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Army Community Service: A Great Resource Center

I would like to give a standing ovation to a resource right here on Fort Bliss. Have you ever wondered when you have a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) what is it going to be like there? How am I going to find my way around in a place I was not familiar with? How am I going to fit into this new community and meet other Army wives? How does the Army do things? I was in this same situation two years ago, and had these same questions.

Then I found out about a great resource called the Army Community Service, or as we know it here on Fort Bliss, ACS. ACS has many services they provide. The web site for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (www.blissmwr.com) is where you can register for these programs. They say, "Fort Bliss Army Community Service leads the Army in providing many quality services to assist soldiers and their family." This was true for me.

The programs I used were the Army Family Team Building (AFTB), Employment Readiness, Volunteer Corps, and Relocation Services, but there are many other programs, too. AFTB taught me the facts of living in the army community and its challenges. They also informed me of the different resources throughout Fort Bliss and El Paso. Employment Readiness helped me to write a resume and regularly informs me of new job openings. Financial Readiness helped me with credit card issues, clipping coupons, and ways of saving

money. The Relocation program has programs like dinner on a dime, bus tours around El Paso, Fort Bliss, Las Cruces, NM, and the Hearts Apart program. The Volunteer Corps helped me get into volunteering with the Hearts Apart program, and they can assist other spouses and family members to get into volunteer programs for the Army community.

The Hearts Apart program is very dear to my heart, and this is why I decided to volunteer. The Hearts Apart program is a group for spouses and family members of deployed soldiers. The program helps spouses and family members make friends, and it puts them in touch with other Army spouses and family members going through the same things I was going through things like loneliness, sleepless nights, dramatic events, and issues. If there are any Army spouses or family members who feel the same way I did, and did not get the memo on the welcome packet from ACS, just know the resources are there.

The ACS is run by wonderful staff and volunteers. Luckily for me, I got my information by word of mouth, which I found out is the way a lot of Army spouses and families get their information. This is to let all new Army spouses, family members and others who have been here for a while know that there is a great resource center right in your backyard and it is called the Army Community Service. I encourage all Army spouses and families who are new to an area to take advantage of this great resource!