



Military Childrens Collaborative Group

“Improving the Lives of Military Connected Children”

Our Founding

In 2008 Debbie Nichols experienced firsthand the challenges a family faces being connected by the military. Nichols and her husband became the guardians of their daughter’s two school age children while their daughter deployed to Afghanistan. Nichols experienced the frustration of the lack of knowledge, awareness and understanding in schools in her community that were not near a military base. At the time, there were no programs to support military families enduring deployments of their loved ones. Those becoming guardians to military children had no preparation or support. In 2010 Nichols began her journey as an advocate to support and raise awareness for military families facing separations, emotional homecomings and reintegration by writing two books, developing a blog site, and speaking at military Yellow Ribbon events.

In 2011, Nichols was invited to the White House Faith Based Community Leaders briefing to discuss her concerns for military children and their families with the White House Representatives and the U.S. Department of Education. Nichols shared the personal experiences and detailed the tremendous stress and anxiety military connected children face in schools. She observed that school administration and educators were untrained regarding the needs of the children, resulting in potential problems such as their behavior, which negatively impacts the child’s academic performance. She enquired as to why there were no methods or systems to self-identify students connected to the military?

As a result, Nichols formed Military Childrens Collaborative Group (MCCG), with the mission is to advocate, educate, outreach and support all military connected children, be it Active Duty, Guard, Reserves, Veterans and Fallen and provide essential services to improve the quality of life of military connected children and their families.

Our Mission

To provide essential services to improve the quality of life of military connected children and their families. We fulfill our purpose by bringing awareness, providing education, referring resources to and for military connected children’s unique needs and by building a

comprehensive support network that fosters, encourages and acknowledges the children who silently serve.

Our Programs

We currently have five programs to help us meet our goal of improving the lives of Military Connected Children. Count Our Kids, Salute Our Kids, the MilTeenChat App (in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing with a grant from Infinite Hero Foundation), Scouting Badges, and The Courage Coin Initiative. For more details, visit our website at <https://childrensmilitarycollaborativegroup.org>.

Our Legal Status

The Military Childrens Collaborative Group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit registered in the state of California, United States of America.

How You Can Help

If you are a *media outlet*, we would love to have you feature us and help make others aware of the challenges military children face each and every day. The more awareness we can raise, the faster we can make the changes needed.

If you are an individual, you can make a donation of any amount by visiting our website or by sending a check or money order to the address below. All donations are tax-deductible and will help military kids get the programs and services they need.

Contact Information

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