

## USC Social Work

*Center for Innovation and Research  
on Veterans & Military Families*



USC University of  
Southern California

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative – Family & Children’s Work Group is holding a second annual event in recognition of the military connected child. This event will take place at the Los Angeles Public Library – Downtown. We are planning a morning of family fun, including storytelling, music, crafts and other activities for the children and their families to enjoy.

Supported at a National level by the White House Joining Forces initiative, “**April, Month of the Military Child,**” brings awareness to the many sacrifices of military connected children and their families. Last April, 2014, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, declared that the City of Los Angeles would also recognize April as the Month of the Military Child. This announcement culminated in an event at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall and was supported by our local elected officials, military partners and a host of community providers.

The USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families administers the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative, which comprises community stakeholders and representatives from organizations serving veterans and military families in the Los Angeles area. Founded at New Directions in February 2010, and now at CIR since March 2012, the members of the LA Veterans Collaborative gather to discuss the issues affecting local veterans and to coordinate the resolution of gaps in service or needed policy changes they identify through the many different Collaborative working groups. Each working group is focused on a particular issue area regarding veterans. (<http://cir.usc.edu/community-engagement/la-vet-collaborative> LA Veterans Collaborative, 2014)

The Families & Children Work Group’s activities have centered upon the identification of military connected children and families in our community, including the LA Unified School District, and providing resources and support to address their needs. “When a loved one serves, the whole family serves.” Military connected children represent a significant number in Los Angeles County and surrounding areas, as Los Angeles County is home to the highest population of military veterans, many who have children. These children have experienced the separation and loss of a loved one that accompanies the often multiple deployments of their loved ones. Additionally, the reunification and transition of their military connected parent is at times, not without complications and may result in need for various types of interventions for the family.

Your support in helping to make our event in recognition of April, Month of the Military Child, a memorable occasion for military connected children and their families is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

For further information on how you may assist our efforts, please contact:

Deborah J. Hayes, Co-Chair, Families & Children Work Group

[dejhayesconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:dejhayesconsulting@gmail.com)

323-806-6499

February, 2015