



STAR-SPANGLED BABIES

Starting a family is challenging. The Star-Spangled Babies program provides baby showers to expectant service members and their growing families. Due to deployments and frequent relocation, military parents-to-be often live far from their extended families and support systems. And like many new parents, they have questions, concerns, and fears.

The Star-Spangled Babies showers provide these new and expectant parents with early childhood education tips and a support system when loved ones are far away.



The Weber Family

Christina Weber was anxious and three months pregnant with their second child, as her husband, Thomas, prepared to deploy overseas for the third time as a Navy operation specialist. The prospect of caring for their then 3-year-old daughter alone, while pregnant, was overwhelming.

"I felt like I was falling apart," Christina said. Something that cheered her was meeting supportive people at an Operation Homefront group baby shower event, Star-Spangled Babies. Living in Virginia Beach, Va., Christina and Thomas were far from his Tennessee family and even farther from her California hometown.

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"It was just amazing. It blew my mind seeing such a nice event," she said. "I felt like I was appreciated." She and the other expectant moms also received free diaper bags and other gifts.

It wasn't easy looking after her kids while worrying about Thomas returning safely. "I don't know when I slept!" she said. But she was so grateful when he got home that, after two years in Florida, Christina started volunteering with Operation Homefront upon returning to Virginia Beach.

"I wanted to give back to Operation Homefront because Operation Homefront gave so much to me. I couldn't ask to work with better people or for a better organization," she said. "Don't be afraid to ask for help."



New and expectant parents supported in 2016



New and expectant parents supported since program inception

AT A GLANCE...

Star-Spangled Babies provides military parents-to-be with critical tools including:

Expectant parent celebrations

Operation Homefront celebrates these brave military spouses and parents-to-be! Showered with well wishes and gifts from donors, the Star-Spangled Babies program treats expectant parents with a full program of newborn education and fun.

New parent education

- Topics include:
- Postpartum support and referrals
 - Sleep issues
 - Stress management
 - Financial planning
 - Job skills
 - Marriage counseling
 - Therapeutic services

Support systems

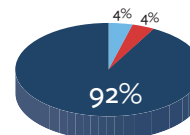
Through peer connections with other military families, Operation Homefront promotes strategies for keeping the deployed parents involved and making the new moms and dads feel at home in the military community.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Through the generous monetary and in-kind donations from local and corporate partners, we can host these supportive baby showers. The need is great. Find out how you can help us serve more at www.OperationHomefront.org.

WHO WE ARE

Operation Homefront builds strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.



Expenses

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General