

www.CareForTheTroops.org

Addressing The Invisible Wounds of War

Cluster Meeting

Mission: ... facilitating the spiritual and psychological care of returning war veterans and their extended families

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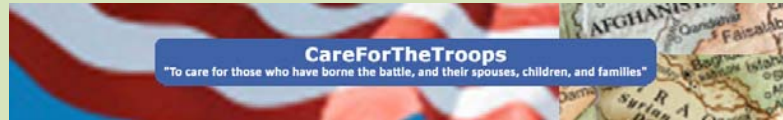
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Agenda

Time	Speaker	Topic
	CFTT	Introductions and Opening Remarks
	CFTT	Review what CareForTheTroops is and does www.CareForTheTroops.org Review how congregations can participate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congregations can start Military Ministry Programs• Explain the role of a VFC* and Lead Congregation• Describe and ask for VFC* Approval Letters
	All	Open Discussion and Concluding Remarks

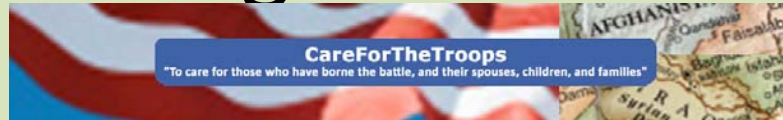
* A VFC is a Veteran Friendly Congregation

CareForTheTroops, Inc.



- CareForTheTroops is working to help the military and their extended family members receive mental health services and support from within the civilian elements of our society in the State of Georgia.
- CareForTheTroops is attempting to equip the civilian elements of society e.g. **congregation leadership teams**, with the capacities to be helpful.
- We are working toward “building a better net” to catch those that need help before they fall too far and reach moments of desperation.

Organization



501c3 status has already been approved by the IRS

Current Board of Directors:

President	Rev Robert Certain, Rector, Episcopal Church of St Peter and St Paul (USAF)
Exec Director	Peter McCall (USArmy)
Member	Bill Harrison, Partner, Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins LLP (USAF)
Member	William Matson, Exec Director, Pathways Community Network, Atlanta, GA
Member	Alan Baroody, Exec Director, Fraser Counseling Center, Hinesville, GA
Member	Joseph Krygiel, CEO of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Atlanta (US Navy)
(open)	Presbyterian
(open)	CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship)
(open)	Lutheran

Current Partners:

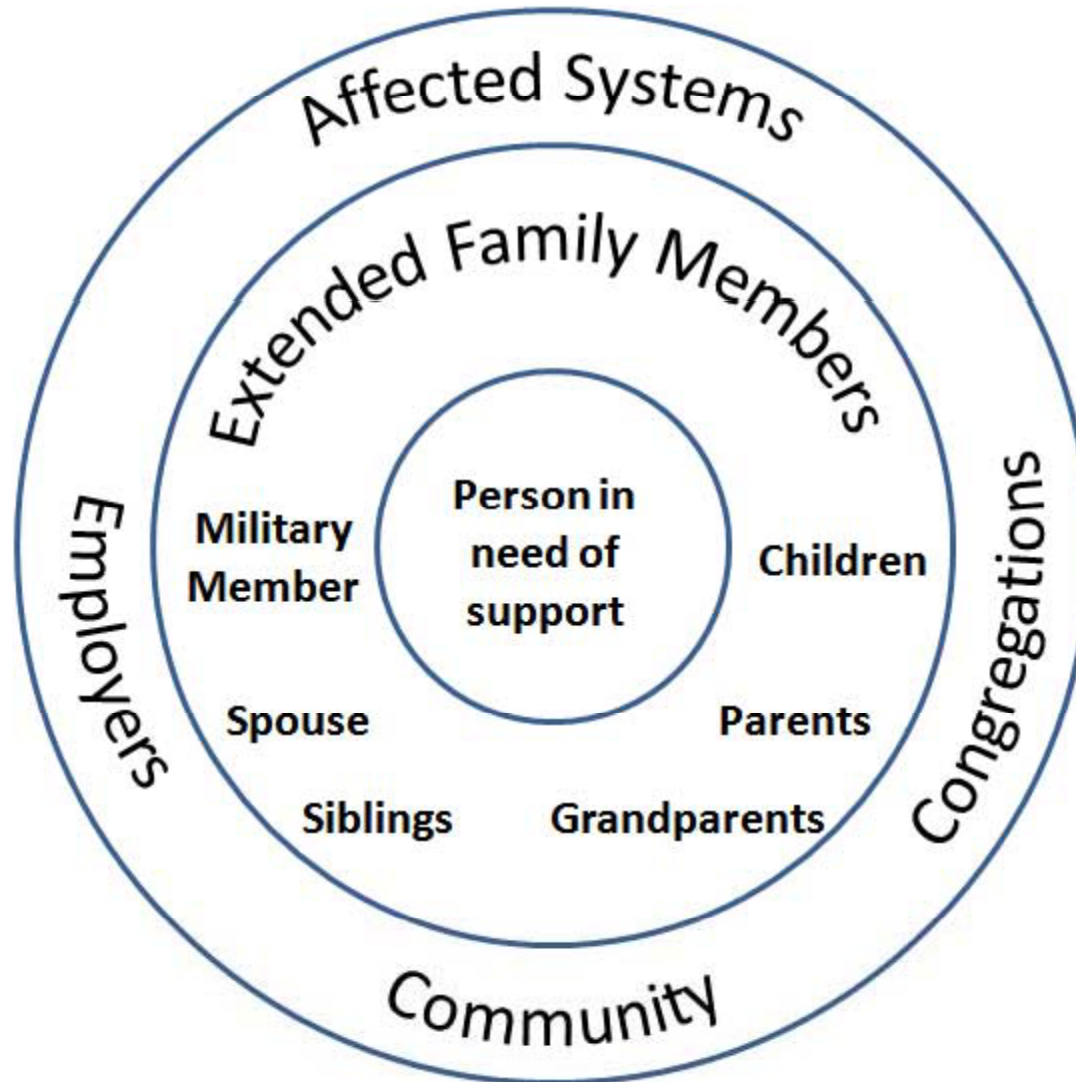
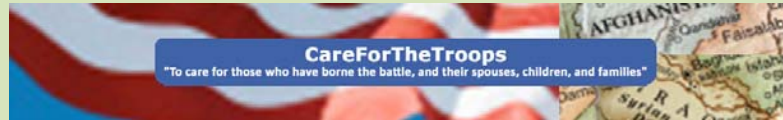
The Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (GAMFT)
The EMDR Network of Clinicians in Georgia
Pathways Community Network, Inc
Fraser Counseling Center, Hinesville, Georgia
Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Georgia
Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta/Presbyterian Women
Lutheran ELCA Southeast Synod

Mission of CareForTheTroops.org

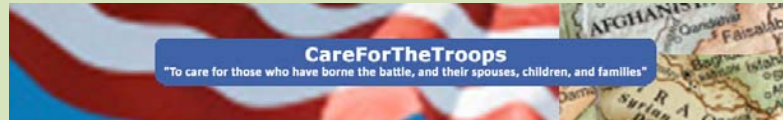


- Work to improve the ability of the civilian mental health infrastructure in the State of Georgia, then nationally, to work with military family members
- Facilitate connecting military families to providers of spiritual and psychological services familiar with the military culture and trauma
- Focus on addressing combat stress recovery as well as other spiritual and mental health related problems impacting the marriages and families of military veterans
- Educate and train clinicians, **congregation and community leaders**, extended family, and civilian groups about the military culture and trauma associated with military deployments in order to better assess and treat mental health symptoms, and provide more effective referrals and care
- Provide opportunities for additional trauma treatment training to clinicians
- Operate in an interfaith, non-political manner, focusing on the humanitarian interest that benefits the veterans and their extended family members

Approach



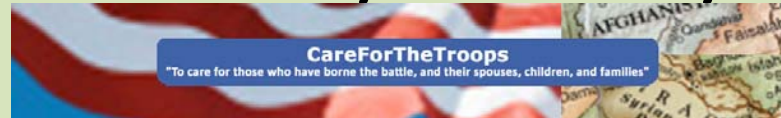
Why Congregations



- “...With research consistently showing that clergy - not psychologists or other mental health experts - are the most common source of help sought in times of psychological distress...” based on a Baylor University study Oct 2008

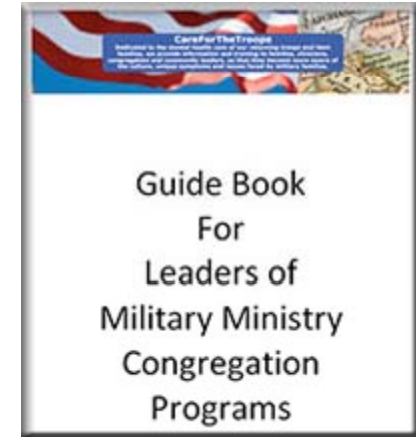
The results were published in *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*.
- Congregations already know their local community which is important if we are to address the needs across the entire State (and Nation).
- Often they already belong to a local interfaith community, e.g. the local Covenant Churches of East Cobb
- There is the opportunity to access the existing “networks” within the larger faith communities, e.g. the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta with the help of the Catholic Charities Atlanta network.

Military Ministry



Purpose

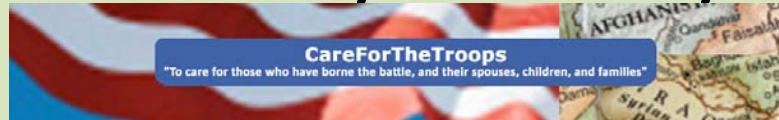
The ministry approach is intended to address all the extended family members associated with the person that is or has been in the military. The ministry has the following goals:



- Help the congregation members maintain an **awareness** of the existence and needs of those sacrificing their time and effort to support our country
- Create an **environment of acceptance** within the congregation for any extended family member who worships or visits the congregation; acceptance of their needs (physical, material, and spiritual), and a willingness to join in their struggles, whatever they might be

The Military Ministry is a commitment by the congregation to the military families and to themselves to provide support. It is not a commitment to the CareForTheTroops organization.

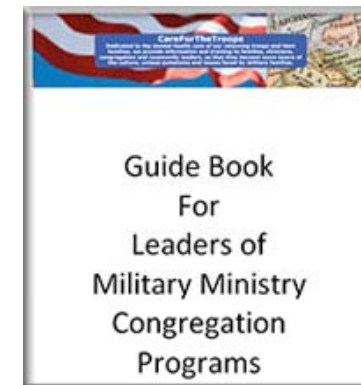
Military Ministry



Each Congregation Can Act on Their Own

The way this is setup:

- no faith has to act in any way like another faith
- no congregation has to act like another congregation
- no congregation has to have a Ministry like any other congregation
- every Military Ministry is completely customizable to each congregation's desire to act



This is the Home Page

The menu for Congregation Leaders is opened up.

In this case, selecting the About Congregation Programs page



- Home
- Are You Military, a Family Member, or an Extended Family Member?
- Are You a Mental Health Professional?
- Are You Part of a Congregation Leadership Team?
- Are You a Community Leader, Employer, Social Service Provider?

- Find a Therapist
- "Stuff" You Should Know
- About Us
- Training Event Info
- Therapist Enrollment
- Congregation Programs
- Resource Library
- News
- Donate
- Contact Us

Crisis Intervention Information

Contribute Content!

CareForTheTroops is always in search of good content that can be useful to military families, therapists, congregation leaders, or any visitor to this web site.

The content can be original or found on the internet where we can link to it ... it's an opportunity to be creative and helpful at the

Welcome To CareForTheTroops.org

WHO is the site for? ... This site is for military members, their immediate and extended family members; whether there is a family member deployed, between deployments, recently returned, or separated. It is also for mental health professionals, congregation and community leaders, and others who are in positions to provide help, compassion, or advice to those who are recovering from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.



WHY visit this site? ... This site will help those who are both near and far from the existing DOD and VA facilities; who may be having difficulty getting the help needed in a timely manner. We are working to help better educate and train an additional civilian cadre of mental health professionals and congregation and congregation leaders on how better to understand the issues of those affected by the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict. The goal is to be able to provide the needed resources that can address the mental health issues when they arise and cause any further delay in receiving treatment.

Congregation leaders would include leaders of all faiths. Community Leader examples are school counselors, family practice doctors, members of social

What are some key signs and "triggers" to look for?

Triggers that indicate when someone you know may

- Program Overview
- About Congregation Programs
- Lead Congregations
- Veteran Friendly Congregation Designation Program
- What Signals To Look For
- Reference Material
- Miscellaneous Links
- Training Material
- Schedule Training
- Who to Contact

Want to know more?
 Congregation Leaders -- [click here](#),
 Community Leaders -- [click here](#).



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Upcoming Events

- PESI EMDR & Mindfulness on CD, Podcast
- Click Here for more info
- Visit [GiftFromWithin.org](#) for training pod/web-casts on Trauma and PTSD
- EMDRIA National Conf, Atlanta, 8/27-30
- EMDR Training, Columbia, SC
- PESI EMDR & Mindfulness Training, Santa-Buckhead, 9/30
- PESI EMDR & Mindfulness Training, Marietta, 10/1
- PESI EMDR & Mindfulness Training, Chattanooga, 10/2
- LPCA SE Conf, Callaway Gardens, 10/7-10

— see details/more events —

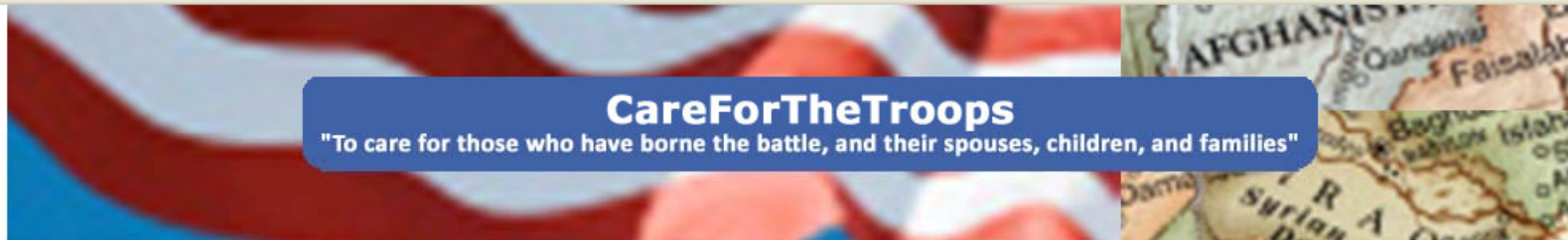
If you know of other training events, please share that info we us so we can advertise it to our site visitors.

Current News

[Female sailors could join sub or](#)
 2 hours ago

Top of the About Congregation Programs Page

Click on the picture and this presentation is available



- Home
- Are You Military, a Family Member, or an Extended Family Member?
- Are You a Mental Health Professional?
- Are You Part of a Congregation Leadership Team?
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- Find a Therapist
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Crisis Intervention Information

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Congregation-Based Military Ministry Programs

Introduction:

Congregation-based Military Ministry Programs are a step toward supporting active military and veterans of the current and past conflicts. These programs are fundamental to the success of the CareForTheTroops effort as they represent the primary participation vehicle for [Congregations](#) to participate in the CFTT Initiative and also an important element in qualifying as a [Veteran Friendly Congregation](#). It is a very key way for spreading the word and connecting with military family members in need on a local level.

The set of programs is intended to address the entire extended family members associated with the person that is or has been in the military. The programs available and outlined on this website have the following goals:

- Help the congregation members maintain an **awareness** of the existence and needs of those sacrificing their time and effort to support our country
- Create an **environment of acceptance** within the congregation for any extended family member who worships or visits the congregation; acceptance of their needs (physical, material, and spiritual), and a willingness to join in their struggles, whatever they might be.

More information can be found below and updates regarding these programs will be posted as they occur. We also have posted a presentation that can be used to lead a discussion of CFTT and the Congregation-Based components of this initiative to a group of congregation leaders and members.



- How Can Find a Therapist
- Add Me To email List
- How Can Get Involved?
- How Can Donate?

leaders, or any visitor to this web site.

The content can be original or found on the internet where we can link to it ... it's an opportunity to be creative and helpful at the same time. Please send to cfft@careforthetroops.org

Our Partners

Training Development

- Fraser Counseling Center

Mental Health Providers

- EMDR Clinicians of GA
- Marriage and Family Therapists (GAMFT)

Congregation Outreach

- Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
- The Atlanta Presbytery and Presbyterian Women
- Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Atlanta



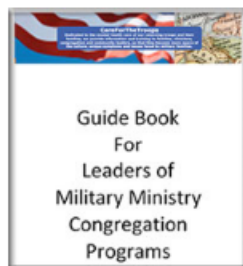
There is an excellent non-profit that began operating in late 2008 that is very complementary to the mission and goals of CareForTheTroops

Veteran's Heart Georgia fosters the healing of veterans of all wars by attending to the spiritual and emotional needs of veterans, their families and our communities.

We urge you to [link to their web site](#) and take advantage of their training and support activities. CareForTheTroops is inclusive and believe that



Related Articles of Interest



An overall Guide Book is available which helps a Congregation Leader set up a Military Ministry in their congregation. To access, print, and download this Guide Book you should click on the image on the left

This Guide Book is designed to help leaders of congregation_based military ministries and also leaders of Lead Congregations. The workbook-style was used to make it as easy and simple to understand the steps to follow and the elements to consider when bringing CareForTheTroops to the local congregation level and to the surrounding communities.

The following individual programs are suggested in the Guide Book. However, these are just suggestions. We are welcome any new ideas and suggestions and certainly do not want you to give up any programs which your congregation may already have started. In fact, be sure to tell us about any!

Document Contents

To give you an idea of what this Guidebook contains and how it can be helpful to you, we are showing below the Table of Contents as well as the opening introduction letter to the reader.

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- II. [Lead Congregations](#)
- III. [Additional Notes.](#)

[Renewal Letter Example](#)

[Letter from Congregation Leadership to Congregation, Example 1](#)

[Letter from Congregation Leadership to Congregation, Example 2](#)

[Letter to a Congregation Member in the Military or Related To One, Example](#)

[Example of Article in Congregation Newsletter or Email to the Congregation](#)

[Part 2 – Congregation Program Templates](#)

[Program 1: Prayer List Identification - Spiritual Support and Care](#)

Moving down the same page gets you to the Guide Book info we have introduced in this presentation. It also shows the TOC and the Intro Letter in the document

Clicking on the picture of the book will let you download it.

Military Ministry Programs



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Veteran Friendly Congregation (VFC)



www.CareForTheTroops.org/about_programs.php

Program Requirements

Any congregation that meets the following criteria qualifies on an annual basis. Once qualified, a certificate will be sent to the Congregation Leader which is suitable for framing and can be displayed in a prominent location so that it can be seen by visitors, members, and leaders of the congregation alike.

“Becoming a VFC is making a commitment to have a Military Ministry”

Annual Criteria

- Agree to adopt or implement one or more Military Ministry Programs.
- Agree to advertise the existence of the Military Ministry Program(s) in one or more of your congregation’s publications (service bulletins, newsletters, etc) at least twice a month, all year long so that their existence is easily visible to visitors, members, and leadership of the congregation.
- Annually, renew your agreement with the provisions above by sending a letter to the CareForTheTroops office address shown on the web.

Lead Congregation



Program Requirements

Lead Congregations are the **LEADERS** in their geography and become the organization responsible for spreading the word about this help. We can't rely on a group in Atlanta to spread this across the State and the Nation.

Annual Criteria

- Be an overall advocate and emissary of the CareForTheTroops initiative
- Recruit congregations of all faiths on the merits of developing a military ministry
- Providing feedback to CFTT on how the programs are being used and any improvements that are needed to the documentation
- Feedback on new ideas and programs discovered while speaking with other congregations that they have already implemented
- Assistance to the Regional Trainers with scheduling presentations and events
- Help with fundraising if local foundations or private benefactors are involved. They would not be asked to participate in other parts of the State where other Lead Congregations exist.

Military Ministry Programs - Examples



- St Peter Chanel Catholic Church Website – Roswell
www.stpeterchanel.org/ministry/military/index.html

- Good Shepherd Episcopal – Covington
Operation Sandbox

- St Thomas – Columbus
www.booksforsoldiers.com

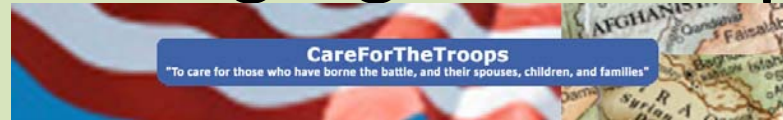


- St Thomas Aquinas – Blue Star Group
Banner and Care Packages

- Pens and School Kits initiative
Brothers at War Movie
<http://operationinternationalchildren.com>



VFC vs Lead Congregation Responsibilities



Responsibilities	VFC	Lead Congregation
Establish a Military Ministry Team within the congregation	X	X
Establish at least 1 program approved by CFTT or LC (more desired)	X	X
Advertise the programs in your congregation all year	X	X
Provide an annually signed VFC Commitment Letter to CFTT	X	X
Agree that we can list congregation information on the CFTT site	X	X
Be an advocate and emissary of CFTT in an agreed to geography		X
Recruit congregations of all faiths in the community		X
Advise VFCs on how to get started		X
Communicate with established VFCs and CFTT quarterly		X
Assist Regional Trainers in scheduling training		X
Help with fundraising within the geography agreed to with CFTT		X

What did we cover?

NEXT STEPS ...

Reviewed CFTT's plans for congregations

- Congregations to start Military Ministry Programs
- Explained the role of VFCs* and Lead Congregations
- Described and asked for VFC* Letters
- Next Steps ...
 1. Gain Agreement from the Congregation's Leadership for the Ministry
 2. Assign a Ministry Leader
 3. Recruit and Form a "team", "group", "committee"
 4. Decide which Programs to begin and/or enhance
 5. Sign-up as a CFTT VFC* – connect with the Lead Congregation
 6. Consider being a Lead Congregation and work with CFTT

* A VFC is a Veteran Friendly Congregation