



# **CALIFORNIA FY21 ANNUAL REPORT**



#### WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND RESILIENCY OF NATIONAL GUARD FAMILIES BY PROVIDING SECURE, TIMELY, FLEXIBLE, HIGH QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS TO NATIONAL GUARD CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

#### CHECK OUT OUR FY21 HIGHLIGHTS

4 Day Camps 1 Region 9 Symposium 44 Community Partners 11 Teen Council Trainings 8 Yellow Ribbons 6 Unit Briefings 156.5 Programming Hours 562.5 Volunteer Hours 2099 Resources and Referrals

6HRS OF MRT TRAINING 58 TEENS TRAINED

### WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

• DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY AND AGE-APPROPRIATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING TO NATIONAL GUARD CHILDREN AND YOUTH BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DEPLOYMENT AS WELL AS EVERYDAY MILITARY LIFE.

• COLLABORATE WITH SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE AWARE OF THE UNIQUE SITUATIONS MILITARY FAMILIES FACE.

- CREATE COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO NATIONAL GUARD FAMILIES.
- PROVIDE NATIONAL GUARD CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH THE TOOLS TO BE "READY" AND RESILIENT DURING THE DEPLOYMENT CYCLE.



Halloween "Spook-Tacular" Night

ATTENDED CYS PROGRAMMING 160 6-12 year olds

**215** 13-18 year olds

> **53** Volunteers

**1877** Adults Served

"Yummy for the Tummy" Live Puppet Show



#### **CA NATIONAL GUARD TEEN COUNCIL**

This year, the FY21 California National Guard Teen Council was made up of 9 youth, ages 13-17. They selected a suitable theme that reflected a winners mentality, "EXPECT TO WIN". The Teen Council persevered through this year and proved to CYS staff, State Leadership, and to themselves that with every program implemented, they expected great results! We desire for our Teen Council to carry this mindset of great expectancy as they execute their responsibilities which include, but are not limited to: attending specified training, briefing service members and families on the Teen Council and Child and Youth Program, host the Dandelion Club & serve in their community.

#### **THE DANDELION CLUB**

Our Dandelion Club, led solely by our Teen Council, offers our CA Army & Air NG Youth grades 6th-8th the opportunity to grow and gain skills in the areas of resilience, positive mindset and goal setting all while engaging in fun activities that allow them the room to meet other CA Army & Air NG Dependent Youth and share their life experiences. Upon registration, new Dandelion Club members receive "swagged out" welcome packages shipped directly to their homes that prep them for Dandelion Club sessions. During the sessions, Teen Council members led discussions that range from how to better help their parents, to social media safety, self-image and confidence, and "cutting vourself some slack". Guest Speakers share a message of hope and inspiration with Dandelion Club members that ties all the discussion topics together for the session. This allows for the closing conversations amongst club members to be riveting, life changing and truly encouraging. Our Teen Council members and CYS Team realized that the true way for our military youth to grow in the community is through sharing their common experiences and the Dandelion Club offers that for them!

## MUSIC AND PAINT

The CA Child & Youth Program partnered with Bakersfield Art Association (BAA) for an amazing paint and music event that focused on encouraging youth to find healthy outlets during stressful times, such as deployments. They welcomed attendees by

acknowledging our guard dependents as "Dandelions" on their welcome board. Upon arrival, the BAA led attendees in drawing beautiful Dandelions and butterflies. As the class progressed, and attendee's got more comfortable, they received canvas' to paint their pictures on. While painting their pictures, the instructor demonstrated how to create different effects on each paint brushes. At the end of the event, each youth got the opportunity to share their painting and our Southern CYPC, Nathali Duran Camou shared the importance of healthy stress management and what it means to truly be resilient like a Dandelion!



#### **RESILIENCE TRAINING**

Resilience Training is designed for adolescents, and is based upon a state-of-the-art adult program delivered to U.S. Army Soldiers and their spouses. When faced with stress and/or adversity, resilience is the key factor in one's mental, emotional and behavioral ability to cope with and recover from the experience, achieve positive outcomes, adapt to change, stay healthy and grow from the experience.



Region 9 Symposium HI, GU, AZ, NV, CA

> R&R ADVENTURES FAMILY DAY

#### VOLUNTEERS

The Child and Youth Program understands the importance of volunteers. Often times, our program attendance exceeds child-to-staff ratio and with the help of our volunteers, we are able to facilitate effective programming. Some volunteer responsibilities include attending required trainings, providing supervision to CYP Youth, communicating with CYP Staff at all times, maintaining confidentiality, and keeping high energy while remaining engaged with CYP events/programs.



# VIRTUAL YOUTH CAMP

With safety of all our military children being in the forefront of our minds, the CA Child & Youth Program Team teamed up with Happy Camper Live for 2021 California National Guard Youth Camp! This virtual summer camp was one to remember with LIVE interaction from camp counselors, the CYP Team, and the Teen Council. Camp attendees participated in engaging activities such as "LIVE Hike", wilderness survival skills training, Zen Tangle Rock craft, Paracord Bracelet creation, "Riddle Me This", Camp Escape, Talent Show, Campfire Songs, and Sign Language Discovery. And as a special treat to our campers, the CA Child and Youth got renown speaker, Gabe Salzar to send us a special shout out! WOW! Amidst these activities, our Teen Council and the interactive Happy Camper LIVE camp staff discussed the importance of resilience in order to sharpen camp attendees resilience skills before the new school year began. Without a doubt, this year's virtual summer camp was TRULY memorable!

# MOMÌ

"T'd like to take a minute to thank you (and any others working behind the scenes) to make this event.... and others like it happen. My son really enjoyed the experience...Thank you for working to find opportunities like this..." V/R, MAJ Robert Ashley (Bob), Commander

MAJ Robert Ashley (Bob), Commander C Company, 1-19th SFG(A), CA ARNG





"I had to let you know how precious it was giving the bears to the kids... Our sons have had some really hard days and I know these Deployment Bears will help. I would have never thought something so small could make such an impact. They both have not let them go since they got them. Thank you!!" Blessings, Ashley Burns (Spouse of SM)

"I want to let you guys know that I appreciate all of your efforts.... COVID disrupted many of your plans, but I'm amazed at what you've been able to do virtually....and your social media game has exceeded my expectations. I'm very excited about the Teen Council and how you've been able to get them more involved than every before! Thank you for all you do to support our military families." Jennifer Lucero State Family Programs Director



## WHO SUPPORTS OUR MISSION? CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR PARTNERS

The California National Guard Child and Youth Program has the unique privilege to build and maintain strong community partnerships that help us to better serve our youth and families. These partnerships continuously prove to be a vital part of the success of the Child and Youth Program. This year, we utilized numerous partnerships that helped us to facilitate a wide range of programs such as Virtual Resilience Training, Pet CPR, Team Building, Leadership, Photography and Home Economics training. Most notably, we had the pleasure of partnering with the Zivko Robot brand to put on a "Robotics and Resilience" assembly and LIVE Zoom event. Attendees were shipped Zivko Robots and Lead CYS Coordinator, Lewis Keys recorded a 3-part assembly video where he guided youth in the assembly of the robots while helping them to see how perseverance and resilience can be found in almost every aspect of life; even robots! The following week, youth attendees joined the CYS Team and the Teen Council on the Zoom platform to enjoy activities, show off their robots, and to share how they had to be resilient in the building of their robots.



## MEET THE CALIFORNIA CYS TEAM "ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE WITH FAMILY"





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Stay Connected!





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