if they were open to a younger audience.

Figure 1.25. Interest in Enrolling 1-2 Year Old in Activity



As with past years' surveys, when given the opportunity to make suggestions on how to improve OMKs program or processes, most families used the space to express their gratitude for the grants or say that they would change nothing. Of those who made suggestions for improvement, comments centered around a few distinct themes. Although some suggested grants for families who experience shorter activations and military induced separations (summer training, weekends away, 30-day activations), this would likely be outside of the scope of the programming OMK currently provides. As in previous years, some families commented that increasing the grant amounts would be helpful, however this was expressed by fewer respondents than in the past.

One of the primary challenges voiced by families in the Deployed Program was the system for sending checks to the activity. Parents noted that some activities require payment through an online portal and many require payment well in advance of when the OMK check arrives. Not all organizations are willing to reimburse families for an overpaid account, which leaves them still having to account for costs. In the past, respondents have suggested making checks payable to the families themselves. However, this year several families expressed that a reimbursement system may be an option, with proof of purchase required to receive a reimbursement check.

“Maybe having the option to pay directly or reimburse with proof of expense with receipt.”

“Only being able to present a paper check directly to the program after registration really limited our options. If we could've gotten reimbursed, or a credit card for the specific amount, we would have had many more options.”

“It was kind of difficult to get the documents needed in order to get the grant and to pay for the activity. You either had to pay out of pocket, but then the check is written directly to the organizations a lot of times they needed the money right then when you were signing up for the activity and you would have to wait to receive the check in the mail so that part was kind of tricky.”

“A lot of activities around us would be difficult to sign up for and get a refund for. It would be nice if it was possible to have the check made out personally to reimburse the cost of a class or activity.”

In terms of the grants themselves, families suggested two different forms of expanding the current program. First, several made suggestions about expanding the *types* of activities the grant could cover, including passes/memberships to local activities (zoo, gym, museum, etc.) and religious trips/missions. One family also suggested the option for the second grant to be used as a “family activity” to help facilitate family bonding after the service member returned.

“1. Open the 2nd grant to be used as a “family activity” to be used within a few after the service member returns. (Group dance lessons, family martial arts, etc.) 2. Allow the grant to be applied toward memberships (zoo, aquarium, local pool, etc.) Aside from that, we found the grants to be a much appreciated gift to our family. We are extremely grateful for the opportunities you gave our children while I was deployed.”

“A museum pass, gym or zoo would have allowed me to take the kids to several activities at my own pace all together. Finding something for all three kids at once with their various ages is tough and with husband deployed, I don't have backup childcare so it's a really important aspect and created some hardship finding something that I can juggle three kids. Approving the museum or zoo or even a gym membership woulda been amazing but I understand if it wasn't what your grant wants to support...just ideas to ponder if you think to expand what you might approve for families in the future:) The museum and gym did offer some extra classes as well so it's a perfect resource but I couldn't afford it on my own.”

Second, families suggested that, if extra funds remain after paying for the fees for the activity, the remaining money could be used to purchase required equipment since additional equipment costs can add to financial strain.

“I wish there was a way to purchase equipment for the sports they participate in. For example, the baseball registration fee is \$150, the grant covers up to \$300. Gloves, bats, uniforms, etc. be purchased with the remaining. It's an amazing program not complaining just a suggestion.”

“Possible stipends for extra sport costs such as: clothing, equipment, and travel because some sports are very expensive besides the sports fee cost.”

Although most families felt that the application process was easy, some made suggestions to improve the user experience within the application portal. These suggestions included regular progress updates (submitted, received, funded, etc.) with expected timelines and being able to save the application and come back to it later.

“Ensure better communication / improve the website - it wasn't completely clear when an application was submitted vs. simply saved.”

“Have a saving option if filling out the application needs to be interrupted instead of starting from scratch.”

“Communicate with the family throughout the process. Once the application is submitted until the funds are granted. I found I was constantly worried about if or when we were getting funded. I think even an email stating we received your application and it will take “x-x weeks/days” to review. Then another email stating you're funded and you'll receive funds in “x-x weeks/days” would be extremely helpful. I was in communication with my children's financial office and thus they understood my payments would come eventually.”

Despite the suggestions provided, when asked about the application process, 86% felt that it was “somewhat” or “much” easier than other application processes. Altogether, when asked how likely they were to recommend Our Military Kids to other military families on a scale of 0-10 (Net Promoter Score), 96% were “promoters”, 3% were “passives”, and only 1% were “detractors” for an overall score of 95.5. This is an extremely high NPS score for an organization to receive. Some of the promoters had particularly glowing things to say about OMK as a whole:

“As a parent, OMK is without question the BEST program for servicemember support of families during deployment.”

“I literally cried when my kids received their packets. It was so touching and generous. Thank you to everyone involved there. I look forward to the day I can contribute to make other kids as happy as you all made mine that day, and when they got to participate in the activities.”

“Excellent experience and fairly easy to accomplish even though I was half a world away. It was a way for me to contribute to my family's health and well-being. Very grateful for your processes. Have already recommended.”



Combat Injured Program Findings

C H A P T E R T W O



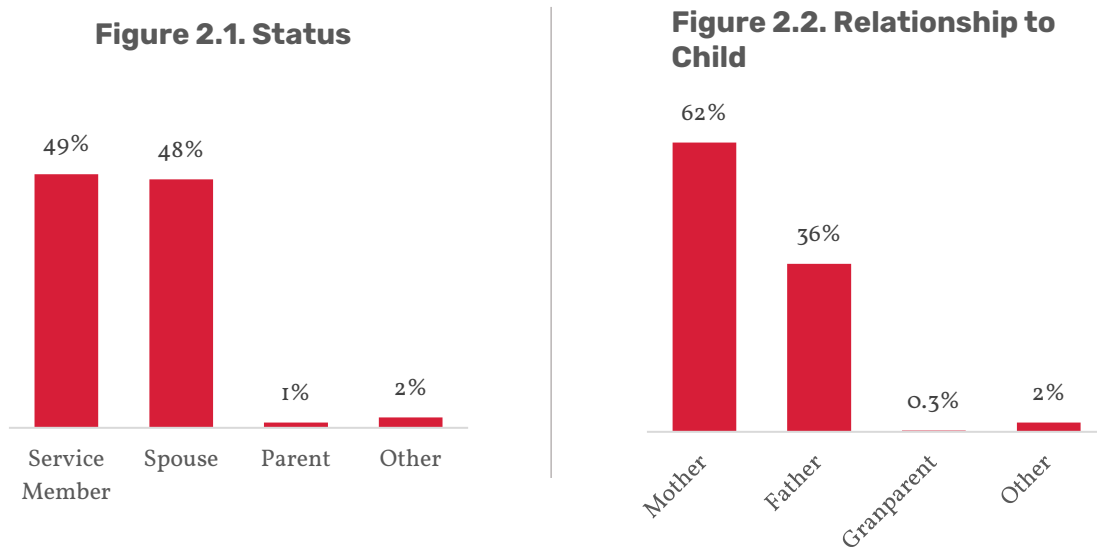
★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



Chapter 2: Combat Injured Program Findings

Demographics

Of the 326 respondents who completed the survey, 49% identified as the injured service member/Veteran and 48% identified as the injured service member/veteran’s spouse (Figure 2.1). Nearly two thirds (62%) were the mother of the children who received the OMK grant, and 36% were the father (Figure 2.2).



Military Service

Across families, 86% had a service member/Veteran who was enlisted. 12% had an officer in their family and only 2% had a warrant officer (Figure 2.3). Due to the small sample size of warrant officers (n=6), subsequent significance testing related to paygrade was conducted only between families of officers and enlisted. Families came from all branches of service (Figure 2.4), with the most common being Army (59% Active, 2% Reserve, 9% National Guard), followed by the Marine Corps (17% Active, 1% Reserve). All but one service member/Veteran (0.3%) were still receiving treatment for their injuries.

Figure 2.3. Paygrade

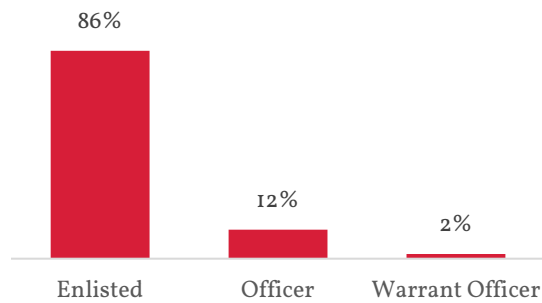
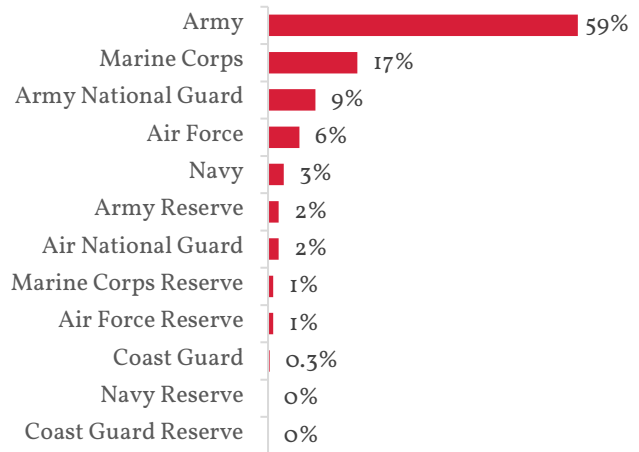


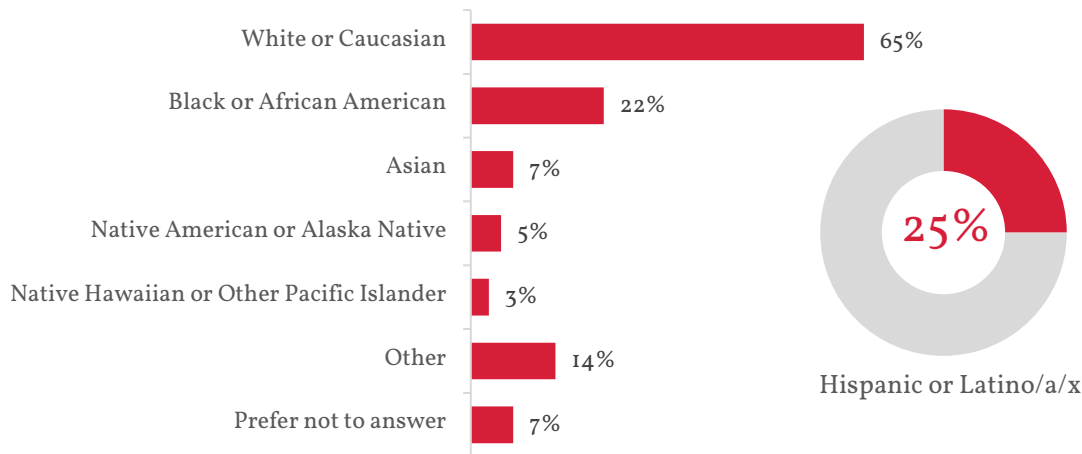
Figure 2.4. Branch



Children

When asked to select all races that described their child(ren), 65% selected white or Caucasian, followed by black or African American (22%) (Figure 2.5). Families selected between one and four races for their children, with 17% selecting more than one race. In a separate question, one quarter (25%) identified their children as being Hispanic or Latino/a/x.

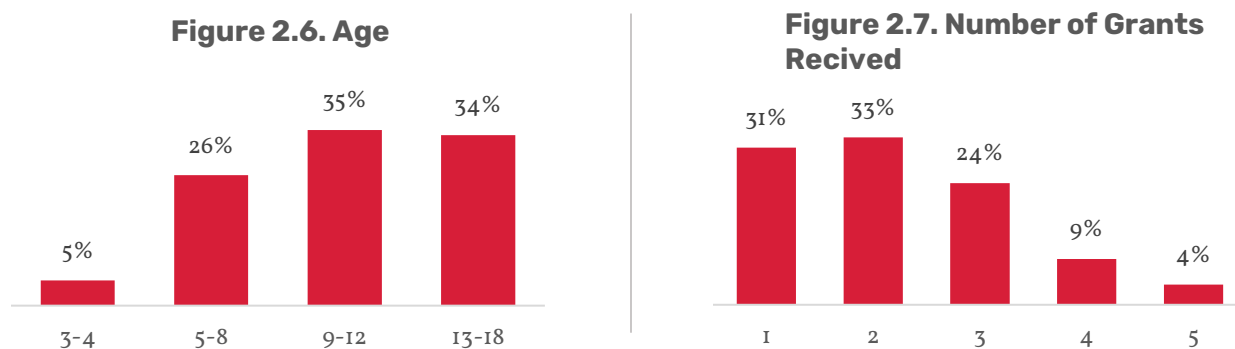
Figure 2.5. Childrens' Race & Ethnicity



Families reported having between one and seven children receive an OMK grant in 2022, although over three quarters (76%) reported having only one or two grant recipient children. Children were roughly split into thirds across age bands, with 31% being 3-8, 35% being 9-12, and 34% being 13-18 (Figure 2.6). The children represented were also split relatively evenly between males (46%) and females (53%). Four children were identified using the “prefer to self-identify” option, however none of the parents elected to use the optional write-in. As with other sub-populations that have smaller sample

sizes, significance testing between genders will include only male and female identifying children. Of the children represented in this survey, 18% were identified as having some form of disability (physical, cognitive, and/or mental impairment).

Children had received anywhere from one to five grants from OMK, although nearly two thirds (64%) had only received one or two grants (Figure 2.7).

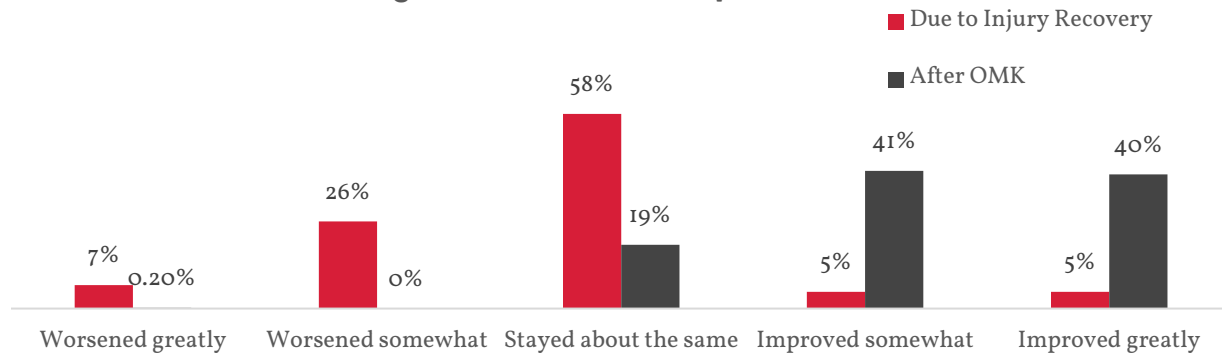


Child Outcomes

Like with deployments and separations, injury and subsequent recovery can impact children’s academics and behavior, however, the effects of long-term parental illness or injury on children, military or no, is largely unstudied, with the most relevant literature looking at cancer, multiple sclerosis, and traumatic brain injury (Cozza et al. 2011). Of all combat-related illnesses and injuries, post-traumatic stress is by far the most well-researched (Glenn et al. 2002; Sherman et al. 2016; DeVoe et al. 2018; Deskel and Goldblatt 2008; De Pedro et al. 2011). Recently, a focus on “hidden helpers” – children assisting with the care of an injured service member/Veteran – among military family researchers and research institutions has led to a greater understanding of the negative impacts, particularly psychosocial, that a service member’s injury and injury recovery can have on their children (Malick et al. 2021; Briggs et al. 2020; Hisle-Gorman et al. 2015; Ramchand et al. 2014; Tanielian et al. 2017).

One third (33%) of the children in this sample were reported to have experienced worsened academic performance as a result of their service member/Veteran’s injury. Despite the fact that over half (58%) of children were reported to have academic performance that remained the same, families reported improvements in academic performance for 81% of the children represented as a result of the OMK-sponsored activity (Figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8. Academic Impact



For some, staying active helped children focus in school. For others, having something to take their mind off their service member’s recovery helped them focus. Grant activities also impacted motivation, discipline, and self-confidence, all of which also were related to a positive impact on academic improvement.

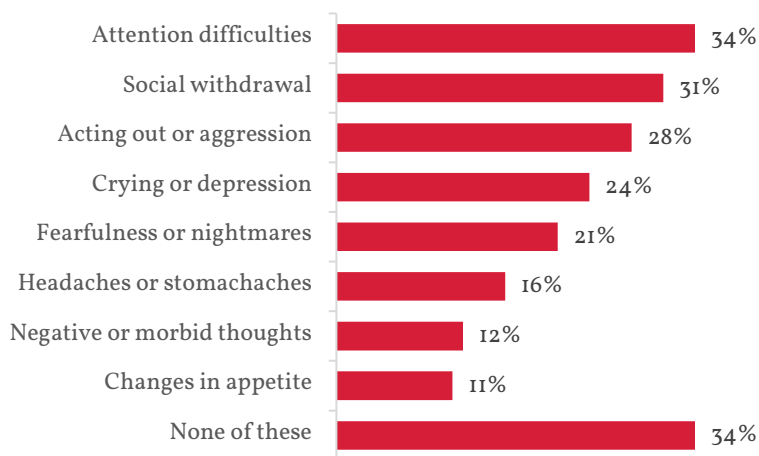
“Thanks to you guys, my son’s grades greatly improved due to extra soccer training to keep him active.”

“Being able to participate in the sports they are currently in has boosted their confidence tremendously. It has helped them expressed their emotions and personalities and is showing through their grades which have improved greatly.”

“The activity participation improved overall well-being, allowing better focus on school work.”

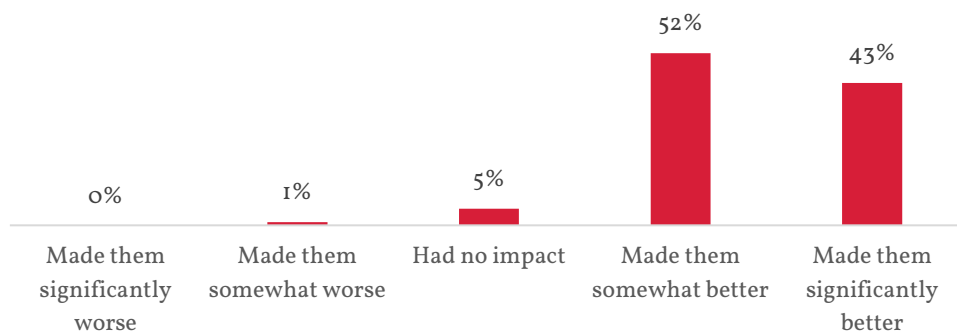
Behaviorally, children experienced a variety of psychosocial symptoms, including attention difficulties (34%), social withdrawal (31%), and acting out or aggression (28%) (Figure 2.9). Although 34% indicated their children experienced no symptoms, 36% reported between two and four symptoms.

Figure 2.9. Psychosocial Symptoms



For children who experienced symptoms, participation in an OMK-sponsored activity was reported to help reduce symptoms for 95% (Figure 2.10).

Figure 2.10. Impact on Symptoms



Although experiencing a parent’s injury and recovery can have a negative effect on self-esteem (Mazur 2011), participation in OMK-sponsored activities helped to build self-confidence for 88% and taught valuable life skills and/or values to nearly three quarters (71%).

“The skills learned at dance are helpful for her in school and life in general. She has learned time management and perseverance, as well as conflict resolution.”

“Gave us flexibility to enroll our kids in activities that provide meaningful life skills, helped them with their confidence, gave our service members something to get excited about with our kids.”

“It allowed the kids to be environments with less chaos helping them build esteem.”

Additionally, the activities gave children something to look forward to (84%) and provided space to “be a kid.” Children in homes with a severely injured service member /Veteran often assume caretaking duties for their parent (Malick et al. 2021; Cozza 2011; Ramchand et. al 2014). Parents interviewed for the 2021 Mathematica report on Hidden Helpers also discussed feeling that their children did not get to have the same childhood experiences as others, particularly because of these added responsibilities. Parents of OMK grant recipients elaborated on how, for children who are often required to assist in caretaking tasks and who can be swept up in the necessary medical appointments for their injured parent, this space to “be a kid” is crucial:

“Much of our day is structured around providing care so having their special activity breaks up the schedule and provides them with much needed horse therapy time.”

“Our Military Kids gave our children the opportunity to have respite in an activity they enjoy and love. They were able to be kids and forget about daily frustrations and struggles.”

“Their father was battling TBI, PTSD, anxiety and newly diagnosed pancreatitis and liver injuries. The grant allowed the kids 3 months of YMCA time where they got to be kids, exercise and play. It was such a great respite for them.”

“This has given our kids the chance to be kids. No extra burdens on the family just pure happiness from the kids. We so very much appreciate the opportunity we have been given!”

Activities also helped children stay active and/or keep busy during the injury recovery (78%) and provided a way to burn off extra energy (59%).

“I have two kiddos that have anxiety, especially at nighttime. They are afraid something will happen to their dad while they sleep. The extra activities help wear them out a bit, which allows them to sleep better.”

“I feel that with the assistance of Our military kids has helped both girls stay active on a constant basis and I feel that a healthy body makes a healthy mind and we see these results in their grades as our oldest is making honor roll now in high school.”

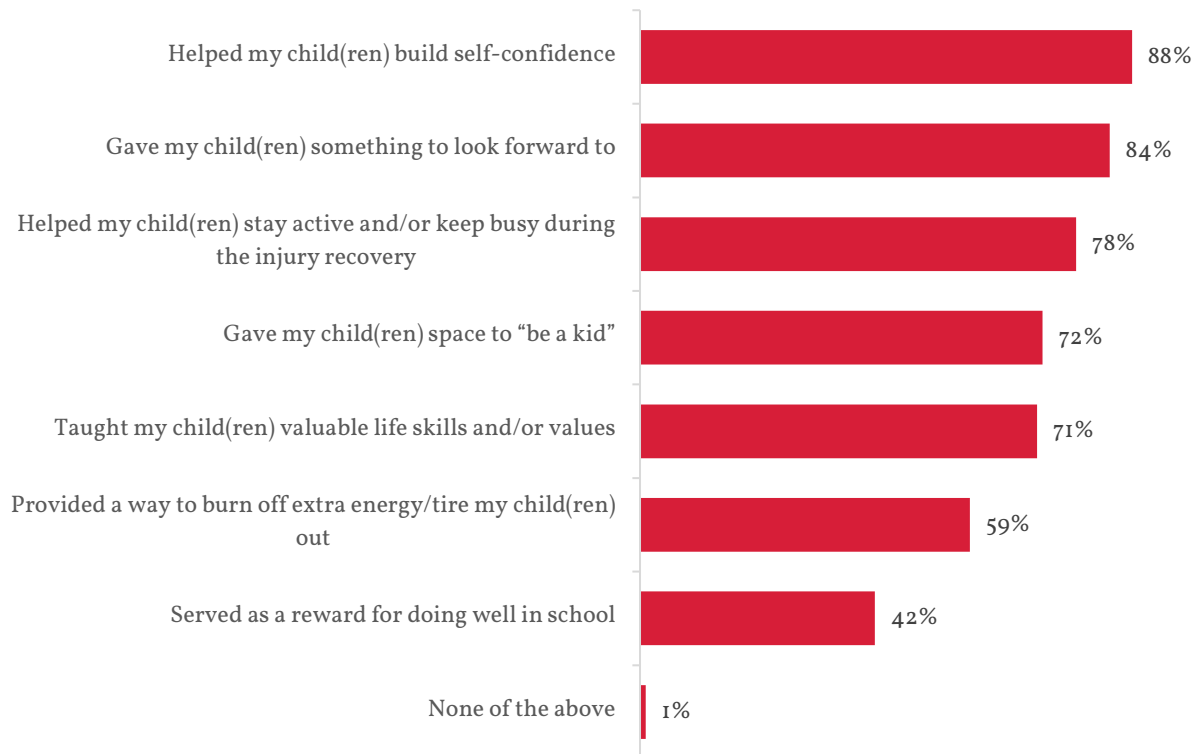
“Keeping both girls busy during the after school hours has greatly improved their sleep habits.”

Finally, for a minority of families, the OMK-sponsored activities served as a reward for doing well in school (42%). Figure 2.11 provides an overview of all of these outcomes.

“My son knew that in order to play sports he had to do well in school. The grant provided him to do what he loves to do and in turn he worked harder to maintain his grades.”

“They were happy to going an activity that they like and kept them motivated to do their school work.”

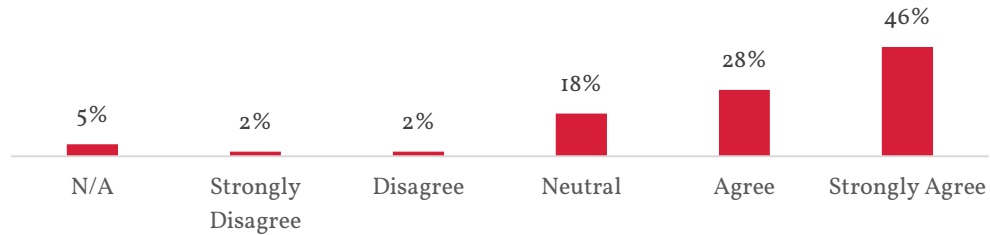
Figure 2.11. Child Outcomes



Nearly three quarters (74%) of children were reported to have found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their OMK-sponsored activity (Figure 2.12). One parent highlighted the important role these mentors can play:

“She really enjoyed the rugby camp at the university and the coach continues to check on her. That has helped her feel like she matters and she now volunteers with another rugby organization through coaching and other global initiatives.”

Figure 2.12. Found a Mentor Figure



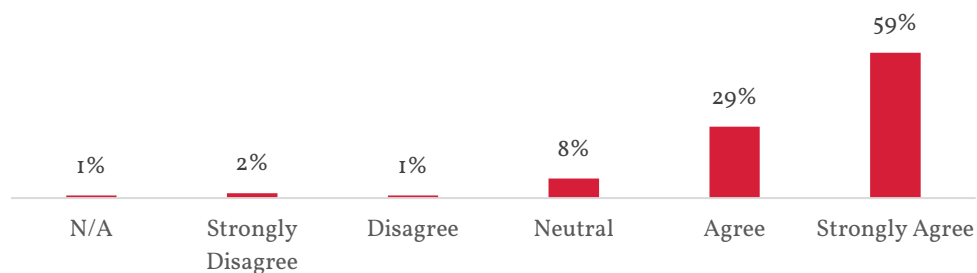
Similarly, 88% were reported to have made friends or found a sense of community with others in their activity (Figure 2.13), again contributing to feelings of support:

“It allowed my daughter to have more self-confidence and find “her people”.”

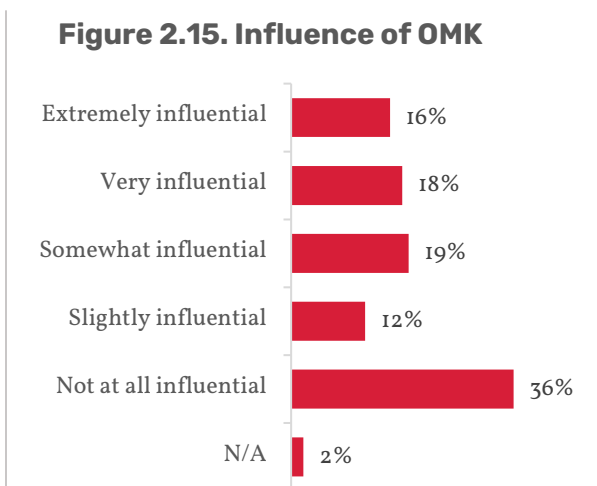
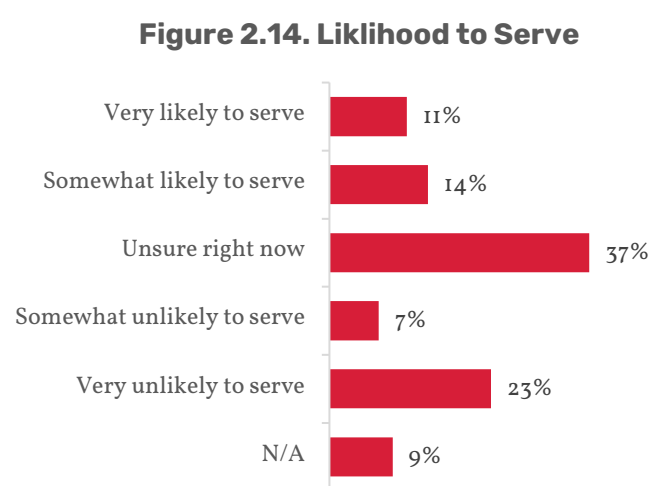
“OMK grants gave my child a healthy outlet with soccer to get his energy out on the field while making friends and gaining a sense of importance as a person. OMK helping us afford to keep him in soccer gave him his own identity and a positive goal to work towards to being the best he can be. It has greatly changed his life for the better.”

“The OMK grants have allowed my daughter to continue playing volleyball. We had recently moved and the volleyball team has been a source of security for her as she gets along well with her teammates. Thank you again for making this possible.”

Figure 2.13. Made Friends or Found a Sense of Community



Families who had grant recipient children 13 years of age or older were asked to report on the extent to which those children were considering military service. One quarter (25%) indicated that they were “somewhat” or “very” likely to serve (Figure 2.14). This is higher than youth nationally, of which an average of 12% of 16-18 year olds indicated that they would “probably” or “definitely” serve. When asked what influence receiving an OMK grant has had on their consideration of service, children were split, with just over a third (34%) feeling that receiving the grant was “extremely” or “very” influential, and another third (36%) reporting that it was “not at all influential” (Figure 2.15).



Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Minority children were reported to have significantly¹⁴ stronger academic improvements than non-minority children^{***}.

In terms of psychosocial symptoms, non-minorities were significantly¹⁵ more likely to experience acting out or aggression^{*} and headaches or stomachaches^{**} than minorities. Males were significantly¹⁶ more likely to experience acting out or aggression, while females were significantly more likely to experience crying or depression^{*}.

Age has been found to have a large impact on how children react to and process their service member’s injury recovery, primarily due to differences in cognitive functioning and expected roles. Very young children may react more to family and routine disruptions than they do to the injury itself. 3–6-year-olds tend to have egocentric cognitive processes, and as a result may feel that the injury is their fault (e.g. because they did not remember to tell their service member parent to be safe when they left). Young

^{*}Significant at the .05 level, ^{**}Significant at the .01 level, ^{***}Significant at the .000 level

¹⁴ Mann Whitney U-Test

¹⁵ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

¹⁶ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

children also have a different sense of time and may find the recovery process frustrating or lose patience with it. School-aged children can understand what’s going on better, but may still experience fear, guilt, and a desire to help. Teenagers may feel frustrated that – at a time when they are expected socially to become more independent, they are needed at home more to help with the recovery process (Cozza 2011). Though there was no significant difference in the number of symptoms reported, older children were significantly¹⁷ more likely to experience social withdrawal than younger children^{***}. This significant difference in reported symptoms may result from the higher likelihood for teens to withdraw from their family in situations like this (Cozza 2011).

Families with minority children were significantly¹⁸ more likely to report using the activity as a reward for doing well in school^{**}. Caregivers were significantly more likely than service members to report that the activities helped their child(ren) stay active or keep busy^{*} and gave their child(ren) space to “be a kid”^{*}, whereas service members were significantly more likely to report that the activity served as a reward for doing well in school^{**}.

Family Outcomes

Beyond the children, a service-related injury impacts the entire family, and can be particularly impactful on the family member who takes on primary caretaking responsibilities. Depending on the severity of the injury and the length of recovery, a service member may be removed from the military, resulting in lost connection to the military community as well (Cozza et al. 2011). Additionally, families may feel that they

Figure 2.16. Felt Supported by or Connected to Military Community

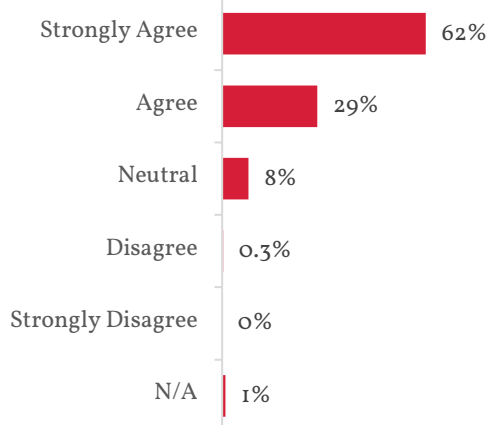
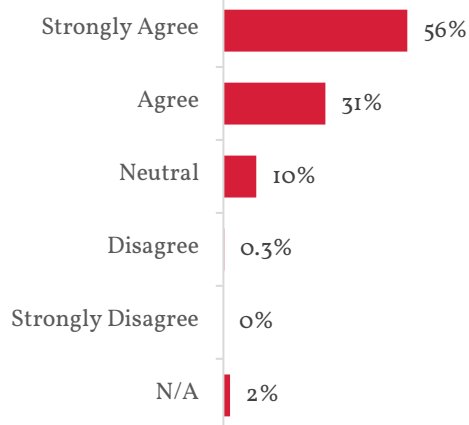


Figure 2.17. Felt Supported By or Connected to Local Community



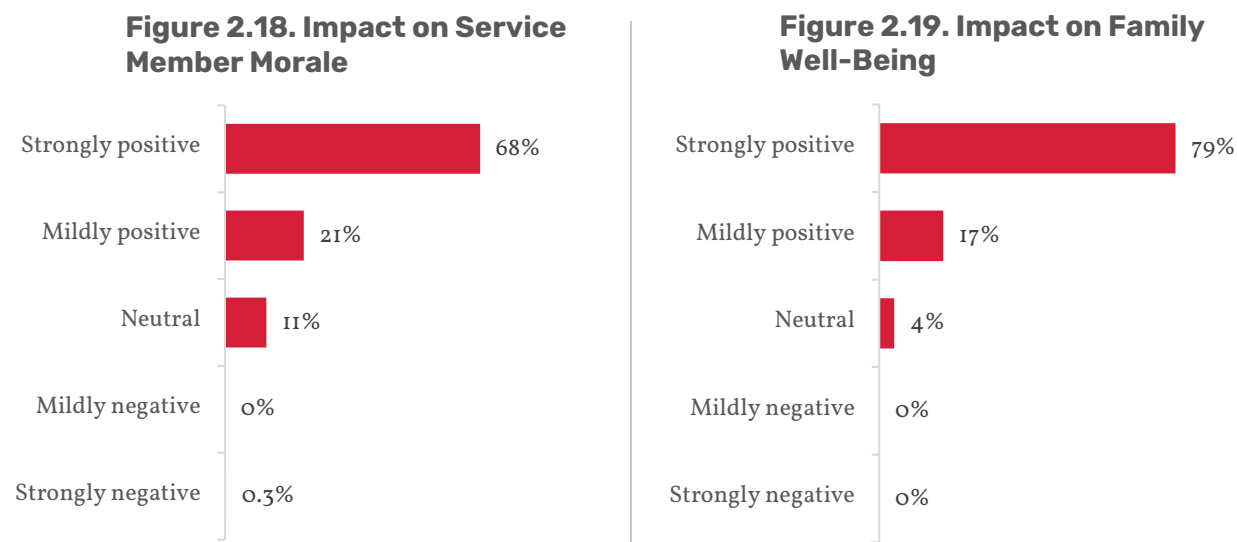
*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

¹⁷ Pearson’s Chi Square

¹⁸ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

need to hide their service member/Veteran’s injuries from those around them to avoid shame or stigma, an action that can lead to increased feelings of isolation (Malick 2021). Considering this heightened risk for this loss of connection and increased isolation, an important finding of this survey is that 91% felt that the grant made them feel more supported by or connected to the military community (Figure 2.16) and 87% felt that it made them feel more connected to or supported by their local community (Figure 2.17). Social support structures are crucial, particularly for military caregivers, and is one of the biggest needs voiced by this group (Tanielian et al. 2013; Ramchand et al. 2014; Malick et al. 2021).

Furthermore, 89% report that having their children participate in OMK-sponsored activities positively impacted their service member’s morale during their injury recovery process (Figure 2.18), and 96% reported a positive impact on their family’s overall well-being (Figure 2.19). Not only has service member morale been connected to family well-being (Park 2011; Hall 2008; Hawvermale 2020), during an injury recovery process youth outcomes have been linked to both overall family well-being and parent well-being (Cozza et al. 2010; Cozza et al. 2011; Mazur 2011). The recursive nature of these outcomes means that improvements in even one individual area can have ripple-down effects to other family members.



The majority (87%) of families reported that receiving an OMK grant helped them feel appreciated.

“Makes my children feel like they [are seen] and heard when dealing with their fathers medical and mental health issues as a result of military service.”

“Honestly, it allows my husband to feel like he is providing something extra for the children that we would not otherwise provide. He feels appreciated and that his current state, though not where he wants to be, is serving his family by allowing them to participate in lessons (flute, guitar, gymnastics). The scholarships lessen the burden of providing and give him space to focus on appointments and healing.”

“Makes my kids feel normal and appreciated! Also helps them have something to talk about and involve their dad which is great because they have trouble connecting.”

As highlighted in the last quote, receiving an OMK grant can help families feel more normal, and can help them maintain a sense of normalcy (74%). The activities also serve to help families meet others in their community (77%), which can broaden social support structures and aid the service member/veteran in their recovery process:

“Our military kids got our kids involved in soccer, in a new place where we knew no one. It allowed our kids to meet new people, my husband who is combat wounded to meet new people and for both to make friends. It has allowed our kids to connect with their dad, got my husband back out playing soccer with them and now he has volunteered to coach soccer in the community.”

“You helped us connect with others in our community and feel a sense of normalcy. Our normal looks so much different from others, so being able to watch our kids do something they enjoy has been a huge blessing. You have also relieved some of that financial strain that paying for these activities would have caused.”

“It gave them something else to focus on than what was happening at home. It gave them an outlet to feel normal.”

Additionally, the activities gave children something to do/talk about with their service member/veteran (69%), helped service members/veterans get out of the house (58%), and provided families with time together, giving them space to bond (53%).

“It helped my daughter to bond with me and her dad on a deeper level. It's an amazing opportunity.”

“Our Military kids has helped our family so much! With having four kids it made it possible for them to play a sport and gain friends and believe in themselves. It also makes them so happy to get outside and have fun with friends. My husband actually gets out of the house more when they play because he loves to watch there games. The kids love that he watches them play. This is such an amazing

organization and have helped make are family more of a family unit while we help my husband heal from his injuries.”

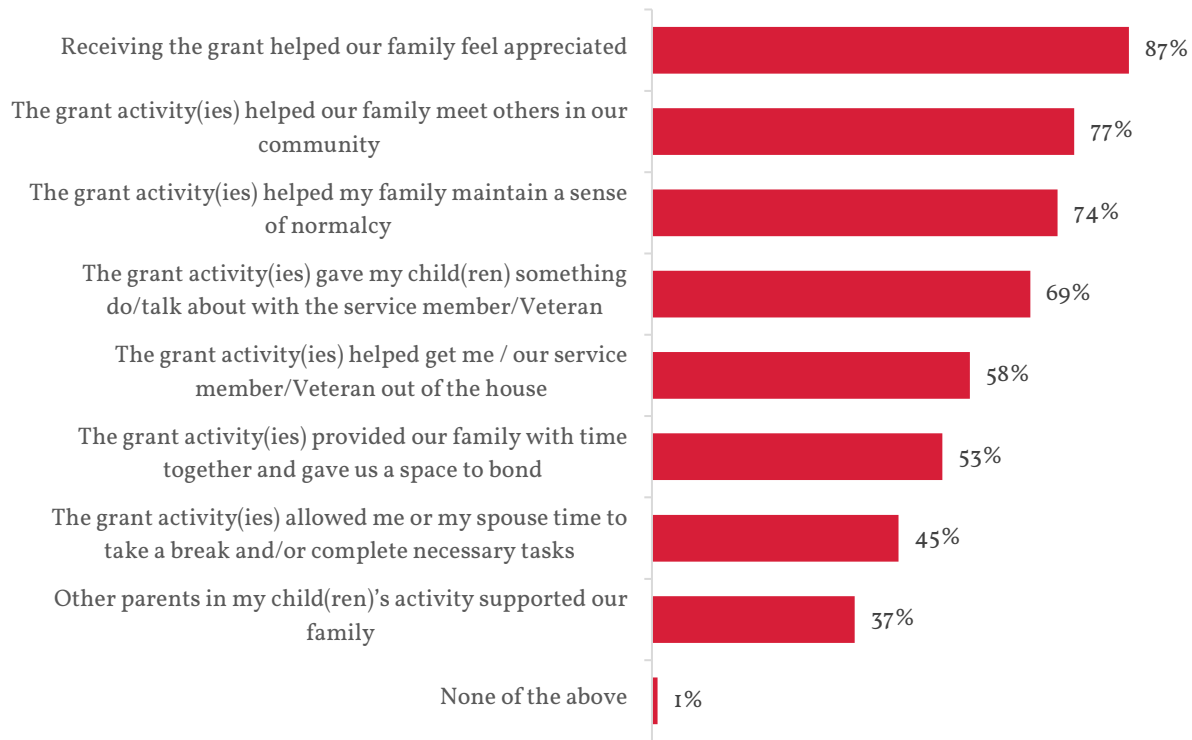
“Our Military Kids have helped my son tremendously. Gave us the opportunity to spent quality time together. And the success of my son was and still is the most precious therapy to stay healthy and cope with the pain and my disabilities.”

“The program allowed my veteran to bond with my children outside of the home in an activity they all enjoy. It's been amazing to see all of them laughing and having daddy help them learn something fun. He never misses a class and that's a huge commitment for him.”

Family bonding can improve outcomes for all family members, with caregivers in one study reporting how pushing their family to do things together outside of normal caretaking routines improved their family's overall outcomes. Additionally, Cozza and colleagues recommend parents and children try out new ways of relating to each other through “innovative, mutually developed activities and play that allow parents and children to “try on” fresh ways of relating. The capacity for the parent-child dyad to reestablish enjoyable modes of interaction is critical to future health and happiness” (2011, 516-517).

A minority of families also expressed that other parents in their child(ren)'s activity supported their family (37%) and that their children's participation in the activity gave either themselves or their child(ren)'s other caregiver time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks (45%). Caregiving can cause both physical (such as sleep disruption or strains/aches) and mental (such as depression or anxiety) challenges, with over a third of post-9/11 caretakers in one study having probable major depressive disorder, with many reporting “feeling overwhelmed” (Ramchand et al. 2014). The space these activities provide for caretakers to take time to themselves is situated to offer a key respite. Figure 2.20 provides an overview of all of the family level outcomes.

Figure 2.20. Family Level Outcomes



The following quote encapsulates all of the impacts participating in an OMK-sponsored grant can have on a family, including for the children, spouse, and injured service member/veteran:

“This program has been a blessing to our family in so many ways. Our veteran was able to have space to do therapy during these activities, he was not beating himself up about not being able to afford something they wanted to do, he was able to connect with the kids in a healthy way because of these activities and he was able to bond with them over memories of doing these things as a kid himself. For myself, I was also able to have space to myself to help focus on my husbands needs during these activity periods, time to myself to recharge as a mom, time to reset our home, time to grocery shop, etc. For our kids, [...] these benefits are enormous. My daughter was able to attend a summer volleyball camp for a week, this gave all of us a much needed break but most importantly gave her the chance to do something new to her. That camp built her confidence, allowed her to just be a kid instead of a kid with a disabled brother and dad, she made friends, learned new skills and has since joined her school's volleyball team which has brought more benefits than I can ever say to her and our entire family. That scholarship did that for her! For my son, he was able to attend gymnastics. We learned just how

capable he really is in so many ways. He was able to build listening skills, team building skills, patience, stretch his body out, burn off some big energy and make new friends. Again, there were so many benefits that we would not have had access to had we not applied for and been awarded this scholarship. We are so incredibly thankful!"

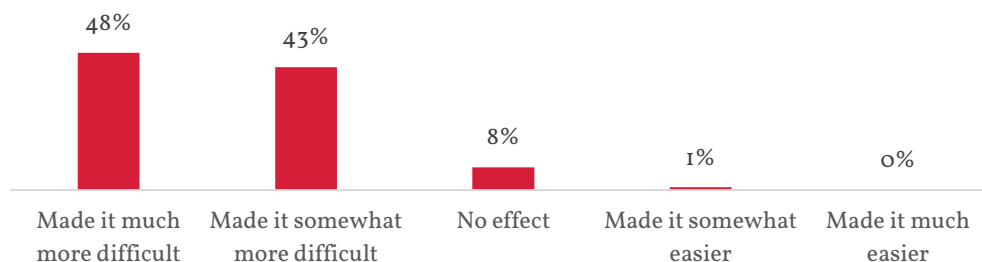
Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Caregivers reported significantly¹⁹ more positive effects on their family’s overall well-being than service members did*. However, service members were significantly²⁰ more likely to report that the activities gave them time with their family and space to bond than caregivers were*.

Finances

Among post-9/11 families with a combat-injured service member/Veteran, around 30% of injured service members require more than 40 hours of care from a caregiver per week (Ramchand et al. 2014). This can have significant consequences on the caregiver’s ability to work outside the home, with many either needing to make work adjustments, take time off, cut hours, or quit working entirely (Ramchand et al. 2014). Among the Combat Injured Program families, the injury made the family’s financial status “somewhat” or “much” worse for 91% (Figure 2.21), and for 89%, the injury recovery process made it

Figure 2.21. Impact on Family's Financial Status



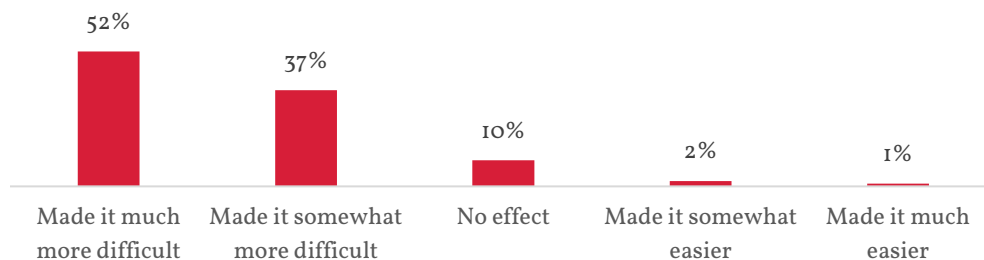
*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

¹⁹ Mann Whitney U-Test

²⁰ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

“somewhat” or “much” more difficult for either the service member/Veteran or the children’s other caregiver to work outside the home (Figure 2.22).

Figure 2.22. Impact on Parents' Ability to Work Outside the Home



As a result, only six families (2%) would have been able to afford their child’s grant activity without the assistance of OMK. For 61%, they would have been able to afford the activity, but it would have caused financial strain to do so. 37% would have been unable to afford the activity at all.

“We greatly appreciate the assistance towards our children's extracurricular activities during my husband's recovery. With the rising costs of everyday necessities, it is becoming more difficult to afford the "extras." They love attending karate and have learned so many valuable lessons. Our Military Kids has had a positive, lasting impact in the lives on my children, thank you!”

“It has helped relieve the financial burden greatly. Extracurricular activities are very expensive these days and it has been a true blessing. And our girls are always excited to be able to not worry If they will be able to participate in their activities.”

“They had less to worry about financially to be able to play baseball and softball. They are always so worried how will things get paid and do not want to be of burden. They never are burdens to me or my wife we try and give them what they need to achieve every goal they set forth.”

As illustrated in the latter two quotes, stress related to financial concerns can extend beyond the parents, potentially impacting children. It can also have a profound effect on the service members who are in recovery, helping them to not feel like they are a “failure” or “letting their family down”:

“OMK helping me be able to afford keeping my son in soccer makes me feel that I am not a failure. Without OMK help I felt like I was letting my son down.”

“This scholarship has allowed our kids to do such awesome things while also giving my husband space to breathe and handle his mental health issues and also not beat himself up about how he can afford the thing they want to do.”

As highlighted by the last quote, this financial buffer can help service members (and their families) focus on their recovery rather than worrying about how to reduce impact on the children. Non-military connected families recovering from severe injuries have also reported lowered feelings of parental self-efficacy (Mazur 2011), however feelings of failure among service members and Veterans, who as a rule tend to be relatively active, may also stem from not being able to do the same activities with their children as they did before the injury (Cozza et al. 2011). OMK activities can help provide different ways to injured service members/Veterans to engage with their children, as has been highlighted throughout this section, which can help contribute to reduced feelings of parental “failure.”

Families reported that the OMK grant fully covered the costs of the activity for just over half (51%) of the children represented by this sample. Despite the grant not fully covering costs for the activities of nearly half the children in the sample, families agreed that the grant amount enabled their child to select their preferred activity for 83% of the children.

Despite the financial difficulties expressed by families, respondents indicated that just over half (54%) of the children were likely to continue their activity after it is no longer funded by the grant.

Two thirds (66%) indicated that the opportunity for a 5th flex grant influenced their decision to apply.

Significant Differences Between Sub-Groups

Caregivers reported significantly²¹ stronger financial difficulties due to the service member’s injury recovery than the service members did^{***}, however service members reported significantly²² greater difficulties in their children’s other parent/caregiver to work outside the home*. Child age had a small effect on whether the grant fully covered the costs of the activity, with both the 9-12^{**} and 13-18^{**} age groups significantly²³ less likely than the 5-8 age group to strongly agree that the grant fully covered costs.

Finding OMK

There is no avenue that emerged more predominant than others for how families hear about OMK. The most common was Wounded Warrior Project (27%), followed by another wounded veteran/service member (18%) and the Department of VA (17%) (Figure 2.23).

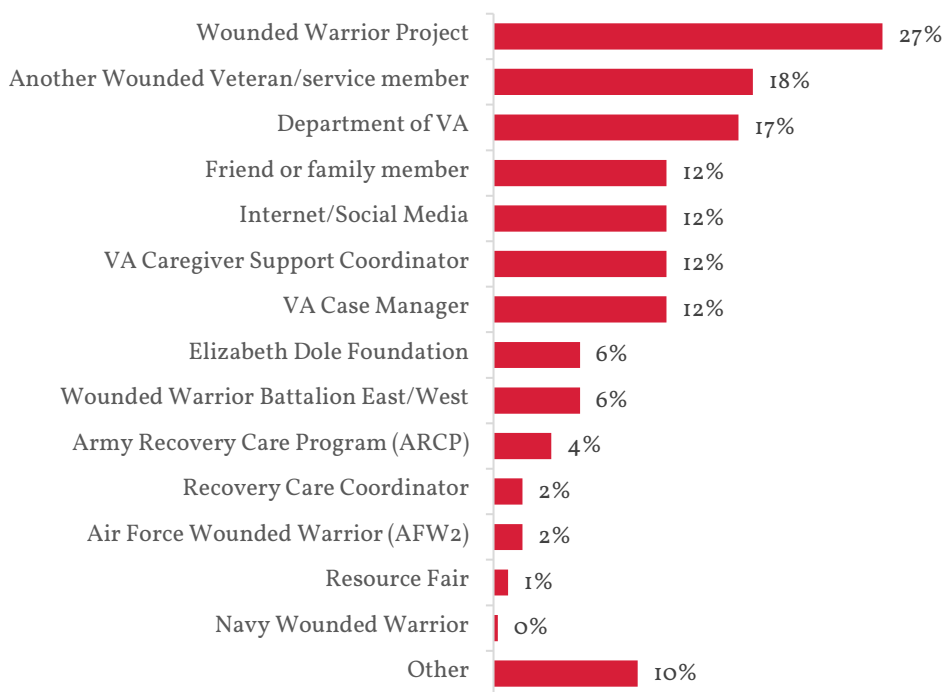
*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

²¹ Mann Whitney U-Test

²² Mann Whitney U-Test

²³ Mann Whitney U-Test

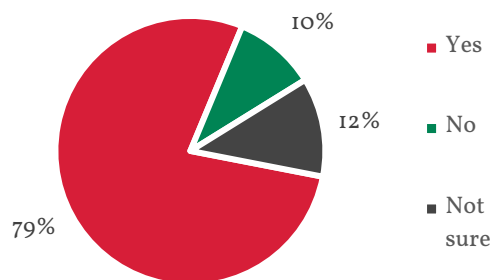
Figure 2.23. How Families Heard About OMK



Opportunities and Suggestions

On past surveys, a suggestion that has emerged across the last several years has been to expand the eligibility criteria for grants to include 1-2 year olds. In order to quantitatively assess interest in this expansion, this survey asked parents if they had a 1- or 2-year-old in their household. Of the 13% who indicated yes, 79% would have enrolled them in an OMK-sponsored activity had they been eligible for it, indicating high interest for this area of grant expansion (Figure 2.24).

Figure 2.24. Interest in Enrolling 1-2 Year Old in Activity



When asked if they had any suggestions for improving the OMK program, most families used the space to reflect on how easy the process was or how grateful they were for receiving a grant. Among those who chose to voice suggestions, several themes emerged, many of which have come up on previous annual surveys. Regarding the application process, themes centered around two key elements – the letter requirement from the VA and the application portal. Respondents noted that it can be difficult to get a letter from

their doctor, particularly if their local VA is not as responsive. Although OMK provides a template for the VA care providers in the application portal and extended the requirement of treatment letters every six months to 18 months, this year respondents offered several ideas on how to circumvent this challenge while still maintaining verification of the veteran's status. These included having a form that the VA doctor only had to sign or finding an alternative documentation of care.

"The letter from the VA doctor or case manager can be difficult to obtain. Maybe be able to provide some sort of documentation that care is being received at the VA in its place or as a substitute."

"Not having the requirement of a letter showing treatment every 6 months. Our VA has a VERY difficult time following the rules of getting the letter. If a prefilled-out form could be done on letter head so the veteran can provide it to their PCM all they have to do is sign it would be much easier."

In terms of the application process, families noted their desire for an application portal with features that allowed them to track how many grants each child received, save their work so they could come back to it, and pre-populating a new application with information from previous applications, and, where possible, allowing previous documentation to be pulled for new applications.

"Enhance the online process to auto populate information from previous applications."

"It would be nice to see a way to find out how many grants we have received and how many are left, to confirm. "

"Saving the information under a profile would be nice. Then, all I would need to do is click on the child's profile and edit. This is a small, small edit to an already easy application process. However, if it is a veteran filling out the forms for their children, a saved profile will help them. Some people have a harder time locating their supporting documents, even if they have used them in the past. "

"Make it easier to re-apply and documents needed using the previous documents for the same activity if possible."

Families also noted challenges experienced with the process of having checks sent from OMK to the child's activity. Many activities, particularly sports, require advanced registration and payment in order for children to be able to participate. In years past respondents have suggested that checks be made payable to the families, but this year a recommendation for reimbursement with a receipt or other proof of payment was voiced,

which would allow families to pay up front for activities, when necessary, while still documenting usage of funds.

“I think it would be easier to get reimbursed payment for the activity. Sometimes tuition and other related costs are due sooner than the grant becomes available with the application process.”

Although not as predominant a theme as in past years, some respondents did talk about additional costs associated with activities, suggesting that the grant money could also be allowed to cover required gear. As OMK already permits families to use grants for equipment when the payee is the same as the activity provider, these comments indicate there is space for OMK to better promote the opportunity for families to include gear and equipment in their grant request:

“Some of the activities required some type of equipment. Some help with getting gear or instruments would help greatly.”

“It might be nice if part of the funds could be used towards gear for the activity, for example my daughter picked horseback riding, but we had a hard time affordable the riding boots. I'm definitely not complaining, because we appreciate the grant so very much, just a thought to consider :)”

Also not as predominant a theme as in past years, a minority of respondents requested that the grant amounts be increased, or that additional grants be added beyond the four and flex grant. Grant amounts came up particularly around how expensive certain activities can be. One suggestion was to vary the grant amounts based off of child age:

“Offer smaller grants to younger children 12 and under, offer larger grants to teenagers since there are more activities for them to do, but at a higher cost. Also offer more than 5 grants, maybe up to 7.”

Finally, respondents requested additional information from OMK, either in the form of a newsletter or a list of activities other families had participated in or organizations they had found to work well with the OMK check system. The suggestions are insightful, but also indicate OMK has an opportunity to more actively prompt families to follow OMK on social media, where chosen activities are highlighted daily. This might address the knowledge gap in types of activities OMK grants cover.

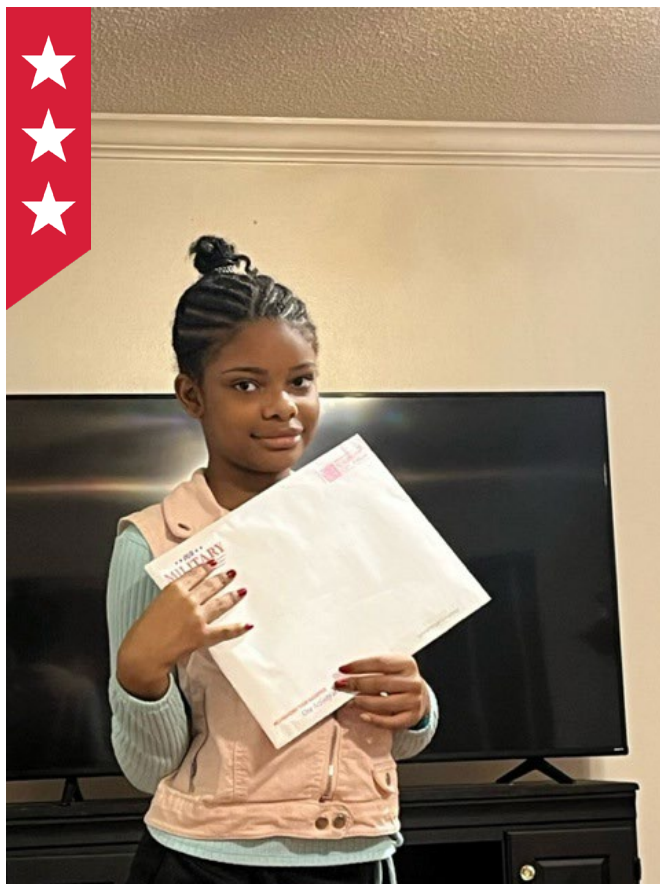
“Keep informing families of activities. Newsletter would be nice.”

“Just post a list of programs funded by OMK on website of not already. Would be interested in what other military members are getting their children into.”

“Perhaps creating a “trusted” list of partners that have accepted OMK grants in the past in case people need help finding organizations that will accept it. “

Regardless of the suggestions for improving OMK processes, when asked about the application process, 78% felt that the process was easier than other application process they had interacted with.

Overall, on a scale of 0-10, when asked how likely they would be to recommend OMK to other military families (Net Promoter Score), 93% selected 10. 95% were classified as “promoters”, 3% as “passives”, and 2% as “detractors”, for an overall NPS score of 93.6 out of 100. This is an extremely high net promoter score.



Program Comparison



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



C
H
A
P
T
E
R

T
H
R
E
E

Chapter 3: Program Comparison

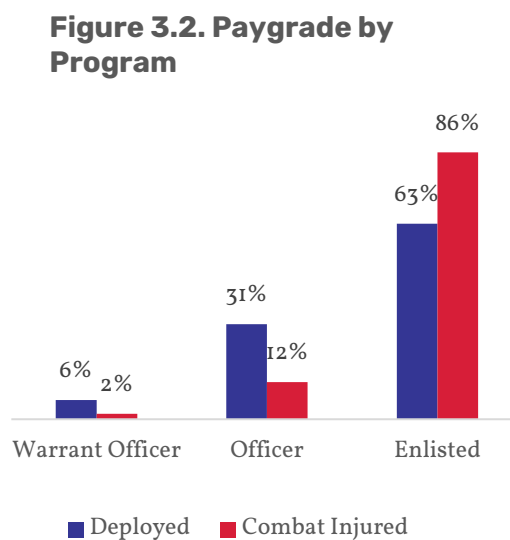
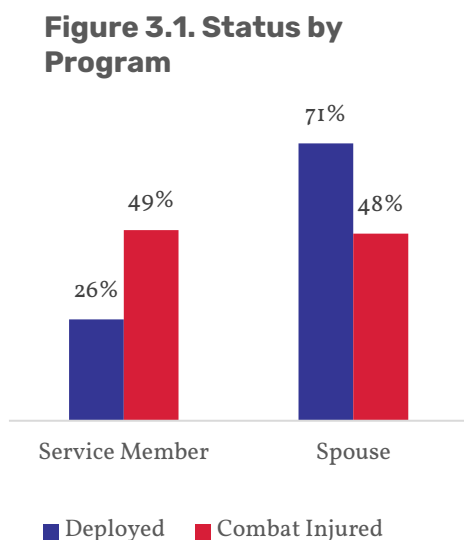
Demographics

The demographics of the Deployed Program and the Combat Injured Program participants differed significantly in several key ways across both family and child metrics.

Family

Within respondent status, the Combat Injured Program had significantly more respondents who identified as the service member, while in the Deployed Program, the majority of respondents identified as the service member’s spouse^{***} (Figure 3.1). This is unsurprising, considering that within the Deployed Program, the service member must be absent for a total period of 90 days (stateside activation) or 179 days (overseas deployment) over the course of a year in order for the family to be eligible for the grant, and as such are more likely to be absent at the time of the survey (50% reported still being activated/deployed at the time of this survey).

In terms of paygrade, the Combat Injured Program had significantly²⁴ more enlisted families than the Deployed Program, while the Deployed Program had significantly more officer families^{***} (Figure 3.2). Despite these differences, the majority of families within



both programs are enlisted, with nearly two thirds of Deployed Program and over three quarters of Combat Injured Program families having an enlisted service member/Veteran.

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

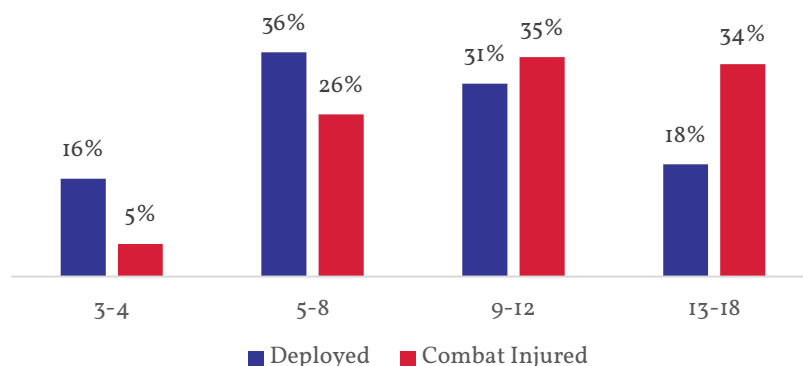
²⁴ Pearson’s Chi Square

Children

Children within the Combat Injured Program were more diverse, with that group reporting a significantly²⁵ higher proportion of children within the following categories: Black or African American^{***}, Native American or Alaska Native*, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander*, and “Other”^{**}. The Deployed Program had significantly more children identified as being White or Caucasian^{***}. Additionally, a significantly greater proportion of the Combat Injured Program identified as being Hispanic or Latino/a/x*.

Children within the Deployed Program skewed significantly²⁶ younger than children with the Combat Injured Program^{***}. Over two thirds (69%) of the Combat Injured Program children fell within the 9-18 age bands, while two thirds (67%) of the Deployed Program children fell within the 5-12 age bands (Figure 3.3). Likely because of this, or because children are eligible to receive grants for a longer consecutive period of time, children within the Combat Injured Program had received significantly²⁷ more total grants per child than those in the Deployed Program^{***}.

Figure 3.3. Age by Program



Child Outcomes

Although there was no significant difference between how deployments/activations and injury recovery impacted children’s academic performance, the Combat Injured Program reported significantly²⁸ stronger academic improvements as a result of the OMK-sponsored activity^{***}. Regarding psychosocial outcomes, children within the Deployed Program were significantly²⁹ more likely to be reported to have experienced crying or depression^{***}, whereas children within the Combat Injured Program were significantly

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

²⁵ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

²⁶ Mann Whitney U-Test

²⁷ Mann Whitney U-Test

²⁸ Mann Whitney U-Test

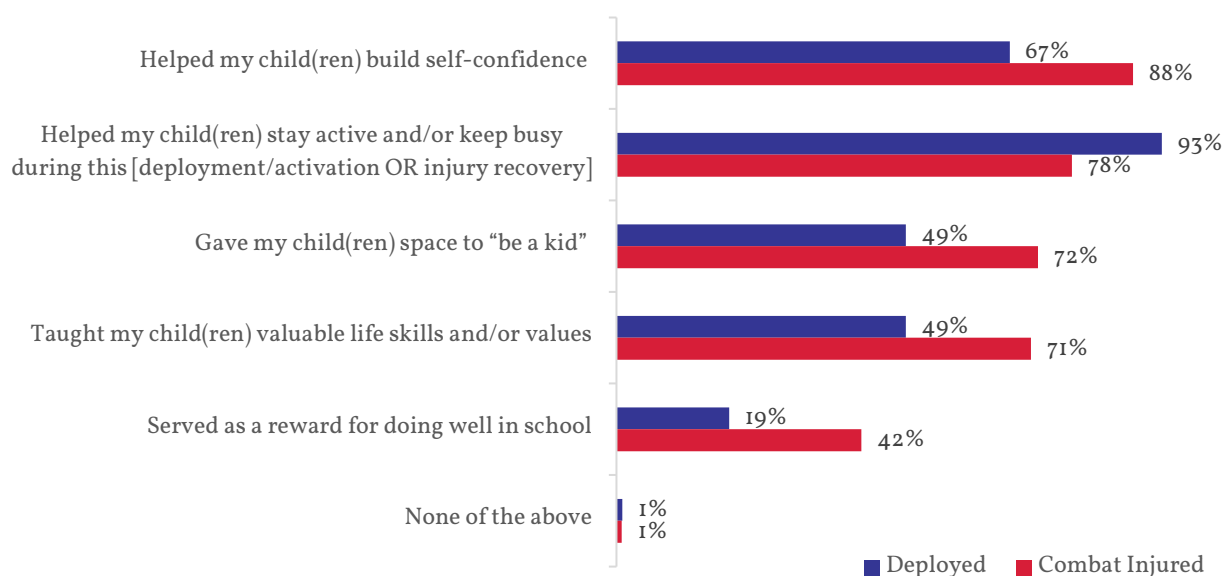
²⁹ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

more likely to be reported to have experienced attention difficulties^{***}, headaches or stomachaches^{*}, and social withdrawal^{**}, though the latter is likely a result of the difference in child ages between the two programs, as older age was a predictor of social withdrawal across both programs. There were no significant differences in the number of symptoms reported by each group.

As with academic improvements, families within the Combat Injured Program reported significantly³⁰ greater improvements in the children’s symptoms^{***} as a result of their participation in OMK-sponsored activities.

Additionally, Deployed Program families were significantly³¹ more likely to report that the activity helped their child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during the activation/deployment than Combat Injured Program families were for the same outcome during injury recovery^{***}. Combat Injured Program families were significantly more likely to report that the activity helped their children build self-confidence^{***}, give their child space to “be a kid”^{***}, taught their children valuable life skills and/or values^{***}, and served as a reward for doing well in school^{***} (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4. Child Outcomes by Program



*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

³⁰ Mann Whitney U-Test

³¹ Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

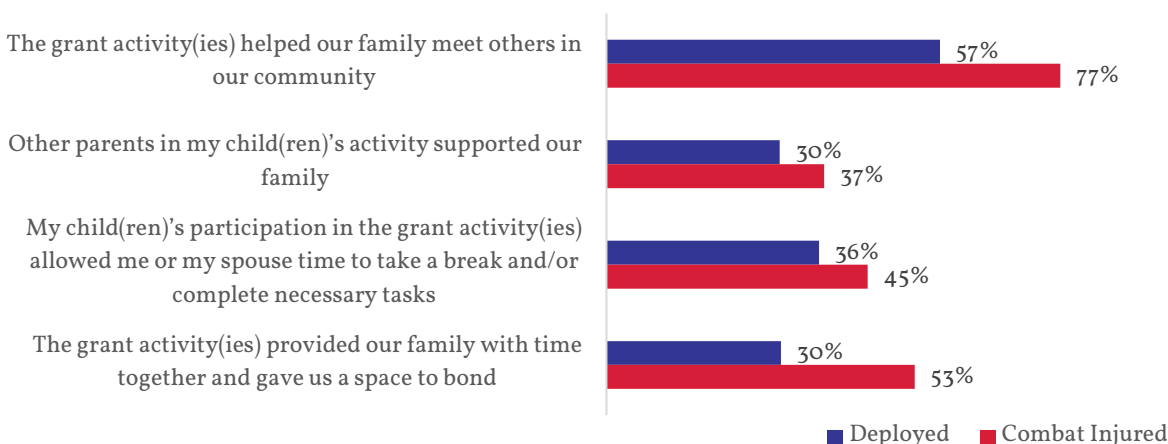
Combat Injured Program families also agreed significantly³² more strongly than Deployed Program families that their child(ren) made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity^{***}, and that they found a mentor figure through their activity^{***}.

Family Outcomes

Combat Injured Program families agreed significantly³³ stronger than Deployed Program families with the statements that the grant made them feel more supported by/connected to the military community^{***}, and with their local community^{***}. Additionally, they reported participating in OMK-sponsored activities had a significantly stronger positive effect on their family’s overall well-being than Deployed Program families did^{**}. There was no significant difference between the groups in regard to OMK’s impact on service member morale.

Additionally, there were several other family level outcomes where the two groups differed. Combat Injured families were significantly more likely to report that the grant activities helped their family meet others in their community^{***}, that other parents in the activity supported their family^{*}, that their children’s participation gave them or their spouse time to take a break or complete necessary tasks^{*}, and that the activities provided their family with time together and gave them space to bond^{***} (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5. Family Outcomes by Program



It should be noted that although there was not a significant difference in the number of families who reported that the grant made them feel appreciated, Deployed Program

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

³² Mann Whitney U-Test

³³ Mann Whitney U-Test

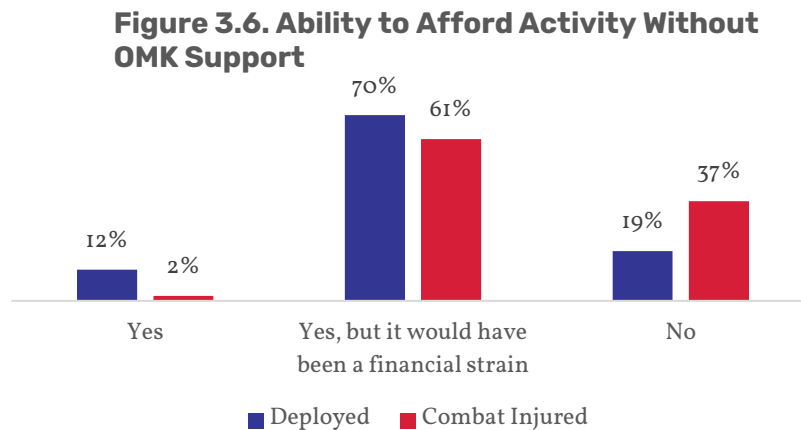
families were the only ones to comment in the open-ended questions about receiving the grant acceptance packet, with the certificate, cards, and dog tags, such as the following:

“The kids did artwork projects with the stickers they got. They wore the dog tag necklaces with pride. The letters and packets made them beam with pride.”

This may be because children only receive the packet, cards, and dog tags for their first grant. Because children within the Combat Injured Program had received significantly more total grants per child than those in the Deployed Program, less than one third (31%) of Combat Injured Program children received this packet during the grant cycle covered by this survey.

Finances

Combat Injured Program families reported significantly³⁴ greater financial difficulty^{***} and greater difficulty for the children’s other parent/caregiver to work outside the home^{***} than families within the Deployed Program. When asked if they would be able to afford the activity without the support of OMK, Deployed Program families also reported significantly greater challenges in affording the activity on their own than Combat Injured Program Families (Figure 3.6).



There are two possible reasons for the difference in financial difficulty. One possible reason for the difference is the nature of financial impact. Deployment/activation ultimately represents a temporary reduction in family income, regardless of whether that reduction came because the remaining caregiver was unable to work outside the home, because the service member’s military pay was less than their civilian job, or both. Comparatively, a service-related injury can permanently impact a veteran’s ability to work, and similarly can permanently impact their spouse/caregiver’s ability as well,

*Significant at the .05 level, **Significant at the .01 level, ***Significant at the .000 level

³⁴ Pearson’s Chi Square

resulting in longer-term financial impacts than those experienced within the Deployed Program. Even if the service member/Veteran and/or their caregiver can return to the workforce, recovering from severe combat related injuries is a process that can take years of medical visits and rehabilitative services (Cozza et al. 2011).



2023 Annual Survey Data Report

C
O
N
C
L
U
S
I
O
N



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS



Conclusion

Despite the differences between the programs, receiving an OMK grant and participating in the sponsored activities has a profound impact on military families. Across both groups, child academic performance is positively impacted by participation in OMK-sponsored activities, as are negative psychosocial outcomes. Children who participate in these activities are provided opportunities to stay active/busy and space to “be a kid” during a time where they may be experienced added responsibilities and worry for their service member parent. Additionally, the activities help many burn off extra energy, which can both improve focus in school as well as improve their ability to fall asleep at night, in turn also improving their ability to engage in school. Participating in activities can also help children build self-confidence and teach them valuable life-skills/values. And it gives children (and in many cases their family) something to look forward to. Most find opportunities to make friends and form a sense of community, as well as engage with mentors during their activity time.

Parents also feel a greater connection, both with the military community and with their local community. Participating in the activities not only improved service member morale, but also improved overall family well-being. Families reported that the grant activity helped them meet others in their community, and in many cases other parents in the activity provided an additional support structure for families. Receiving the grants also helped families feel appreciated in two key ways: they felt “seen” for their service and they recognized that donors had made a conscious decision to provide the funding for the activities. Further, the inclusion of the award packet for the kids helped made them feel appreciated and seen too and gave families a way to talk with their children about the process, donors, and what they were experiencing. For some, this helped make the entire experience of separation or injury recovery more positive:

“It gave a positive connection to deployment rather than just the “gone” and “dangerous” labels.”

“Gave our children an awareness of how the military community can help support one another in times of need.”

“It was an encouragement and reminder that she is important too. Being recognized as a military kid and receiving her own letter seemed to make her feel more normal and confident that her Father is in the military and deployed.”

As highlighted in the last quote, the grants also helped families maintain a sense of normalcy. Through open ends, these feelings were conveyed through three primary mechanisms: 1) allowing families to continue an activity they had participated in prior to

the deployment, activation, or injury, 2) helping families to build a routine around a new activity, and 3) helping children, and their families, to feel “normal”.

“We were able to stay in an activity and continue a sense of normalcy.”

“It has become our family Wednesday evening outing routine since Gymnastics only goes on that day. We look forward to it throughout the week.”

“It allowed my daughter to have time outside of school to connect with her teammates and allowed her to feel normal.”

Particularly for Combat Injured Program families, the activities provided a space for their family to spend time together and bond, and across both groups the activity helped parents have extra time to themselves to relax or complete necessary tasks.

Although the impacts can be significantly greater for families with a combat injured veteran/service member, many families across both programs experienced financial hardship as a result of their deployment, activation, or injury recovery. For Deployed Program families, civilian pay can be much higher than the service member’s military pay when activated/deployed. Additionally, having the service member absent can negatively impact the remaining caregiver’s ability to work outside the home if they are unable to afford or arrange alternative childcare. For Combat Injured Program families, the service-related injury and recovery process can take the service member/veteran out of the work force either temporarily or permanently. Similarly, the care the service member/veteran needs may also impact their caregiver’s ability to work. In all cases, the impacts on the ability to work outside the home in turn affect family’s financial status. Nearly 90% of Deployed Program families and nearly 100% of Combat Injured Program families would have been unable to afford the activity without the help of OMK, or it would have caused financial strain. In providing the funding necessary for these activities, OMK helps reduce stress for families and the children who understand the impacts of financial struggle, as well as service members/veterans who may feel personally responsible for not being able to provide for the activities themselves.

Families across both programs voiced that they would be receptive to and likely participate in additional activities if the program eligibility was extended to children in the 1-2 year age group. Additional suggestions from families for improving this program can be summarized as follows:

- Expanded application portal features, such as auto-population of information from previous submissions, a saved profile for each child, and a way to see how many grants were remaining for each child. This portal could also offer a way for families to follow their application status.

- The ability to have families submit for reimbursement when activities require payment before a check from OMK can be mailed.
- Broadening of activity eligibility to include family activities or a pass (such as a museum or recreation center) for families to engage in activities together at their own pace and schedule. Since OMK provides grants for family memberships to local YMCA, parks & rec, and family pool or zoo memberships, OMK will add this information to their FAQs.
- Broadening of what the grant can be used for, to include required gear and other costs after the activity fees had been covered, as well as additional activities such as mission trips. Since OMK covers required equipment and uniform fees when they are purchased directly from the organization, OMK will add this information to FAQs.

As in years past, increasing the grant amount came up in both groups, though it was much less prevalent than in previous surveys. Families in the Combat Injured Program additionally voiced challenges with accessing letters from their VA care provider to provide proof of treatment. Although families in the Deployed Program also discussed challenges with required paperwork, it was not nearly as predominant as with the Combat Injured Program, indicating that VA proof of treatment may be harder for families to obtain than a deployed/activated service member's orders. Despite these challenges and suggestions, families overwhelmingly wrote about their gratitude and how easy this program is compared to others.

The benefits of OMK to children, caregivers, and service members/veterans are extensive, impacting each individually while also improving overall family well-being and cohesiveness.

REFERENCES & APPENDICES



★★ OUR ★★
MILITARY
KIDS

References

- Achenbach, T. M., & Ruffle, T. M. (2000). The Child Behavior Checklist and Related Forms for Assessing Behavioral/Emotional Problems and Competencies. *Pediatrics In Review, 21*(8), 265–271. <https://doi.org/10.1542/pir.21.8.265>
- Antonucci, T. C., & Israel, B. A. (1986). Veridicality of social support: A comparison of principal and network members' responses. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 54*(4), 432–437. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-006X.54.4.432>
- Applewhite, L. W., & Segal, D. R. (1990). Telephone Use by Peacekeeping Troops in the Sinai. *Armed Forces & Society, 17*(1), 117–126. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X9001700106>
- Aranda, M. C., Middleton, L. S., Flake, E., & Davis, B. E. (2011). Psychosocial Screening in Children With Wartime-Deployed Parents. *Military Medicine, 176*(4), 402–407. <https://doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-10-00202>
- Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1995). The need to belong: Desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation. *Psychological Bulletin, 117*(3), 497–529. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.117.3.497>
- Beets, J. (n.d.). *The importance of routines for military families* (No. 1). <https://rss.com/podcasts/readyforreading/418473/>
- Bell, D. B., Schumm, W. R., Knott, B., & Ender, M. G. (1999). The Desert Fax: A Research Note on Calling Home from Somalia. *Armed Forces & Society, 25*(3), 509–521. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X9902500308>
- Briggs, E. C., Fairbank, J. A., Tunno, A. M., Lee, R. C., Corry, N. H., Pflieger, J. C., Stander, V. A., & Murphy, R. A. (2020). Military Life Stressors, Family Communication and Satisfaction: Associations with Children's Psychosocial Outcomes. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma, 13*(1), 75–87. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-019-00259-z>
- Chandra, A., Martin, L. T., Hawkins, S. A., & Richardson, A. (2010). The Impact of Parental Deployment on Child Social and Emotional Functioning: Perspectives of School Staff. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 46*(3), 218–223. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2009.10.009>
- Chartrand, M. M., Frank, D. A., White, L. F., & Shope, T. R. (2008). Effect of Parents' Wartime Deployment on the Behavior of Young Children in Military

- Families. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 162(11), 1009.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/archpedi.162.11.1009>
- Chipuer, H. M., Bramston, P., & Pretty, G. (2003). Determinants of Subjective Quality of Life Among Rural Adolescents: A Developmental Perspective. *Social Indicators Research*, 61(1), 79–95. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1021271831731>
- Cigrang, J. A., Wayne Talcott, G., Tatum, J., Baker, M., Cassidy, D., Sonnek, S., Snyder, D. K., Balderrama-Durbin, C., Heyman, R. E., & Smith Slep, A. M. (2014). Intimate Partner Communication From the War Zone: A Prospective Study of Relationship Functioning, Communication Frequency, and Combat Effectiveness. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 40(3), 332–343. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12043>
- Cohen, M. L. (2012). Harmony within the walls: Perceptions of worthiness and competence in a community prison choir. *International Journal of Music Education*, 30(1), 46–56. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0255761411431394>
- Cohen, S., & Wills, T. A. (1985). Stress, social support, and the buffering hypothesis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 98(2), 310–357. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.98.2.310>
- Cozza, S. J., Chun, R. S., & Miller, C. (2011). The Children and Families of Combat-Injured Service Members. In *Combat and Operational Behavioral Health* (pp. 503–534). The Office of The Surgeon General at TMM Publications.
- Cozza, S. J., Guimond, J. M., McKibben, J. B. A., Chun, R. S., Arata-Maiers, T. L., Schneider, B., Maiers, A., Fullerton, C. S., & Ursano, R. J. (2010). Combat-injured service members and their families: The relationship of child distress and spouse-perceived family distress and disruption: Combat-Injured Families. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 23(1), 112–115. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.20488>
- Dekel, R., & Goldblatt, H. (2008). Is there intergenerational transmission of trauma? The case of combat veterans' children. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 78(3), 281–289. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0013955>
- De Pedro, K. M. T., Astor, R. A., Benbenishty, R., Estrada, J., Smith, G. R. D., & Esqueda, M. C. (2011). The Children of Military Service Members: Challenges, Supports, and Future Educational Research. *Review of Educational Research*, 81(4), 566–618. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654311423537>

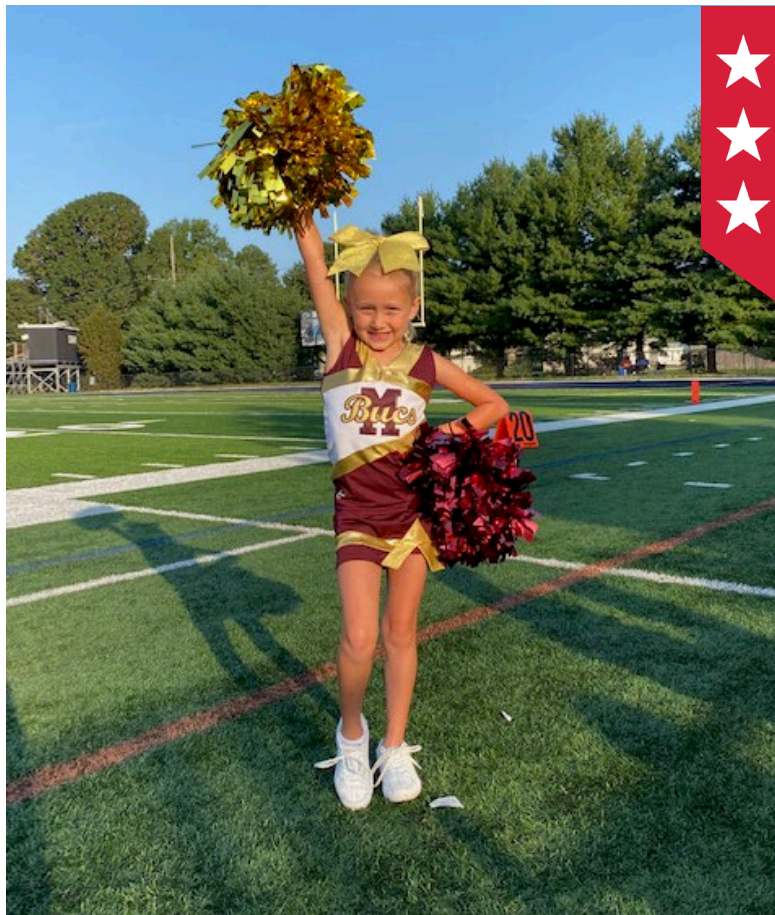
- DeVoe, E. R., Kritikos, T. M., Emmert-Aronson, B., Kantor, G. K., & Paris, R. (2018). Very Young Child Well-being in Military Families: A Snapshot. *Journal of Child and Family Studies, 27*(7), 2138–2148. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-018-1069-5>
- D'Souza, E. W., MacGregor, A. J., Dougherty, A. L., Olson, A. S., Champion, H. R., & Galarneau, M. R. (2022). Combat injury profiles among U.S. military personnel who survived serious wounds in Iraq and Afghanistan: A latent class analysis. *PLOS ONE, 17*(4), e0266588. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0266588>
- Durham, S. W. (2010). In Their Own Words: Staying Connected in a Combat Environment. *Military Medicine, 175*(8), 554–559. <https://doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-09-00235>
- Ender, M. G. (1995). G.I. Phone Home: The Use of Telecommunications by the Soldiers of Operation Just Cause. *Armed Forces & Society, 21*(3), 435–453. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X9502100307>
- Faircloth, B. S., & Hamm, J. V. (2005). Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing 4 Ethnic Groups. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 34*(4), 293–309. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-005-5752-7>
- Fennell, D. L. (2008, June 14). A Distinct Culture: Applying Multicultural Counseling Competencies to Work with Military Personnel. *Counseling Today*. <https://ct.counseling.org/2008/06/a-distinct-culture/#>
- Finn, J. D. (1989). Withdrawing From School. *Review of Educational Research, 59*(2), 117–142. <https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543059002117>
- Glenn, D. M., Beckham, J. C., Feldman, M. E., Kirby, A. C., Hertzberg, M. A., & Moore, S. D. (2002). Violence and Hostility Among Families of Vietnam Veterans With Combat-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. *Violence and Victims, 17*(4), 473–489. <https://doi.org/10.1891/vivi.17.4.473.33685>
- Garcia-Reid, P., Peterson, C. H., Reid, R. J., & Peterson, N. A. (2013). The Protective Effects of Sense of Community, Multigroup Ethnic Identity, and Self-Esteem Against Internalizing Problems Among Dominican Youth: Implications for Social Workers. *Social Work in Mental Health, 11*(3), 199–222. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2013.774923>

- Grolnick, W. S., Ryan, R. M., & Deci, E. L. (1991). Inner resources for school achievement: Motivational mediators of children's perceptions of their parents. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 83*(4), 508–517. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-0663.83.4.508>
- Hall, L. K. (2008). *Counseling Military Families: What Mental Health Professionals Need to Know* (First Edition). Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Hawvermale, E. M. (2017). *The Impact of High School Extracurriculars: Similarities and Differences in Sense of Community Among Competitive, Performance, and Participatory Activities* [Honor's Thesis]. Utah State University.
- Hawvermale, E. M. (2020). *Read to Me: The Impacts of Participation in United Through Reading on Military Members, Children, and Spouses* [Master's Thesis]. University of North Texas.
- Henderson, K. (2006). *While they're at war: the true story of American families on the homefront*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Henry, K. L., & Slater, M. D. (2007). The Contextual Effect of School Attachment on Young Adolescents' Alcohol Use. *Journal of School Health, 77*(2), 67–74. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1746-1561.2007.00169.x>
- Hisle-Gorman, E., Harrington, D., Nylund, C. M., Tercyak, K. P., Anthony, B. J., & Gorman, G. H. (2015). Impact of Parents' Wartime Military Deployment and Injury on Young Children's Safety and Mental Health. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 54*(4), 294–301. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2014.12.017>
- Houston, J. B., Pfefferbaum, B., Sherman, M. D., Melson, A. G., & Brand, M. W. (2013). Family Communication Across the Military Deployment Experience: Child and Spouse Report of Communication Frequency and Quality and Associated Emotions, Behaviors, and Reactions. *Journal of Loss and Trauma, 18*(2), 103–119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15325024.2012.684576>
- Jaycox, Lisa H., Thomas E. Trail, Lynsay Ayer, Beth Ann Griffin, Esther M. Friedman, and Robin L. Backman. 2016. "Child and Teen Outcomes." The Deployment Life Study: Longitudinal Analysis of Military Families Across the Deployment Cycle: 195-261, Santa Monica: RAND

- Kelley, M. L. (1994). The effects of military-induced separation on family factors and child behavior. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 64(1), 103–111. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0079499>
- Kizer, Kenneth W., and Suzanne Le Menestrel, eds. 2019. "Strengthening the Military Family Readiness System for a Changing American Society." The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25380>.
- Lester, P., Peterson, K., Reeves, J., Knauss, L., Glover, D., Mogil, C., Duan, N., Saltzman, W., Pynoos, R., Wilt, K., & Beardslee, W. (2010). The long war and parental combat deployment: effects on military children and at-home spouses. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 49(4), 310–320.
- Malick, S., Sandoval, M., Santiago, T., Jacobs Johnson, C., Gehrke, A., & Metallic, E. (2021). *Hidden Helpers at the Frontlines of Caregiving: Supporting the Healthy Development of Children from Military and Veteran Caregiving Homes*. Mathematica.
- Maton, K. I. (1990). Meaningful involvement in instrumental activity and well-being: Studies of older adolescents and at risk urban teen-agers. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 18(2), 297–320. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00931306>
- McGuire, A. C. L., Kanesarajah, J., Runge, C. E., Ireland, R., Waller, M., & Dobson, A. J. (2016). Effect of Multiple Deployments on Military Families: A Cross-Sectional Study of Health and Well-Being of Partners and Children. *Military Medicine*, 181(4), 319–327. <https://doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-14-00310>
- Military Child Education Coalition. 2019. "Annual Training Seminar". Washington, D.C. July 27-29.
- Meadows, S. O., Tanielian, T. L., & Karney, B. R. (2016). *The deployment life study: longitudinal analysis of military families across the deployment cycle* (RR-1388-A/OSD). RAND Corporation.
- National Guard Top Ten Issues Facing Couples*. (2017). National Healthy Marriage Resource Council. <https://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/508-National-Guard-Top-Ten-Issues-Facing-Couples.pdf>
- Park, N. (2011). Military children and families: Strengths and challenges during peace and war. *American Psychologist*, 66(1), 65–72. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0021249>

- Pretty, G. M. H., Andrewes, L., & Collett, C. (1994). Exploring adolescents' sense of community and its relationship to loneliness. *Journal of Community Psychology, 22*(4), 346–358. [https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629\(199410\)22:4<346::AID-JCOP2290220407>3.0.CO;2-J](https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(199410)22:4<346::AID-JCOP2290220407>3.0.CO;2-J)
- Ramchand, R., Tanielian, T. L., Fisher, M. P., Vaughan, C. A., Trail, T., Epley, C., Voorhies, P., Robbins, M. W., Robinson, E., & Ghosh-Dastidar, B. (2014). *Hidden heroes: America's military caregivers*. Rand Corporation.
- Reger, M. A., Etherage, J. R., Reger, G. M., & Gahm, G. A. (2008). Civilian Psychologists in an Army Culture: The Ethical Challenge of Cultural Competence. *Military Psychology, 20*(1), 21–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08995600701753144>
- Richardson, A. F., Chandra, A., Martin, L. T., Setodji, C. M., Hallmark, B. W., Campbell, N. F., Hawkins, S. A., & Grady, P. (2011). *Effects of soldiers' deployment on children's academic performance and behavioral health* (MG-1095-A; Monographs). RAND Corporation.
- Ryan, R. M., Stiller, J. D., & Lynch, J. H. (1994). Representations of Relationships to Teachers, Parents, and Friends as Predictors of Academic Motivation and Self-Esteem. *The Journal of Early Adolescence, 14*(2), 226–249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/027243169401400207>
- Sherman, M. D., Gress Smith, J. L., Straits-Troster, K., Larsen, J. L., & Gewirtz, A. (2016). Veterans' perceptions of the impact of PTSD on their parenting and children. *Psychological Services, 13*(4), 401–410. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000101>
- Shiffer, C. O., Maury, R. V., Sonethavilay, H., Hurwitz, J. L., Lee, H. C., Linsner, R. K., & Mehta, M. S. (2017). *2017 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report*. Blue Star Families.
- Spring 2022 Propensity Update* (No. 23-S-1224). (2023). Office of People Analytics. <https://jamrs.defense.gov/Portals/20/Documents/YP52Spring2022PUBLICRELEASEPropensityUpdate.pdf>
- Sonethavilay, H., Maury, R. V., Hurwitz, J. L., Uveges, R. L., Akin, J. L., De Coster, J. L., & Strong, J. D. (2018). *2018 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report*. Blue Star Families.

- Tanielian, T. L., Bouskill, K. E., Ramchand, R., Friedman, E. M., Trail, T. E., & Clague, A. (2017). *Improving support for America's hidden heroes: a research blueprint*. Rand Health.
- Tanielian, T., Ramchand, R., Fisher, M. P., Sims, C. S., Harris, R. S., & Harrell, M. C. (2013). Military Caregivers: Cornerstones of Support for Our Nation's Wounded, Ill, and Injured Veterans. *Rand Health Quarterly*, 3(1), 3.
- United Service Organizations, Inc. 2018. "The Backbone of Our Military: Perceptions and Experiences from Modern Military Spouses." Arlington: United Service Organizations, Inc.
- Vieno, A., Perkins, D. D., Smith, T. M., & Santinello, M. (2005). Democratic School Climate and Sense of Community in School: A Multilevel Analysis. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 36(3-4), 327-341. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10464-005-8629-8>
- Wong, L., & Gerras, S. J. (2010). *The effects of multiple deployments on Army adolescents*. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College.



Appendices

Deployed Program

Appendix A: Deployed Survey Instrument

Appendix B: Deployed Response Frequencies

Appendix C: Deployed Program Crosstabs

Combat Injured Program

Appendix D: Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

Appendix E: Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Appendix F: Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Program Comparison

Appendix G: Deployed Program and Combat Injured Program Comparisons



Appendix A: Deployed Program Survey Instrument

*Indicates a required question

Page: Intro

This survey is designed to help us better understand the needs of military families and the impacts our program has on families like yours. All of your answers will be confidential and will in no way affect your eligibility for future grants. We appreciate your honest feedback!

1) What is your relationship to the deployed service member?*

- I am the service member.
- I am the service member's spouse.
- I am the service member's parent.
- Other (please specify): _____ *

Page entry logic: SERVICE MEMBER

Page: Service Member Questions

2) What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?*

- I am the child(ren)'s mother.
- I am the child(ren)'s father.
- I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.
- Other (please specify): _____ *

3) What is your current military pay grade?*

- Enlisted
- Officer
- Warrant Officer

4) In which branch of service do you currently serve?*

- Air Force Reserve
- Air National Guard
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Navy Reserve

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

5) Did you receive this grant(s) for an overseas deployment or a stateside activation?*

- Overseas Deployment
- Stateside Activation

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #5 Question "Did you receive this grant(s) for an overseas deployment or a stateside activation?" is one of the following answers ("Overseas Deployment")

6) Are you currently deployed?

- Yes
- No

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #5 Question "Did you receive this grant(s) for an overseas deployment or a stateside activation?" is one of the following answers ("Stateside Activation")

7) Are you currently activated?

- Yes
- No

8) How has your deployment/activation affected your family's financial status?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

Page entry logic: CAREGIVER

Page: Caregiver Questions

9) What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?*

- I am the child(ren)'s mother.
- I am the child(ren)'s father.
- I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.
- Other (please specify): _____*

10) What is the deployed/activated service member's current military pay grade?*

- Enlisted
- Officer
- Warrant Officer

11) In which branch of service does the deployed/activated service member currently serve?*

- Air Force Reserve
- Air National Guard
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Navy Reserve

12) Did you receive this grant(s) during the service member's overseas deployment or a stateside activation?*

- Overseas Deployment
- Stateside Activation

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #12 Question "Did you receive this grant(s) during the service member's overseas deployment or a stateside activation?" is one of the following answers ("Overseas Deployment")

13) Is the service member currently deployed?

- Yes
- No

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #12 Question "Did you receive this grant(s) during the service member's overseas deployment or a stateside activation?" is one of the following answers ("Stateside Activation")

14) Is the service member currently activated?

- Yes
- No

15) How has this deployment/activation affected the ability of your or your child(ren)'s caregiver to work outside the home?

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

16) How has this deployment/activation affected your family's financial status?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

Page: About the Children – 1

17) How would you describe your CHILD(REN)'s race? Select all that apply:*

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

18) Is your CHILD(REN) Hispanic or Latino/a/x?*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

19) How many children in your household received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?*

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Logic: All subsequent child questions will display the number of children corresponding to how this question is answered

Page: About the Children – 2

Next, we are going to ask a series of questions about each of your children. To the best of your ability, please use the same order when answering the questions.

For example, if in the first question you use "Child 1" to refer to your first born, please use "Child 1" to refer to your first born in all subsequent questions.

20) What are the ages of the children who received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?*

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Child 1	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()

21) Please tell us about those children.*

	Male	Female	Prefer to Self-Identify
Child 1	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()

Question Logic: Display Questions 22-28 only if “Prefer to Self-Identify” is selected for that child

22) How does Child 1 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

23) How does Child 2 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

24) How does Child 3 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

25) How does Child 4 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

26) How does Child 5 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

27) How does Child 6 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

28) How does Child 7 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

29) Do any of those children have a disability? Disabilities include physical, cognitive, and mental impairments.*

	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Child 1	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()

30) How many TOTAL grants has each child received?*

	1	2	3	4	5
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Question Logic: SERVICE MEMBERS

31) How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your deployment/activation?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Question Logic: CAREGIVERS

32) How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of this deployment/activation?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

33) How did participation in the Our Military Kids sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

34) (Optional) Please describe how participation in the Our Military Kids sponsored activity affected your child(ren)'s performance in school.

Page: Child Outcomes - 2

35) Did your child(ren) experience any of the following symptoms as a result of the most recent deployment/activation? Mark all that apply.*

	Social withdrawal	Acting out or aggression	Attention difficulties	Changes in appetite	Crying or depression
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Headaches or stomachaches	Fearfulness or nightmares	Negative or morbid thoughts	None of these
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

36) How did participation in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?*

	Made them significantly worse	Made them somewhat worse	Had no impact	Made them somewhat better	Made them significantly better
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

37) (Optional) Please describe how participation in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affected your child(ren)'s symptoms.

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

38) You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply.

The grant activity(ies)...*

- Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence.
- Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this deployment/activation.
- Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid”
- Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values
- Served as a reward for doing well in school
- Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out
- Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to
- None of the above

Page: Child Outcomes - 3

How much do you agree with the following statements:

39) My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

40) My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Question Logic: Display only children reported as being in the 3-18 age bracket

41) For your children who are 13 or older, to what extent is your child(ren) considering military service?*

	Very likely to serve	Somewhat likely to serve	Unsure right now	Somewhat unlikely to serve	Very unlikely to serve	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

42) How influential has receiving an Our Military Kids grant been in their consideration of service?*

	Extremely influential	Very influential	Somewhat influential	Slightly influential	Not at all influential
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page: Family Outcomes

43) This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

44) This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

45) How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

Question Logic: SERVICE MEMBER

46) How has your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your morale during your deployment/activation?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

Question Logic: CAREGIVER

47) How has your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your service member's morale during their deployment/activation?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

48) Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:*

- The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.
- Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family
- Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated
- My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.
- The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy
- The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond.

Display Logic: SERVICE MEMBER

- The grant activity(ies) gave my child something to talk to me about during our separation.

Display Logic: CAREGIVER

- The grant activity(ies) gave my child something to talk to our service member about during our separation.

- None of the above

Page: Grant Info

49) Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extracurricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant award?*

- Yes
- Yes, but it would have been a financial strain
- No

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

Please let us know how much you agree with each of the following statements:

50) The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

51) The grant amount enabled my child to select their preferred activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Deployed Program Survey Instrument

52) My child is likely to continue the activity after it is no longer funded by the grant.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

53) The opportunity for a second grant for a deployment greater than 180 days gave us more selection in choosing an activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

- 54) Do you have a 1- or 2-year old in your household?
 Yes
 No

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #53 Question "Do you have a 1- or 2-year old?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

- 55) Would you have enrolled them in an OMK sponsored activity if they were eligible?
 Yes
 No
 Not sure

Page: Wrap-Up

- 56) How did you hear about Our Military Kids?

Please provide as much information as possible so that we can be more strategic in our outreach in order to help more families like you!*

- Chaplain
- Child and Youth Coordinator
- FRG (Family Readiness Group)
- FAC (Family Assistance Center)
- Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)
- Fellow service member
- Internet/social media (please specify): _____*
- Rear Detachment
- Unit Commander
- YRRP (Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program)
- Other (please specify): _____*

- 57) What did you think about the application process?*
- Much easier than other application processes
 - Somewhat easier than other application processes
 - About the same as other application processes
 - Somewhat more difficult than other application processes
 - Much more difficult than other application processes

- 58) How likely are you to recommend Our Military Kids to other military families?*
- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Very Unlikely Very Likely

Page: Open Ends

These open-ended responses are optional. If you have the time, we welcome your feedback and insights. We read every response, and use them to help us better understand the impacts our programs have on families and ways we might be able to improve them in the future.

59) Is there anything Our Military Kids can do to improve upon the grant process and/or the programs?

60) Please share how Our Military Kids helped you, your family, and your children.

61) If you have other children who were eligible for a grant who didn't apply, please share the reason(s).

62) Sometimes, we have follow up questions regarding your responses. If you don't mind being contacted, please enter your email address below.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your help. Your response has been recorded!

Appendix B: Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q1. What is your relationship to the wounded veteran/service member?

	N	%
I am the service member.	216	26.1%
I am the service member's spouse.	591	71.4%
I am the service member's parent.	4	0.5%
Other	17	2.1%

Q2 & 9. What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?

	N	%
I am the child(ren)'s mother.	645	77.9%
I am the child(ren)'s father.	175	21.1%
I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.	4	0.5%
Other	4	0.5%

Q3 & 10. What was your / the service member's most recent paygrade?

	N	%
Enlisted	523	63.2%
Officer	254	30.7%
Warrant Officer	51	6.2%

Q4 & 11. In which branch of service do you / the service member serve?

	N	%
Air Force Reserve	55	6.6%
Air National Guard	133	16.1%
Army National Guard	466	56.3%
Army Reserve	100	12.1%
Coast Guard Reserve	12	1.4%
Marine Corps Reserve	7	0.8%
Navy Reserve	55	6.6%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q5 & 12. Did you receive this grant(s) for a deployment outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS) or a stateside activation?

	N	%
Overseas Deployment	656	79.2%
Stateside Activation	172	20.8%

Q6 & 13. Are you / the service member currently deployed? (Of those who received the grant for an overseas deployment)

	N	%
Yes	304	46.4%
No	351	53.6%

Q7 & 14. Are you / the service member currently activated? (Of those who received the grant for a stateside activation)

	N	%
Yes	92	53.8%
No	79	46.2%

Q8 & 15. How has your / the service member's deployment affected your family's financial status?

	N	%
Made it much more difficult	98	11.8%
Made it somewhat more difficult	282	34.1%
No effect	219	26.4%
Made it somewhat easier	208	25.1%
Made it much easier	21	2.5%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q16. How has your deployment/activation affected the ability of you or your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?

	N	%
Made it much more difficult	249	40.7%
Made it somewhat more difficult	240	39.2%
No effect	117	19.1%
Made it somewhat easier	4	0.7%
Made it much easier	2	0.3%

Q17. How would you describe your CHILD(REN)'s race? Select all that apply:

	N	%
White or Caucasian	658	79.5%
Black or African American	82	9.9%
Native American or Alaska Native	17	2.1%
Asian	47	5.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	1.4%
Other	66	8.0%
Prefer not to answer	48	5.8%

Q18. Is your CHILD(REN) Hispanic or Latino/a/x?

	N	%
Yes	147	17.8%
No	642	77.5%
Prefer not to answer	39	4.7%

Q19. How many children in your household received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?

	N	%
1	325	39.3%
2	356	43.0%
3	119	14.4%
4	21	2.5%
5	4	0.5%
6	1	0.1%
7	2	0.2%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q20. What are the ages of the children who received an Our Military Kids grant in 2021?

	N	%
Age 3-4	237	15.6%
Age 5-8	543	35.8%
Age 9-12	467	30.8%
Age 13-18	271	17.9%

Q21. Please tell us about those children.

	N	%
Female	802	52.8%
Male	716	47.2%
Prefer to Self-Identify	0	0.0%

Q29. Do any of those children have a disability? Disabilities include physical, cognitive, and mental impairments

	N	%
Yes	121	8.0%
No	1371	90.3%
Prefer not to answer	26	1.7%

Q30. How many TOTAL grants has each child received?

	N	%
1	720	47.4%
2	754	49.7%
3	35	2.3%
4	9	0.6%
5	0	0.0%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's deployment/activation?

	N	%
Worsened greatly	59	3.9%
Worsened somewhat	336	22.1%
Stayed about the same	1030	67.9%
Improved somewhat	57	3.8%
Improved greatly	36	2.4%

Q33. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	N	%
Worsened greatly	2	0.1%
Worsened somewhat	7	0.5%
Stayed about the same	781	51.4%
Improved somewhat	516	34.0%
Improved greatly	212	14.0%

Q35. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's deployment? Mark all that apply.

	N	%
Acting out or aggression	468	30.8%
Attention difficulties	402	26.5%
Changes in appetite	136	9.0%
Crying or depression	552	36.4%
Headaches or stomachaches	184	12.1%
Fearfulness or nightmares	304	20.0%
Negative or morbid thoughts	119	7.8%
Social withdrawal	237	15.6%
None of these	508	33.5%

Count of reported psychosocial symptoms:

	N	%
0	508	33.5%
1	349	23.0%
2	272	17.9%
3	200	13.2%
4	104	6.9%
5	44	2.9%
6	21	1.4%
7	13	0.9%
8	7	0.5%

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms? (For those children who indicated at least one symptom in Q35)

	N	%
Made them significantly worse	2	0.2%
Made them somewhat worse	8	0.8%
Had no impact	132	13.1%
Made them somewhat better	608	60.2%
Made them significantly better	260	25.7%

Q38. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	N	%
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence.	555	67.0%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this deployment/activation.	769	92.9%
Gave my child(ren) space to "be a kid"	408	49.3%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	408	49.3%
Served as a reward for doing well in school	159	19.2%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	500	60.4%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to	673	81.3%
None of the above	8	1.0%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q39. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	590	38.9%
Agree	651	42.9%
Neutral	195	12.8%
Disagree	17	1.1%
Strongly Disagree	16	1.1%
N/A	49	3.2%

Q40. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	462	30.4%
Agree	572	37.7%
Neutral	365	24.0%
Disagree	31	2.0%
Strongly Disagree	13	0.9%
N/A	75	4.9%

Q41. For your children who are 13 or older, to what extent is your child(ren) considering military service?

	N	%
Very likely to serve	23	8.5%
Somewhat likely to serve	52	19.2%
Unsure right now	94	34.7%
Somewhat unlikely to serve	26	9.6%
Very unlikely to serve	70	25.8%
N/A	6	2.2%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q42. How influential has receiving an Our Military Kids grant been in their consideration of service?

	N	%
Extremely influential	14	5.2%
Very influential	25	9.2%
Somewhat influential	82	30.3%
Slightly influential	39	14.4%
Not at all influential	111	41.0%

Q43. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	411	49.6%
Agree	303	36.6%
Neutral	82	9.9%
Disagree	15	1.8%
Strongly Disagree	3	0.4%
N/A	14	1.7%

Q44. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	337	40.7%
Agree	337	40.7%
Neutral	125	15.1%
Disagree	8	1.0%
Strongly Disagree	3	0.4%
N/A	18	2.2%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q45. How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?

	N	%
Strongly positive	581	70.2%
Mildly positive	204	24.6%
Neutral	40	4.8%
Mildly negative	2	0.2%
Strongly negative	1	0.1%

Q46 & 47. How has your participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your / the service member's morale during the deployment/activation?

	N	%
Strongly positive	529	63.9%
Mildly positive	225	27.2%
Neutral	74	8.9%
Mildly negative	0	0.0%
Strongly negative	0	0.0%

Q48. Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:

	N	%
The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.	470	56.8%
Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family	244	29.5%
Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated	742	89.6%
My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.	300	36.2%
The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy	614	74.2%
The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond.	246	29.7%
The grant activity(ies) gave my child something to talk to me / our service member about during our separation.	598	72.2%
None of the above	9	1.1%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q49. Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extra-curricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant?

	N	%
Yes	97	11.7%
Yes, but it would have been a financial strain	576	69.6%
No	155	18.7%

Q50. The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	603	39.7%
Agree	434	28.6%
Neutral	112	7.4%
Disagree	326	21.5%
Strongly disagree	43	2.8%

Q51. The grant amount enabled my child to select their preferred activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	808	53.2%
Agree	533	35.1%
Neutral	99	6.5%
Disagree	26	1.7%
Strongly disagree	3	0.2%
N/A	49	3.2%

Q52. My child is likely to continue the activity after it is no longer funded by the grant.

	N	%
Strongly agree	582	38.3%
Agree	537	35.4%
Neutral	196	12.9%
Disagree	154	10.1%
Strongly disagree	27	1.8%
N/A	22	1.4%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q53. The opportunity for a second grant for a deployment greater than 180 days gave us more selection in choosing an activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	820	54.0%
Agree	368	24.2%
Neutral	299	19.7%
Disagree	21	1.4%
Strongly disagree	10	0.7%

Q54. Do you have a 1- or 2-year old in your household?

	N	%
Yes	169	20.5%
No	655	79.5%

Q55. Would you have enrolled them in an OMK-sponsored activity if they were eligible?

	N	%
Yes	153	90.5%
No	3	1.8%
Not sure	13	7.7%

Q56. How did you hear about Our Military Kids?

	N	%
Chaplain	23	2.8%
Child and Youth Coordinator	45	5.4%
YRRP (Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program)	246	29.7%
FRG (Family Readiness Group)	334	40.3%
FAC (Family Assistance Center)	38	4.6%
Fellow service member	202	24.4%
Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)	105	12.7%
Internet/Social Media	43	5.2%
Rear Detachment	3	0.4%
Unit Commander	20	2.4%
Other	68	8.2%

Deployed Program Response Frequencies

Q57. What did you think about the application process?

	N	%
Much easier than other application processes	520	62.8%
Somewhat easier than other application processes	186	22.5%
About the same as other application processes	109	13.2%
Somewhat more difficult than other application processes	11	1.3%
Much more difficult than other application processes	2	0.2%

Q58. (NPS) How likely are you to recommend Our Military Kids to other military families?

	N	%
0	1	0.1%
1	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	0	0.0%
4	0	0.0%
5	3	0.4%
6	3	0.4%
7	4	0.5%
8	19	2.3%
9	44	5.3%
10	754	91.1%

Net Promoter Score: 95.5

	N	%
Promoters	798	96%
Passives	23	3%
Detractors	7	1%

Appendix C: Deployed Program Crosstabs

BY NUMBER OF PSYCOSOCIAL SYMPTOMS

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's deployment/activation?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worsened greatly	0.6%	2.9%	2.9%	8.0%	10.6%	6.8%	23.8%	0.0%	42.9%
Worsened somewhat	7.1%	16.0%	31.6%	36.5%	40.4%	52.3%	38.1%	69.2%	42.9%
Stayed about the same	84.8%	75.1%	61.0%	49.5%	43.3%	34.1%	38.1%	30.8%	0.0%
Improved somewhat	4.5%	3.4%	3.7%	3.0%	4.8%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Improved greatly	3.0%	2.6%	0.7%	3.0%	1.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	1.0%	1.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Had no impact	65.6%	16.3%	11.0%	11.0%	12.5%	6.8%	19.0%	15.4%	14.3%
Made them somewhat better	22.6%	61.3%	61.8%	62.0%	55.8%	47.7%	61.9%	38.5%	71.4%
Made them significantly better	11.4%	21.2%	26.8%	25.5%	30.8%	43.2%	19.0%	46.2%	14.3%

BY CHILDREN'S RACE

Binarily coded between Non-Minority (“white, non-hispanic”) and everyone else (minority). Anyone who reported “prefer not to answer” was removed from analysis.

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)’s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member’s deployment/activation?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Worsened greatly	3.5%	4.8%
Worsened somewhat	20.0%	25.6%
Stayed about the same	72.0%	59.9%
Improved somewhat	2.3%	6.5%
Improved greatly	2.2%	3.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q33. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)’s performance in school?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Worsened greatly	0.0%	0.4%
Worsened somewhat	0.3%	0.8%
Stayed about the same	56.5%	41.0%
Improved somewhat	32.5%	36.8%
Improved greatly	10.7%	21.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -5.753, p < .000$

Q35. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's deployment? Mark all that apply.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Acting out or aggression	31.8%	29.8%
Attention difficulties $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 8.024, p = .005$	23.8%	30.9%
Changes in appetite	8.0%	10.1%
Crying or depression $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 10.748, p = .001$	39.7%	30.7%
Headaches or stomachaches $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 6.026, p = .014$	13.4%	8.8%
Fearfulness or nightmares $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 5.594, p = .018$	22.1%	16.6%
Negative or morbid thoughts	6.7%	8.8%
Social withdrawal	15.4%	15.5%
None of these $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 8.712, p = .003$	30.1%	38.0%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Count of symptoms

	Non-Minority	Minority
0	30.1%	38.0%
1	24.8%	20.6%
2	18.8%	17.9%
3	14.9%	10.3%
4	6.9%	6.7%
5	2.0%	4.6%
6	2.0%	0.0%
7	0.4%	1.1%
8	0.2%	0.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.021, p = .043$

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Made them significantly worse	0.1%	0.2%
Made them somewhat worse	0.5%	1.1%
Had no impact	30.4%	30.0%
Made them somewhat better	49.9%	44.7%
Made them significantly better	19.1%	23.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with symptoms

	Non-Minority	Minority
Made them significantly worse	0.1%	0.3%
Made them somewhat worse	0.4%	1.7%
Had no impact	12.2%	14.2%
Made them somewhat better	62.6%	56.3%
Made them significantly better	24.6%	27.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q38. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	Non-Minority	Minority
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence. $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 4.743, p = .029$	70.7%	64.9%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this deployment/activation. $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 23.882, p < .000$	95.1%	87.8%
Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid” $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 5.646, p = .017$	51.4%	44.5%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	47.8%	52.9%
Served as a reward for doing well in school	18.6%	21.6%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	63.4%	58.8%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to $\chi^2(1, N=1436) = 26.665, p < .000$	85.8%	74.6%
None of the above	0.6%	1.3%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q39. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Strongly Agree	38.3%	39.1%
Agree	43.6%	42.6%
Neutral	13.1%	12.4%
Disagree	0.8%	1.5%
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	2.5%
N/A	3.6%	1.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q40. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Strongly Agree	30.7%	28.8%
Agree	39.4%	34.2%
Neutral	23.4%	26.9%
Disagree	2.1%	2.1%
Strongly Disagree	0.1%	2.5%
N/A	4.3%	5.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

BY CHILD GENDER

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's deployment/activation?

	Male	Female
Worsened greatly	5.2%	2.7%
Worsened somewhat	21.9%	22.3%
Stayed about the same	66.8%	68.8%
Improved somewhat	3.9%	3.6%
Improved greatly	2.2%	2.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q33. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	Male	Female
Worsened greatly	0.3%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	0.6%	0.4%
Stayed about the same	49.9%	52.9%
Improved somewhat	35.3%	32.8%
Improved greatly	14.0%	14.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q35. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's deployment? Mark all that apply.

	Male	Female
Acting out or aggression $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 8.875, p = .003$	34.6%	27.4%
Attention difficulties $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 3.872, p = .049$	28.9%	24.3%
Changes in appetite	8.5%	9.4%
Crying or depression $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 16.378, p < .000$	31.0%	41.1%
Headaches or stomachaches	10.3%	13.7%
Fearfulness or nightmares $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 7.202, p = .007$	17.0%	22.7%
Negative or morbid thoughts $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 4.731, p = .030$	9.5%	6.4%
Social withdrawal	14.5%	16.6%
None of these	34.5%	32.5%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Count of symptoms

	Male	Female
0	34.5%	32.5%
1	23.0%	22.9%
2	17.7%	18.1%
3	12.4%	13.8%
4	6.8%	6.9%
5	2.9%	2.9%
6	1.4%	1.4%
7	0.7%	1.0%
8	0.4%	0.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Male	Female
Made them significantly worse	0.3%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.6%	0.7%
Had no impact	32.3%	29.2%
Made them somewhat better	47.2%	48.0%
Made them significantly better	19.7%	22.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with symptoms:

	Male	Female
Made them significantly worse	0.4%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.6%	0.9%
Had no impact	14.7%	11.6%
Made them somewhat better	59.9%	60.4%
Made them significantly better	24.3%	27.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q39. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	39.5%	38.3%
Agree	41.5%	44.1%
Neutral	13.3%	12.5%
Disagree	1.3%	1.0%
Strongly Disagree	1.1%	1.0%
N/A	3.4%	3.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q40. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	31.3%	29.7%
Agree	38.0%	37.4%
Neutral	24.3%	23.8%
Disagree	2.0%	2.1%
Strongly Disagree	0.8%	0.9%
N/A	3.6%	6.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

BY CHILD AGE

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's deployment/activation?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Worsened greatly	3.8%	3.1%	4.1%	5.2%
Worsened somewhat	15.2%	23.0%	24.6%	22.1%
Stayed about the same	76.4%	68.0%	64.5%	66.1%
Improved somewhat	3.0%	2.9%	4.7%	4.4%
Improved greatly	1.7%	2.9%	2.1%	2.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q33. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Worsened greatly	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	1.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%
Stayed about the same	54.4%	51.0%	50.5%	51.3%
Improved somewhat	29.1%	35.7%	34.9%	33.2%
Improved greatly	14.8%	12.9%	14.1%	15.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q35. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's deployment? Mark all that apply.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Acting out or aggression $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 30.215, p < .000$	41.8%	33.0%	29.1%	19.9%
Attention difficulties $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 10.558, p = .014$	21.1%	28.0%	30.2%	21.8%
Changes in appetite $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 9.889, p = .020$	10.5%	6.3%	9.2%	12.5%
Crying or depression $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 16.407, p = .001$	37.1%	41.1%	36.2%	26.6%
Headaches or stomachaches $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 14.906, p = .002$	6.8%	10.5%	16.1%	13.3%
Fearfulness or nightmares $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 39.029, p < .000$	27.8%	24.5%	17.3%	8.9%
Negative or morbid thoughts	4.6%	7.2%	9.4%	9.2%
Social withdrawal $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 21.728, p < .000$	15.2%	10.3%	18.6%	21.4%
None of these $\chi^2(3, N=1518) = 8.882, p = .031$	31.2%	33.0%	30.8%	41.0%

Pearson Chi Square

Count of symptoms

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
0	31.2%	33.0%	30.8%	41.0%
1	21.9%	19.5%	24.8%	27.7%
2	21.1%	21.0%	16.7%	11.1%
3	12.7%	14.7%	13.5%	10.0%
4	7.2%	7.0%	8.1%	4.1%
5	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%	2.6%
6	1.7%	1.1%	1.5%	1.5%
7	0.8%	0.2%	1.1%	1.8%
8	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%

Kruskal Wallis H-Test: $p = .004$

Between groups:

3-4 | 5-8: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: z = -2.848, p = .004**

5-8 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

5-8 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: z = -3.137, p = .002 (5-8 has the higher rank)**

9-12 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: z = -3.274, p = .001 (9-12 has the higher rank)**

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Made them significantly worse	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Made them somewhat worse	1.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Had no impact	26.6%	30.4%	31.0%	33.9%
Made them somewhat better	51.1%	49.7%	46.7%	42.1%
Made them significantly better	20.3%	19.3%	21.8%	23.2%

Kruskal Wallis H-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with symptoms:

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Made them significantly worse	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Made them somewhat worse	1.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%
Had no impact	10.4%	12.6%	13.3%	16.3%
Made them somewhat better	62.0%	62.1%	60.4%	53.8%
Made them significantly better	25.8%	24.5%	25.7%	28.7%

Kruskal Wallis H-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q39. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	38.0%	37.9%	39.0%	41.3%
Agree	43.9%	44.2%	45.2%	35.4%
Neutral	13.5%	11.6%	11.8%	16.6%
Disagree	0.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	1.3%	0.9%	1.5%
N/A	3.4%	3.9%	2.1%	3.7%

Kruskal Wallis H-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q40. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	26.6%	30.8%	29.3%	35.1%
Agree	36.3%	35.0%	40.7%	39.1%
Neutral	26.6%	27.1%	23.8%	16.2%
Disagree	3.0%	2.0%	1.5%	2.2%
Strongly Disagree	0.8%	0.9%	0.4%	1.5%
N/A	6.8%	4.2%	4.3%	5.9%

Kruskal Wallis H-Test: $p = .047$

Between groups:

3-4 | 5-8: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.267, p = .023$**

5-8 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

5-8 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.578, p = .010$**

9-12 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.141, p = .032$**

Q50. The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	48.9%	39.8%	39.2%	32.5%
Agree	26.6%	30.8%	28.3%	26.6%
Neutral	5.5%	8.1%	7.9%	6.6%
Disagree	18.1%	19.2%	21.6%	28.8%
Strongly Disagree	0.8%	2.2%	3.0%	5.5%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: $p < .000$

Between Groups:

3-4 | 5-8: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.202, p = .028$**

3-4 | 9-12: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.687, p = .007$**

3-4 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -4.555, p < .000$**

5-8 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

5-8 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.380, p = .001$**

9-12 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.622, p = .009$**

BY PARENT STATUS

Q8 & 15. How has your / the service member's deployment/activation affected your family's financial status?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made it much more difficult	12.6%	9.7%
Made it somewhat more difficult	29.6%	46.8%
No effect	27.5%	23.6%
Made it somewhat easier	27.9%	17.1%
Made it much easier	2.5%	2.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.883$, $p = .004$

Q31 & 32. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's deployment/activation?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Worsened greatly	4.3%	2.6%
Worsened somewhat	21.0%	25.5%
Stayed about the same	69.9%	61.8%
Improved somewhat	2.7%	6.8%
Improved greatly	2.0%	3.4%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q33. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Worsened greatly	0.2%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	0.4%	0.5%
Stayed about the same	57.0%	35.1%
Improved somewhat	30.8%	43.4%
Improved greatly	11.6%	21.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -7.588$, $p < .000$

Q35. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's deployment? Mark all that apply.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Acting out or aggression $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 9.554, p = .002$	33.0%	24.4%
Attention difficulties	26.1%	27.5%
Changes in appetite	9.1%	8.6%
Crying or depression $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 24.667, p < .000$	40.0%	25.7%
Headaches or stomachaches $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 17.534, p < .000$	14.2%	6.0%
Fearfulness or nightmares $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 32.377, p < .000$	23.5%	9.9%
Negative or morbid thoughts $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 7.746, p = .005$	9.0%	4.4%
Social withdrawal $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 4.892, p = .027$	16.9%	11.9%
None of these	30.4%	42.6%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Number of reported symptoms:

	Caregiver	Service Member
0	30.4%	42.6%
1	22.9%	23.4%
2	18.1%	17.4%
3	14.0%	10.6%
4	8.0%	3.6%
5	3.5%	1.0%
6	1.4%	1.3%
7	1.1%	0.3%
8	0.6%	0.0%

Mann-Whitney U-Test: $z = -5.477, p < .000$

Q36. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made them significantly worse	0.1%	0.3%
Made them somewhat worse	0.6%	0.8%
Had no impact	30.9%	29.9%
Made them somewhat better	47.5%	48.1%
Made them significantly better	20.9%	21.0%

Mann-Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with symptoms

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made them significantly worse	0.1%	0.5%
Made them somewhat worse	0.8%	0.9%
Had no impact	14.2%	9.0%
Made them somewhat better	59.6%	62.4%
Made them significantly better	25.3%	27.1%

Mann-Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q38. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	Caregiver	Service Member
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence. $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 12.616, p < .000$	71.7%	61.8%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this deployment/activation. $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 17.915, p < .000$	94.4%	87.8%
Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid” $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 5.003, p = .025$	50.9%	44.2%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	51.2%	48.6%
Served as a reward for doing well in school	19.9%	19.2%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 16.385, p < .000$	64.5%	52.7%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to $\chi^2(1, N=1518) = 50.243, p < .000$	86.7%	70.6%
None of the above	0.7%	1.3%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q39. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	41.2%	31.9%
Agree	39.5%	52.7%
Neutral	14.0%	9.4%
Disagree	1.0%	1.6%
Strongly Disagree	0.7%	2.1%
N/A	3.5%	2.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.481, p = .013$

Q40. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	33.0%	22.9%
Agree	36.2%	42.1%
Neutral	23.6%	25.5%
Disagree	2.5%	0.8%
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	2.1%
N/A	4.3%	6.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q43. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	50.0%	48.6%
Agree	34.6%	42.1%
Neutral	11.4%	5.6%
Disagree	2.1%	0.9%
Strongly Disagree	0.5%	
N/A	1.3%	2.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q44. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	39.5%	44.0%
Agree	39.1%	45.4%
Neutral	18.1%	6.5%
Disagree	1.0%	0.9%
Strongly Disagree	0.5%	
N/A	1.8%	3.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.900, p = .004$

Q45. How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly positive	70.9%	68.1%
Mildly positive	23.4%	28.2%
Neutral	5.6%	2.8%
Mildly negative	0.2%	0.5%
Strongly negative		0.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q46 & 47. How has your participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your / the service member's morale during the your/the service member's deployment/activation?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly positive	60.9%	72.2%
Mildly positive	28.3%	24.1%
Neutral	10.8%	3.7%
Mildly negative		
Strongly negative		

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.309$, $p = .001$

Q48. Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:

	Caregiver	Service Member
The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.	56.9%	56.5%
Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family	29.4%	29.6%
Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated	89.7%	89.4%
My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.	34.8%	40.3%
The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy $X^2(1, N = 828) = 6.111, p = .013$	76.5%	67.6%
The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond.	28.6%	32.9%
Talk about	74.0%	67.1%
None of the above	1.1%	0.9%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q49. Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extra-curricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Yes	10.9%	13.9%
Yes, but it would have been a financial strain	70.1%	68.1%
No	19.0%	18.1%

Pearson's Chi Square: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Appendix D: Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

*Indicates a required question

Page: Intro

This survey is designed to help us better understand the needs of military families and the impacts our program has on families like yours. All of your answers will be confidential and will in no way affect your eligibility for future grants. We appreciate your honest feedback!

1) What is your relationship to the injured Veteran/service member?*

- I am the injured Veteran/service member.
- I am the injured Veteran/service member's spouse.
- I am the injured Veteran/service member's parent.
- Other (please specify): _____*

Page entry logic: SERVICE MEMBER

Page: Service Member Questions

2) What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?*

- I am the child(ren)'s mother.
- I am the child(ren)'s father.
- I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.
- Other (please specify): _____*

3) What was your most recent military pay grade?*

- Enlisted
- Officer
- Warrant Officer

4) In which branch of service did you serve when you were injured?*

- Air Force Reserve
- Army
- Air Force
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Air National Guard
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Navy Reserve

5) Are you currently receiving treatment for your injury(ies)?

- Yes
- No

6) How has your injury recovery affected the ability of your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

7) How has your injury recovery affected your family's financial status?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

Page entry logic: CAREGIVER

Page: Caregiver Questions

8) What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?*

- I am the child(ren)'s mother.
- I am the child(ren)'s father.
- I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.
- Other (please specify): _____*

9) What was the service member/Veteran's most recent military pay grade?*

- Enlisted
- Officer
- Warrant Officer

10) In which branch of service does or did the service member/Veteran serve when they were injured?*

- Air Force Reserve
- Army
- Air Force
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Air National Guard
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Navy Reserve

11) Is the service member/Veteran currently receiving treatment for their injury(ies)?

- Yes
- No

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

12) How has the service member/Veteran's injury recovery affected the ability of you or your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

13) How has the service member/Veteran's injury recovery affected your family's financial status?*

- Made it much more difficult
- Made it somewhat more difficult
- No effect
- Made it somewhat easier
- Made it much easier

Page: About the Children - 1

14) How would you describe your CHILD(REN)'s race? Select all that apply:*

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

15) Is your CHILD(REN) Hispanic or Latino/a/x?*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

16) How many children in your household received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?*

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Logic: All subsequent child questions will display the number of children corresponding to how this question is answered

Page: About the Children - 2

Next, we are going to ask a series of questions about each of your children. To the best of your ability, please use the same order when answering the questions.

For example, if in the first question you use "Child 1" to refer to your first born, please use "Child 1" to refer to your first born in all subsequent questions.

17) What are the ages of the children who received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?*

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18) Please tell us about those children. *

	Male	Female	Prefer to Self-Identify
Child 1	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()

Question Logic: Display Questions 22-28 only if “Prefer to Self-Identify” is selected for that child

19) How does Child 1 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

20) How does Child 2 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

21) How does Child 3 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

22) How does Child 4 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

23) How does Child 5 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

24) How does Child 6 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

25) How does Child 7 identify? You may skip this question if you prefer not to answer.

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

26) Do any of those children have a disability? Disabilities include physical, cognitive, and mental impairments.*

	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Child 1	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()

27) How many TOTAL grants has each child received?*

	1	2	3	4	5
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Question Logic: SERVICE MEMBERS

28) How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your injury?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Question Logic: CAREGIVERS

29) How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of the service member/Veteran's injury?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

30) How did participation in the Our Military Kids sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?*

	Worsened Greatly	Worsened Somewhat	Stayed about the same	Improved Somewhat	Improved Greatly
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

31) (Optional) Please describe how participation in the Our Military Kids sponsored activity affected your child(ren)'s performance in school.

Question Logic: SERVICE MEMBERS

32) Did your child(ren) experience any of the following symptoms as a result of your injury? Mark all that apply.*

	Social withdrawal	Acting out or aggression	Attention difficulties	Changes in appetite	Crying or depression
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Headaches or stomachaches	Fearfulness or nightmares	Negative or morbid thoughts	None of these
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

Question Logic: CAREGIVERS

33) Did your child(ren) experience any of the following symptoms as a result of the service member/Veteran's injury? Mark all that apply.*

	Social withdrawal	Acting out or aggression	Attention difficulties	Changes in appetite	Crying or depression
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Headaches or stomachaches	Fearfulness or nightmares	Negative or morbid thoughts	None of these
Child 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

34) How did participation in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?*

	Made them significantly worse	Made them somewhat worse	Had no impact	Made them somewhat better	Made them significantly better
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

35) (Optional) Please describe how participation in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affected your child(ren)'s symptoms.

36) You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply.

The grant activity(ies)...*

- Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence.
- Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during the injury recovery
- Gave my child(ren) space to "be a kid"
- Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values
- Served as a reward for doing well in school
- Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out
- Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to
- None of the above

Page: Child Outcomes - 3

How much do you agree with the following statements:

37) My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

38) My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

Question Logic: Display only children reported as being in the 3-18 age bracket

39) For your children who are 13 or older, to what extent is your child(ren) considering military service?*

	Very likely to serve	Somewhat likely to serve	Unsure right now	Somewhat unlikely to serve	Very unlikely to serve	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

40) How influential has receiving an Our Military Kids grant been in their consideration of service?*

	Extremely influential	Very influential	Somewhat influential	Slightly influential	Not at all influential
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

Page: Family Outcomes

41) This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.*

- () Strongly Agree
- () Agree
- () Neutral
- () Disagree
- () Strongly Disagree
- () N/A

42) This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.*

- () Strongly Agree
- () Agree
- () Neutral
- () Disagree
- () Strongly Disagree
- () N/A

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

43) How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

Question Logic: SERVICE MEMBER

44) How has your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your morale during your injury recovery?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

Question Logic: CAREGIVER

45) How has your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your service member/Veteran's morale during their injury recovery?*

- Strongly positive
- Mildly positive
- Neutral
- Mildly negative
- Strongly negative

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

46) Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:*

- The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.
- Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family
- Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated
- My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.
- The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy
- The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond.

Display Logic: SERVICE MEMBER

- The grant activity(ies) gave my child something to do/talk with me about.
- The grant activity(ies) helped get me out of the house

Display Logic: CAREGIVER

- The grant activity(ies) gave my child something to do/talk to our service member/Veteran about
- The grant activity(ies) helped get our service member/Veteran out of the house

- None of the above

Page: Grant Info

47) Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extracurricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant award?*

- Yes
- Yes, but it would have been a financial strain
- No

Please let us know how much you agree with each of the following statements:

48) The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

49) The grant amount enabled my child to select their preferred activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

50) My child is likely to continue the activity after it is no longer funded by the grant.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()	()

51) The opportunity for a fifth flex grant gave us more selection in choosing an activity.*

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Child 1	()	()	()	()	()
Child 2	()	()	()	()	()
Child 3	()	()	()	()	()
Child 4	()	()	()	()	()
Child 5	()	()	()	()	()
Child 6	()	()	()	()	()
Child 7	()	()	()	()	()

52) The opportunity for a 5th flex grant influenced my decision to apply.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

53) Do you have a 1- or 2-year old?

- Yes
- No

Question Logic: Hidden unless: #53 Question "Do you have a 1- or 2-year old?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

54) Would you have enrolled them in an OMK sponsored activity if they were eligible?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
-

Page: Wrap Up

55) How did you hear about Our Military Kids?

Please provide as much information as possible so that we can be more strategic in our outreach in order to help more families like you!*

- Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2)
- Army Recovery Care Program (ARCP)
- Navy Wounded Warrior
- Wounded Warrior Battalion East/West
- VA Case Manager
- VA Caregiver Support Coordinator
- Department of VA
- Recovery Care Coordinator
- Resource Fair
- Internet/social media (please specify): _____*
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- Another Wounded Veteran/service member
- Friend or family member
- Other (please specify): _____*

56) What did you think about the application process?*

- Much easier than other application processes
- Somewhat easier than other application processes
- About the same as other application processes
- Somewhat more difficult than other application processes
- Much more difficult than other application processes

57) How likely are you to recommend Our Military Kids to other military families?*

- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Very Unlikely Very Likely

Page: Open Ends

These open-ended responses are optional. If you have the time, we welcome your feedback and insights. We read every response, and use them to help us better understand the impacts our programs have on families and ways we might be able to improve them in the future.

Combat Injured Program Survey Instrument

58) Is there anything Our Military Kids can do to improve upon the grant process and/or the programs?

59) Please share how Our Military Kids helped you, your family, and your children.

60) If you have other children who were eligible for a grant who didn't apply, please share the reason(s).

61) Sometimes, we have follow up questions regarding your responses. If you don't mind being contacted, please enter your email address below.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your help. Your response has been recorded!

Appendix E: Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q1. What is your relationship to the injured veteran/service member?

	N	%
I am the injured veteran/service member.	160	49.1%
I am the injured veteran/service member's spouse.	157	48.2%
I am the injured veteran/service member's parent.	4	1.2%
Other	5	1.5%

Q2 & 8. What is your relationship to the child(ren) who received an Our Military Kids grant?

	N	%
I am the child(ren)'s mother.	202	62.0%
I am the child(ren)'s father.	119	36.2%
I am the child(ren)'s grandparent.	1	0.3%
Other	5	1.5%

Q3 & 9. What was your / the service member's most recent paygrade?

	N	%
Enlisted	281	86.2%
Officer	39	12.0%
Warrant Officer	6	1.8%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q4 & 10. In which branch of service did you / the service member serve when you / they were injured?

	N	%
Air Force Reserve	3	0.9%
Army	193	59.2%
Air Force	19	5.8%
Navy	11	3.4%
Coast Guard	1	0.3%
Marine Corps	55	16.9%
Air National Guard	5	1.5%
Army National Guard	30	9.2%
Army Reserve	7	2.1%
Coast Guard Reserve	0	0.0%
Marine Corps Reserve	2	0.6%
Navy Reserve	0	0.0%

Q5 & 11. Are you / they currently receiving treatment for your / their injury(ies)?

	N	%
Yes	324	99.7%
No	1	0.3%

Q6 & 12. How has your injury recovery affected the ability of your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?

	N	%
Made it much more difficult	168	51.5%
Made it somewhat more difficult	120	36.8%
No effect	31	9.5%
Made it somewhat easier	5	1.5%
Made it much easier	2	0.6%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q7 & 13. How has your / the service member's injury affected your family's financial status?

	N	%
Made it much more difficult	155	47.5%
Made it somewhat more difficult	140	42.9%
No effect	27	8.3%
Made it somewhat easier	4	1.2%
Made it much easier	0	0.0%

Q14. How would you describe your CHILD(REN)'s race? Select all that apply:

	N	%
White or Caucasian	213	65.3%
Black or African American	70	21.5%
Native American or Alaska Native	15	4.6%
Asian	23	7.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	11	3.4%
Other	45	13.8%
Prefer not to answer	22	6.7%

Q15. Is your CHILD(REN) Hispanic or Latino/a/x?

	N	%
Yes	80	24.5%
No	226	69.3%
Prefer not to answer	20	6.1%

Q16. How many children in your household received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?

	N	%
1	130	39.9%
2	118	36.2%
3	51	15.6%
4	20	6.1%
5	5	1.5%
6	1	0.3%
7	1	0.3%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q17. What are the ages of the children who received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?

	N	%
Age 3-4	33	5.2%
Age 5-8	165	25.9%
Age 9-12	223	35.0%
Age 13-18	216	33.9%

Q18. Please tell us about those children.

	N	%
Female	340	53.4%
Male	293	46.0%
Prefer to Self-Identify	4	0.6%

Q26. (Optional) Do any of those children have a disability? Disabilities include physical, cognitive, and mental impairments

	N	%
Yes	117	18.4%
No	499	78.3%
Prefer not to answer	21	3.3%

Q27. How many TOTAL grants has each child received?

	N	%
1	200	31.4%
2	207	32.5%
3	152	23.9%
4	55	8.6%
5	23	3.6%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's injury?

	N	%
Worsened greatly	43	6.8%
Worsened somewhat	165	25.9%
Stayed about the same	369	57.9%
Improved somewhat	31	4.9%
Improved greatly	29	4.6%

Q30. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	N	%
Worsened greatly	1	0.2%
Worsened somewhat	0	0.0%
Stayed about the same	122	19.2%
Improved somewhat	258	40.5%
Improved greatly	256	40.2%

Q32 & 33. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's injury? Mark all that apply.

	N	%
Acting out or aggression	176	27.6%
Attention difficulties	217	34.1%
Changes in appetite	72	11.3%
Crying or depression	154	24.2%
Headaches or stomachaches	102	16.0%
Fearfulness or nightmares	134	21.0%
Negative or morbid thoughts	78	12.2%
Social withdrawal	196	30.8%
None of these	217	34.1%

Count of reported psychosocial symptoms:

	N	%
0	217	34.1%
1	127	19.9%
2	102	16.0%
3	79	12.4%
4	50	7.8%
5	31	4.9%
6	19	3.0%
7	4	0.6%
8	8	1.3%

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms? (For those children who indicated at least one symptom in Q32 or Q33)

	N	%
Made them significantly worse	0	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	2	0.5%
Had no impact	20	4.8%
Made them somewhat better	217	51.7%
Made them significantly better	181	43.1%

Q36. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	N	%
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence.	287	88.0%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during the injury recovery	253	77.6%
Gave my child(ren) space to "be a kid"	234	71.8%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	230	70.6%
Served as a reward for doing well in school	136	41.7%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	193	59.2%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to	274	84.0%
None of the above	3	0.9%

Q37. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	374	58.7%
Agree	185	29.0%
Neutral	51	8.0%
Disagree	5	0.8%
Strongly Disagree	13	2.0%
N/A	9	1.4%

Q38. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	293	46.0%
Agree	176	27.6%
Neutral	112	17.6%
Disagree	13	2.0%
Strongly Disagree	14	2.2%
N/A	29	4.6%

Q39. For your children who are 13 or older, to what extent is your child(ren) considering military service?

	N	%
Very likely to serve	23	10.6%
Somewhat likely to serve	31	14.4%
Unsure right now	79	36.6%
Somewhat unlikely to serve	15	6.9%
Very unlikely to serve	49	22.7%
N/A	19	8.8%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q40. How influential has receiving an Our Military Kids grant been in their consideration of service?

	N	%
Extremely influential	34	15.7%
Very influential	39	18.1%
Somewhat influential	40	18.5%
Slightly influential	26	12.0%
Not at all influential	77	35.6%

Q41. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	203	62.3%
Agree	94	28.8%
Neutral	26	8.0%
Disagree	1	0.3%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	2	0.6%

Q42. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.

	N	%
Strongly Agree	184	56.4%
Agree	101	31.0%
Neutral	34	10.4%
Disagree	1	0.3%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	6	1.8%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q43. How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?

	N	%
Strongly positive	259	79.4%
Mildly positive	55	16.9%
Neutral	12	3.7%
Mildly negative	0	0.0%
Strongly negative	0	0.0%

Q44 & 45. How has your participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your / the service member's morale during the injury recovery?

	N	%
Strongly positive	221	67.8%
Mildly positive	68	20.9%
Neutral	36	11.0%
Mildly negative	0	0.0%
Strongly negative	1	0.3%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q46. Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:

	N	%
The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.	252	77.3%
Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family	121	37.1%
Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated	284	87.1%
My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.	145	44.5%
The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy	241	73.9%
The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond.	171	52.5%
The grant activity(ies) gave my child(ren) something do/talk about with me / to our service member/Veteran about.	225	69.0%
The grant activity(ies) helped get me / our service member/Veteran out of the house.	190	58.3%
None of the above	3	0.0%

Q47. Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extra-curricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant?

	N	%
Yes	6	1.8%
Yes, but it would have been a financial strain	198	60.7%
No	122	37.4%

Q48. The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	181	28.4%
Agree	147	23.1%
Neutral	91	14.3%
Disagree	160	25.1%
Strongly disagree	58	9.1%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q49. The grant amount enabled my child to select their preferred activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	296	46.5%
Agree	231	36.3%
Neutral	57	8.9%
Disagree	28	4.4%
Strongly disagree	10	1.6%
N/A	15	2.4%

Q50. My child is likely to continue the activity after it is no longer funded by the grant.

	N	%
Strongly agree	134	21.0%
Agree	213	33.4%
Neutral	139	21.8%
Disagree	88	13.8%
Strongly disagree	52	8.2%
N/A	11	1.7%

Q51. The opportunity for a 5th flex grant gave us more selection in choosing an activity.

	N	%
Strongly agree	284	46.6%
Agree	191	30.0%
Neutral	161	25.3%
Disagree	1	0.2%
Strongly disagree	0	0.0%

Q52. The opportunity for a 5th flex grant influenced my decision to apply.

	N	%
Strongly agree	143	43.9%
Agree	71	21.8%
Neutral	66	20.2%
Disagree	3	0.9%
Strongly disagree	3	0.9%
N/A	40	12.3%

Q53. Do you have a 1- or 2-year old in your household?

	N	%
Yes	42	12.9%
No	283	87.1%

Q54. Would you have enrolled them in an OMK-sponsored activity if they were eligible?

	N	%
Yes	33	78.6%
No	4	9.5%
Not sure	5	11.9%

Q55. How did you hear about Our Military Kids?

	N	%
Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2)	7	2.1%
Army Recovery Care Program (ARCP)	12	3.7%
Navy Wounded Warrior	1	0.3%
Wounded Warrior Battalion East/West	21	6.4%
VA Case Manager	40	12.3%
VA Caregiver Support Coordinator	40	12.3%
Department of VA	54	16.6%
Recovery Care Coordinator	7	2.1%
Resource Fair	3	0.9%
Internet/Social Media	40	12.3%
Wounded Warrior Project	88	27.0%
Elizabeth Dole Foundation	18	5.5%
Another Wounded Veteran/service member	59	18.1%
Friend or family member	40	12.3%
Other	31	9.5%

Combat Injured Program Response Frequencies

Q56. What did you think about the application process?

	N	%
Much easier than other application processes	171	52.5%
Somewhat easier than other application processes	82	25.2%
About the same as other application processes	54	16.6%
Somewhat more difficult than other application processes	16	4.9%
Much more difficult than other application processes	3	0.9%

Q57. (NPS) How likely are you to recommend Our Military Kids to other military families?

	N	%
0	0	0.0%
1	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	0	0.0%
4	1	0.3%
5	1	0.3%
6	3	0.9%
7	7	2.1%
8	4	1.2%
9	8	2.5%
10	302	92.6%

Net Promoter Score: 93.6

	N	%
Promoters	310	95%
Passives	11	3%
Detractors	5	2%

Appendix F: Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

BY NUMBER OF PSYCOSOCIAL SYMPTOMS

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)’s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member/Veteran’s injury?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worsened greatly	0.0%	8.7%	2.9%	11.4%	16.0%	16.1%	21.1%	0.0%	37.5%
Worsened somewhat	8.8%	24.4%	30.4%	43.0%	48.0%	45.2%	47.4%	0.0%	37.5%
Stayed about the same	80.2%	59.1%	51.0%	41.8%	28.0%	32.3%	31.6%	75.0%	25.0%
Improved somewhat	6.9%	5.5%	3.9%	1.3%	4.0%	3.2%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%
Improved greatly	4.1%	2.4%	11.8%	2.5%	4.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)’s symptoms?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Had no impact	51.6%	5.5%	4.9%	0.0%	2.0%	3.2%	21.1%	25.0%	12.5%
Made them somewhat better	23.5%	48.8%	53.9%	57.0%	62.0%	48.4%	36.8%	25.0%	12.5%
Made them significantly better	24.9%	45.7%	41.2%	43.0%	32.0%	48.4%	42.1%	50.0%	75.0%

BY CHILDREN'S RACE

Binarily coded between Non-Minority (“white, non-hispanic”) and everyone else (minority). Anyone who reported “prefer not to answer” was removed from analysis.

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)’s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member/Veteran’s injury?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Worsened greatly	4.7%	6.7%
Worsened somewhat	24.1%	26.7%
Stayed about the same	62.3%	57.3%
Improved somewhat	5.1%	4.2%
Improved greatly	3.9%	5.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q30. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)’s performance in school?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Worsened greatly	0.0%	0.3%
Worsened somewhat	0.0%	0.0%
Stayed about the same	26.8%	12.7%
Improved somewhat	47.5%	35.5%
Improved greatly	25.7%	51.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -6.521, p < .000$

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q32 & 33. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury? Mark all that apply.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Acting out or aggression $X^2(1, N= 587) = 4.073, p = .044$	31.1%	23.4%
Attention difficulties	40.1%	26.9%
Changes in appetite	14.4%	7.6%
Crying or depression	28.0%	19.7%
Headaches or stomachaches $X^2(1, N= 587) = 8.482, p = .004$	24.2%	6.2%
Fearfulness or nightmares	28.0%	12.8%
Negative or morbid thoughts	14.7%	9.3%
Social withdrawal	31.1%	30.3%
None of these	25.6%	44.1%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Count of Symptoms

	Non-Minority	Minority
0	36.6%	33.0%
1	17.9%	21.5%
2	17.5%	14.8%
3	10.9%	13.0%
4	7.8%	7.9%
5	4.7%	4.2%
6	2.3%	3.6%
7	0.4%	0.9%
8	1.9%	0.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Non-Minority	Minority
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.0%	0.6%
Had no impact	26.5%	17.3%
Made them somewhat better	45.1%	38.8%
Made them significantly better	28.4%	43.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.786$, $p < .000$

Only those with reported symptoms

	Non-Minority	Minority
Made them significantly worse		
Made them somewhat worse		0.9%
Had no impact	5.5%	5.0%
Made them somewhat better	58.3%	45.7%
Made them significantly better	36.2%	48.4%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.129$, $p = .033$

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q36. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	Non-Minority	Minority
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence	89.0%	86.9%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this injury recovery	81.6%	74.1%
Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid”	78.4%	70.7%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	72.0%	68.6%
Served as a reward for doing well in school	37.2%	48.3%
$X^2(1, N = 587) = 11.109, p = .001$		
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	60.2%	61.4%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to	85.3%	84.8%
None of the above	0.6%	0.3%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q37. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Strongly Agree	63.0%	54.2%
Agree	26.8%	31.8%
Neutral	7.0%	8.2%
Disagree	0.8%	0.9%
Strongly Disagree	1.6%	2.7%
N/A	0.8%	2.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q38. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Non-Minority	Minority
Strongly Agree	40.5%	47.9%
Agree	33.5%	24.5%
Neutral	20.2%	16.4%
Disagree	0.4%	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	2.3%	2.4%
N/A	3.1%	5.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

BY CHILD GENDER

Due to low base size of “prefer to self-identify” (n=4), this only compares male and female identifying children.

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)’s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member/Veteran’s injury?

	Male	Female
Worsened greatly	7.2%	6.5%
Worsened somewhat	27.3%	25.0%
Stayed about the same	54.3%	60.6%
Improved somewhat	4.8%	5.0%
Improved greatly	6.5%	2.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q30. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)’s performance in school?

	Male	Female
Worsened greatly	0.3%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	0.0%	0.0%
Stayed about the same	20.1%	18.2%
Improved somewhat	38.2%	42.1%
Improved greatly	41.3%	39.7%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q32 & 33. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury? Mark all that apply.

	Male	Female
Acting out or aggression $X^2(1, N= 633) = 12.075, p = .001$	34.5%	21.8%
Attention difficulties	36.2%	32.1%
Changes in appetite	10.2%	12.4%
Crying or depression $X^2(1, N= 633) = 4.013, p = .045$	20.5%	27.6%
Headaches or stomachaches	13.7%	18.2%
Fearfulness or nightmares	19.8%	22.4%
Negative or morbid thoughts	13.0%	11.8%
Social withdrawal	29.7%	32.1%
None of these	34.5%	33.8%

Pearson Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Count of Symptoms

	Male	Female
0	34.5%	33.8%
1	18.8%	20.3%
2	15.4%	16.8%
3	13.3%	11.8%
4	8.5%	7.4%
5	5.8%	4.1%
6	2.4%	3.5%
7	0.3%	0.9%
8	1.0%	1.5%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Male	Female
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.3%	0.3%
Had no impact	22.9%	19.1%
Made them somewhat better	42.7%	41.8%
Made them significantly better	34.1%	38.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with reported symptoms:

	Male	Female
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.5%	0.4%
Had no impact	5.2%	4.4%
Made them somewhat better	52.6%	51.6%
Made them significantly better	41.7%	43.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q37. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	56.3%	61.5%
Agree	29.7%	28.8%
Neutral	9.6%	6.5%
Disagree	1.0%	0.6%
Strongly Disagree	1.4%	1.8%
N/A	2.0%	0.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q38. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	44.4%	47.9%
Agree	28.3%	27.4%
Neutral	18.1%	17.1%
Disagree	2.0%	2.1%
Strongly Disagree	2.0%	1.5%
N/A	5.1%	4.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

BY CHILD AGE

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Worsened greatly	6.1%	3.0%	6.3%	10.2%
Worsened somewhat	15.2%	25.5%	26.9%	26.9%
Stayed about the same	66.7%	62.4%	57.0%	54.2%
Improved somewhat	6.1%	4.2%	4.9%	5.1%
Improved greatly	6.1%	4.8%	4.9%	3.7%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q30. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Worsened greatly	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stayed about the same	9.1%	20.6%	17.5%	21.3%
Improved somewhat	39.4%	40.6%	41.7%	39.4%
Improved greatly	51.5%	38.8%	40.4%	39.4%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q32 & 33. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury? Mark all that apply.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Acting out or aggression	24.2%	26.1%	30.5%	26.4%
Attention difficulties	30.3%	35.2%	34.5%	33.3%
Changes in appetite	18.2%	9.1%	9.9%	13.4%
Crying or depression	24.2%	19.4%	25.6%	26.4%
Headaches or stomachaches	9.1%	13.3%	19.3%	15.7%
Fearfulness or nightmares	15.2%	22.4%	24.7%	17.1%
Negative or morbid thoughts	3.0%	10.3%	11.7%	15.7%
Social withdrawal $X^2(3, N=637) = 19.976, p < .000$	18.2%	21.8%	29.1%	41.2%
None of these	45.5%	39.4%	30.9%	31.5%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Count of Symptoms

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
0	45.5%	39.4%	30.9%	31.5%
1	21.2%	19.4%	21.5%	18.5%
2	9.1%	12.1%	18.8%	17.1%
3	12.1%	14.5%	9.4%	13.9%
4	3.0%	7.3%	9.0%	7.9%
5	6.1%	4.2%	4.0%	6.0%
6	0.0%	1.8%	4.0%	3.2%
7	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%
8	3.0%	0.6%	1.8%	0.9%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%
Had no impact	27.3%	22.4%	16.6%	22.7%
Made them somewhat better	30.3%	43.6%	46.6%	38.0%
Made them significantly better	42.4%	33.3%	36.3%	39.4%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with reported symptoms:

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Made them significantly worse				
Made them somewhat worse		1.0%	0.6%	
Had no impact		6.0%	3.9%	5.4%
Made them somewhat better	55.6%	55.0%	55.2%	45.3%
Made them significantly better	44.4%	38.0%	40.3%	49.3%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q37. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	63.6%	57.0%	58.7%	59.3%
Agree	24.2%	29.7%	32.3%	25.9%
Neutral	12.1%	7.9%	6.3%	9.3%
Disagree	0.0%	1.8%	0.4%	0.5%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	1.8%	2.2%	2.3%
N/A	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	2.8%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q38. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	48.5%	43.6%	45.3%	48.1%
Agree	27.3%	24.2%	28.7%	29.2%
Neutral	15.2%	21.2%	17.5%	15.3%
Disagree	0.0%	3.6%	2.2%	0.9%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%
N/A	9.1%	4.8%	4.0%	4.2%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q48. The grant amount fully covered the costs of the activity.

	3-4	5-8	9-12	13-18
Strongly Agree	33.3%	37.0%	24.2%	25.5%
Agree	21.2%	26.1%	23.8%	20.4%
Neutral	15.2%	12.7%	15.7%	13.9%
Disagree	18.2%	18.8%	25.1%	31.0%
Strongly Disagree	12.1%	5.5%	11.2%	9.3%

KRUSKAL-WALLIS H-TEST: $p = .002$

Between Groups:

3-4 | 5-8: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 9-12: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

3-4 | 13-18: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

5-8 | 9-12: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.308$, $p = .001$**

5-8 | 13-18: **Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.434$, $p = .001$**

9-12 | 13-18: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

BY PARENT STATUS

Q7 & 13. How has your / the service member/Veteran's injury recovery affected your family's financial status?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made it much more difficult	46.2%	33.3%
Made it somewhat more difficult	41.0%	66.7%
No effect	12.8%	0.0%
Made it somewhat easier	0.0%	0.0%
Made it much easier	0.0%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -4.756, p < .000$

Q6 & 12. How has your injury recovery affected the ability of you or your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made it much more difficult	46.2%	66.7%
Made it somewhat more difficult	43.6%	33.3%
No effect	7.7%	0.0%
Made it somewhat easier	2.6%	0.0%
Made it much easier	0.0%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.241, p = .025$

Q28 & 29. How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Worsened greatly	6.9%	6.6%
Worsened somewhat	29.4%	21.7%
Stayed about the same	52.7%	64.1%
Improved somewhat	5.5%	4.1%
Improved greatly	5.5%	3.4%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q30. How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Worsened greatly	0.3%	0.0%
Worsened somewhat	0.0%	0.0%
Stayed about the same	18.4%	20.0%
Improved somewhat	41.8%	39.0%
Improved greatly	39.5%	41.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q32 & 33. Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member/Veteran's injury? Mark all that apply.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Acting out or aggression $X^2(1, N=637) = 4.279, p = .039$	31.1%	23.4%
Attention difficulties $X^2(1, N=637) = 11.064, p = .001$	40.1%	26.9%
Changes in appetite $X^2(1, N=637) = 6.671, p = .010$	14.4%	7.6%
Crying or depression $X^2(1, N=637) = 5.491, p = .019$	28.0%	19.7%
Headaches or stomachaches $X^2(1, N=637) = 36.735, p < .000$	24.2%	6.2%
Fearfulness or nightmares $X^2(1, N=637) = 22.054, p < .000$	28.0%	12.8%
Negative or morbid thoughts	14.7%	9.3%
Social withdrawal	31.1%	30.3%
None of these $X^2(1, N=637) = 23.228, p < .000$	25.6%	44.1%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Number of reported symptoms:

	Caregiver	Service Member
0	25.6%	44.1%
1	21.3%	18.3%
2	17.3%	14.5%
3	12.4%	12.4%
4	9.8%	5.5%
5	6.6%	2.8%
6	4.3%	1.4%
7	0.6%	0.7%
8	2.0%	0.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -5.187, p < .000$

Q34. How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.3%	0.3%
Had no impact	18.7%	23.1%
Made them somewhat better	45.2%	38.3%
Made them significantly better	35.7%	38.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Only those with symptoms

	Caregiver	Service Member
Made them significantly worse	0.0%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.4%	0.6%
Had no impact	6.2%	2.5%
Made them somewhat better	51.6%	51.9%
Made them significantly better	41.9%	45.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q36. You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	Caregiver	Service Member
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence	89.0%	86.9%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this injury recovery $X^2(1, N= 637) = 4.670, p = .031$	81.6%	74.1%
Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid” $X^2(1, N= 637) = 4.574, p = .032$	72.0%	68.6%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values	72.0%	68.6%
Served as a reward for doing well in school $X^2(1, N= 637) = 7.530, p = .006$	37.2%	48.3%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	60.2%	61.4%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to	85.3%	84.8%
None of the above	0.6%	0.3%

Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q37. My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	62.2%	54.5%
Agree	23.6%	35.5%
Neutral	10.7%	4.8%
Disagree	0.9%	0.7%
Strongly Disagree	1.2%	3.1%
N/A	1.4%	1.4%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q38. My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	42.7%	50.0%
Agree	28.2%	26.9%
Neutral	19.9%	14.8%
Disagree	3.2%	0.7%
Strongly Disagree	0.9%	3.8%
N/A	5.2%	3.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q41. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	61.4%	63.1%
Agree	28.9%	28.7%
Neutral	8.4%	7.5%
Disagree	0.0%	0.6%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	0.0%
N/A	1.2%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q42. This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly Agree	56.0%	56.9%
Agree	29.5%	32.5%
Neutral	10.8%	10.0%
Disagree	0.0%	0.6%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	0.0%
N/A	3.6%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Q43. How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly positive	84.3%	74.4%
Mildly positive	13.3%	20.6%
Neutral	2.4%	5.0%
Mildly negative	0.0%	0.0%
Strongly negative	0.0%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -2.250$, $p = .024$

Q44 & 45. How has your participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your / the service member/Veteran's morale during the injury recovery?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Strongly positive	65.1%	70.6%
Mildly positive	21.7%	20.0%
Neutral	13.3%	8.8%
Mildly negative	0.0%	0.6%
Strongly negative	0.0%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Combat Injured Program Crosstabs

Q46. Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:

	Caregiver	Service Member
The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community.	78.5%	77.5%
Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family	35.6%	39.4%
Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated	89.6%	86.3%
My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks.	46.6%	43.1%
The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy	79.1%	70.0%
The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond. $X^2(1, N = 326) = 5.502, p = .019$	46.6%	59.4%
The grant activity(ies) gave my child(ren) something to do/talk about with me / to our service member/Veteran about.	66.3%	73.1%
The grant activity(ies) helped get me / our service member/Veteran out of the house	56.4%	61.3%
None of the above	1.2%	2.5%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q47. Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extra-curricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant?

	Caregiver	Service Member
Yes	1.2%	2.5%
Yes, but it would have been a financial strain	57.8%	63.7%
No	41.0%	33.8%

Pearson's Chi Square: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Appendix G: Deployed Program and Combat Injured Program Comparisons

What was your / the service member/Veteran’s most recent paygrade?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Enlisted	63.2%	86.2%
Officer	30.7%	12.0%
Warrant Officer	6.2%	1.8%

Pearson’s Chi Square: $X^2(2, N= 1,154) = 58.904, p < .000$

What is your relationship to the [deployed service member OR injured Veteran/service member]?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Service Member	26.1%	49.1%
Spouse	71.4%	48.2%
Parent	0.5%	1.2%
Other	2.1%	1.5%

Pearson’s Chi Square: $X^2(3, N= 1,154) = 59.603, p < .000$

How has your / the service member’s [deployment/activation OR injury recovery] affected your family’s financial status?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Made it much more difficult	11.8%	47.5%
Made it somewhat more difficult	34.1%	42.9%
No effect	26.4%	8.3%
Made it somewhat easier	25.1%	1.2%
Made it much easier	2.5%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -15.890, p < .000$

How has your [deployment/activation OR injury recovery] affected the ability of you or your child(ren)'s other parent or caregiver to work outside the home?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Made it much more difficult	40.7%	51.5%
Made it somewhat more difficult	39.2%	36.8%
No effect	19.1%	9.5%
Made it somewhat easier	0.7%	1.5%
Made it much easier	0.3%	0.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.654, p < .000$

How would you describe your CHILD(REN)'s race? Select all that apply:

	Deployed	Combat Injured
White or Caucasian $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 24.478, p < .000$	79.5%	65.3%
Black or African American $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 26.372, p < .000$	9.9%	21.5%
Native American or Alaska Native $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 4.728, p = .018$	2.1%	4.6%
Asian	5.7%	7.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 3.506, p = .035$	1.4%	3.4%
Other $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 8.495, p = .004$	8.0%	13.8%
Prefer not to answer	5.8%	6.7%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Is your CHILD(REN) Hispanic or Latino/a/x?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Yes	17.8%	24.5%
No	77.5%	69.3%
Prefer not to answer	4.7%	6.1%

Pearson's Chi Square: $X^2(2, N= 1,154) = 8.502, p = .014$

How many children in your household received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
1	39.3%	39.9%
2	43.0%	36.2%
3	14.4%	15.6%
4	2.5%	6.1%
5	0.5%	1.5%
6	0.1%	0.3%
7	0.2%	0.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

What are the ages of the children who received an Our Military Kids grant in 2022?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
3-4	15.6%	5.2%
5-8	35.8%	25.9%
9-12	30.8%	35.0%
13-18	17.9%	33.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -10.211$, $p < .000$

How many TOTAL grants has each child received?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
1	47.4%	31.4%
2	49.7%	32.5%
3	2.3%	23.9%
4	0.6%	8.6%
5	0.0%	3.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -13.340$, $p < .000$

How was/were your child(ren)'s academic performance affected as a result of your / the service member's [deployment/activation OR injury]?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Worsened greatly	3.9%	6.8%
Worsened somewhat	22.1%	25.9%
Stayed about the same	67.9%	57.9%
Improved somewhat	3.8%	4.9%
Improved greatly	2.4%	4.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

How did participation in the Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s performance in school?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Worsened greatly	0.1%	0.2%
Worsened somewhat	0.5%	0.0%
Stayed about the same	51.4%	19.2%
Improved somewhat	34.0%	40.5%
Improved greatly	14.0%	40.2%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -16.034, p < .000$

Did your child(ren) experience any of the following as a result of your / the service member's [deployment/activation OR injury]? Mark all that apply.

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Acting out or aggression	30.8%	27.6%
Attention difficulties $X^2(1, N= 2,155) = 12.237, p < .000$	26.5%	34.1%
Changes in appetite	9.0%	11.3%
Crying or depression $X^2(1, N= 2,155) = 29.707, p < .000$	36.4%	24.2%
Headaches or stomachaches $X^2(1, N= 2,155) = 5.570, p = .018$	12.1%	16.0%
Fearfulness or nightmares	20.0%	21.0%
Negative or morbid thoughts	7.8%	12.2%
Social withdrawal $X^2(1, N= 2,155) = 9.962, p = .002$	15.6%	30.8%
None of these	33.5%	34.1%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Number of reported symptoms:

	Deployed	Combat Injured
0	33.5%	34.1%
1	23.0%	19.9%
2	17.9%	16.0%
3	13.2%	12.4%
4	6.9%	7.8%
5	2.9%	4.9%
6	1.4%	3.0%
7	0.9%	0.6%
8	0.5%	1.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

How did participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activity affect your child(ren)'s symptoms?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Made them significantly worse	0.1%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.7%	0.3%
Had no impact	30.6%	20.7%
Made them somewhat better	47.6%	42.1%
Made them significantly better	20.9%	36.9%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -7.579, p < .000$

Only those with reported symptoms

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Made them significantly worse	0.2%	0.0%
Made them somewhat worse	0.8%	0.5%
Had no impact	13.1%	4.8%
Made them somewhat better	60.2%	51.7%
Made them significantly better	25.7%	43.1%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -7.254, p < .000$

You may have already mentioned some of these, but in which of the following ways has participating in an Our Military Kids-sponsored activity impacted your child(ren)? Select all that apply. The grant activity(ies)...

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Helped my child(ren) build self-confidence $X^2(1, N=1,154) = 51.270, p < .000$	67.0%	88.0%
Helped my child(ren) stay active and/or keep busy during this injury recovery $X^2(1, N=1,154) = 52.323, p < .000$	92.9%	77.6%
Gave my child(ren) space to “be a kid” $X^2(1, N=1,154) = 47.084, p < .000$	49.3%	71.8%
Taught my child(ren) valuable life skills and/or values $X^2(1, N=1,154) = 41.978, p < .000$	49.3%	70.6%
Served as a reward for doing well in school $X^2(1, N=1,154) = 61.135, p < .000$	19.2%	41.7%
Provided a way to burn off extra energy/tire my child(ren) out	60.4%	59.2%
Gave my child(ren) something to look forward to	81.3%	84.0%
None of the above	1.0%	0.9%

Pearson’s Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

My child has made friends and/or found a sense of community through their activity.

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly Agree	38.9%	58.7%
Agree	42.9%	29.0%
Neutral	12.8%	8.0%
Disagree	1.1%	0.8%
Strongly Disagree	1.1%	2.0%
N/A	3.2%	1.4%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -6.442, p < .000$

My child has found a mentor figure (coach, teacher, role model, etc.) through their activity.

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly Agree	30.4%	46.0%
Agree	37.7%	27.6%
Neutral	24.0%	17.6%
Disagree	2.0%	2.0%
Strongly Disagree	0.9%	2.2%
N/A	4.9%	4.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -5.004, p < .000$

This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to the military community.

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly Agree	49.6%	62.3%
Agree	36.6%	28.8%
Neutral	9.9%	8.0%
Disagree	1.8%	0.3%
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	0.0%
N/A	1.7%	0.6%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.359, p < .000$

This grant has made me as a parent or guardian feel more supported by / connected to my local community.

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly Agree	40.7%	56.4%
Agree	40.7%	31.0%
Neutral	15.1%	10.4%
Disagree	1.0%	0.3%
Strongly Disagree	0.4%	0.0%
N/A	2.2%	1.8%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -4.519, p < .000$

How did your child(ren)'s participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affect your family's overall well-being?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly positive	70.2%	79.4%
Mildly positive	24.6%	16.9%
Neutral	4.8%	3.7%
Mildly negative	0.2%	0.0%
Strongly negative	0.1%	0.0%

Mann Whitney U-Test: $z = -3.158, p = .002$

How has your participation in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities affected your / the service member's morale during the [deployment/activation OR injury recovery]?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Strongly positive	63.9%	67.8%
Mildly positive	27.2%	20.9%
Neutral	8.9%	11.0%
Mildly negative	0.0%	0.0%
Strongly negative	0.0%	0.3%

Mann Whitney U-Test: NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Thinking about the impact of receiving the grant and participating in Our Military Kids-sponsored activities, which of the following statements do you agree with? Select all that apply:

	Deployed	Combat Injured
The grant activity(ies) helped our family meet others in our community. $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 41.123, p < .000$	56.8%	77.3%
Other parents in my child(ren)'s activity supported our family $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 5.978, p = .014$	29.5%	37.1%
Receiving the grant helped our family feel appreciated	89.6%	87.1%
My child(ren)'s participation in the grant activity(ies) allowed me or my spouse time to take a break and/or complete necessary tasks. $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 6.371, p = .012$	36.2%	44.5%
The grant activity(ies) helped my family maintain a sense of normalcy	74.2%	73.9%
The grant activity(ies) provided our family with time together and gave us a space to bond. $X^2(1, N= 1,154) = 51.449, p > .000$	29.7%	52.5%
The grant activity(ies) gave my child(ren) something do/talk about with me / to our service member/Veteran about	72.2%	69.0%
None of the above	1.1%	0.0%

Pearson's Chi Square with Yates Continuity Correction

Q49. Would you have been able to enroll your child(ren) in the extra-curricular activity without the availability of the Our Military Kids grant?

	Deployed	Combat Injured
Yes	11.7%	1.8%
Yes, but it would have been a financial strain	69.6%	60.7%
No	18.7%	37.4%

Pearson's Chi Square: $X^2(2, N= 1,154) = 67.875, p < .000$



Our Military Kids recognizes the sacrifice of children of deployed National Guard, deployed Reserve, or post 9/11 combat-injured service members by offering extracurricular activity grants that build the child's self-confidence, enhance family wellness, and strengthen a shared sense of community.

Our Military Kids began in 2004 as a meaningful way to give back to the National Guard and Reserve troops who were deployed in response to the 9/11 attacks. Initially a pilot project for children of the Virginia Army National Guard, the nonprofit quickly expanded to serve children throughout the United States. To date, Our Military Kids has proudly given out more than 85,000 grants to military families throughout the United States since our founding in 2004.

OURMILITARYKIDS.ORG

**A 2911 Hunter Mill Road, Suite 203
Oakton, VA 22124**

T 703.734.6654 F 703.734.6503



Kara Dallman
Executive Director



Erica M. Hawvermale
Author