BLIND WOUNDS

Not all wounds can be seen. That goes for our Veterans and their families, too. Elizabeth’s husband suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) symptoms that make it difficult for her four children to interpret. “His symptoms are then internalized by our children,” shared Elizabeth. “What may look like ADHD or ADD to educational professionals might actually be anxiety, stress, depression, anger, etc. We have found that second-hand PTS is a ripple effect in our home and for many in the military.” Military and veteran-connected children are inherently resilient and Elizabeth’s children are no different. “They try not show their fears or weaknesses; they stay strong for their family and try to carry on.”

Elizabeth attended the 2016 National Training Seminar and participated in the Servicing Veterans’ Children through Transitions course. During breakout sessions, participants were able to connect and learn more about each other. “I was impressed with the breakout sessions which helped to focus on the needs of military children, what signs to look for when struggles arise for them, and how to approach or handle those struggles,” shared Elizabeth.

After her group realized she was a mother of four children who all have special needs due to the second-hand PTS, they wanted to learn about the resources her family was using and how they were working with the schools. As a military caregiver, Elizabeth knows how important it is for those who serve our military and veteran children “to take the time to listen to the kids, pull them aside and check in with them, ask about their home life and if there is anything they need,” explained Elizabeth. In turn, Elizabeth learned from the professionals in her group how to better advocate for her children and what her family can do to reach out to MCEC Military Student Transition Consultants (MSTC) in local schools.

“I felt a sense of relief, an emotional breakthrough that someone understood the struggles I have been trying to explain to our school districts about our children.”

Military communities to reach the military families that do live there. “To understand that MSTCs are available in many of the schools is wonderful to hear due to the need for advocacy for our brave young warriors.”

Elizabeth was overwhelmed at the amount of resources available to help her family. “Many of these services have been around for years, some for decades, that I along with many military families never knew existed,” explained Elizabeth. She expressed how impressed she was with the speakers and MSTCs at the National Training Seminar. “I felt a sense of relief, an emotional breakthrough that someone understood the struggles I have been trying to explain to our school districts about our children.” After 14 years of service, Elizabeth didn’t realize the amount of transitions her children faced. Her oldest child
Supporting Veterans’ Children through Transitions

One-day course for youth-serving educators, professionals, and parents. Learn more about unique transitional issues children face when their parents separate from the military.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the academic and social-emotional implications for children and youth when their parents voluntarily or involuntarily transition from the military to civilian life.
- Identify needs for children and youth whose military-connected parents have died, been wounded, or have combat-related illnesses.
- Discover resources and integrate positive strategies to support Veterans’ children.

Visit MilitaryChild.org for Upcoming Dates

This course includes 6 clock hours of instruction and interactive work time, exclusive of breaks and lunch.

Participants who complete this course are eligible for 6 clock hours of Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).

Course Length

Participants receive the following resources during training:

- Making Hope Happen: Create the Future You Want for Yourself and Others by Shane J. Lopez
- “Changes” Growing, Learning, Understanding GLU Kit (MCEC Publication)

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