



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

August 12, 2014

Mr. David Graham
Coto de Caza/Rancho Santa Margarita Rotary
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Dear Mr. Graham,

The Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA looks forward to again partner with your Rotary's sixth year supporting the "Families Left Behind." There is a tremendous need for the support your Rotary gives to our junior enlisted military families at Camp Pendleton. We have been witness to the tears, hugs of joy, and thanks our families have given to your Rotarians after receiving the hams and commissary gift cards.

While the combat deployments are slowing, we are seeing the family needs change here at Camp Pendleton. This is having an impact on how we are delivering our programs and services. All of our programs and services are in three areas – families, School of Infantry, and deployed/wounded with a focus on educational support, financial crisis support, and finally recreational and emotional support. Over 24 different and widely diverse programs directly support our military community here at Camp Pendleton to improve their quality of life, reduce stress, and strengthen families. After a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military is refocusing their efforts to bring service members home and reintegrate them with their families. Earlier our programs looked after the families and helped cope with the stresses of continued separation and combat deployments; now as families reunite, our programs and services are changing to address new emerging needs in domestic violence (up about 200 percent since 2004), dealing with the silent effects from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and lastly as the Marine Corps is downsizing, there is significant stress on Marines on what they are going to do in supporting their families as they transition to civilian life.

This Thanksgiving, your Rotarians can invite two or more young Marine students into their home to celebrate this great American tradition. To sign up for this unique program, please contact our office as soon as possible (760-385-4921) as this event fills quickly.

Semper Fidelis,

G. B. Brown III

Executive Director



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