

THE FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP ONLINE

14-Day Search

[advanced search](#)

WEATHER  **75**
forecast...

[Click here](#) for more local weather conditions

[Home](#) [News](#) [Features](#) [Post Notes](#) [Perspective](#) [DoD News](#) [Entertainment](#) [Sports](#) [Links](#) [About Us](#)

[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

News

Friday, July 11, 2008

Covenant dividends paying off for families

Published: Thursday, June 5, 2008 8:55 AM CDT

[E-mail this story](#) | [Print this page](#)

Melissa Bower | Staff Writer

Employees who support Fort Leavenworth's families say the Army Family Covenant is coming through on its promise to help.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, or FMWR, has been able to add or improve dozens of programs for children, spouses and service members with additional funding. Army Community Services will add five new employees. Child and Youth Services was able to eliminate an \$18 child care fee and provide some free and discounted child care. FMWR has plans for a water spray-park, mini golf course, skate park, car shop, a recreational rental equipment program, and a fall concert. The covenant has brought extended hours to Gruber Fitness Center, reduced swimming fees and given a \$5,000 grant to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers for deployment support.

Janice Downey, ACS director, said she was pleased with the addition of new employees - what the covenant calls "right-sizing."

"We were really under-strength," she said. "And by right-sizing us, it brings us up to 90-percent

Symbol Lookup



NSDQ	2257.85
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)
NYSE	8435.94
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)
S&P 500	1253.39
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)
AMEX	2159.57
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)
RUS 2K	670.44
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)
Crude Oil	145.39
▲ +3.74	(+2.64%)
30YR Yield	4.45
-- +0.00	(+0.00%)

Quotes delayed at least 20 mins.

[Market Summary](#)[Market Movers](#)[My Watchlist](#)

FREE
Subscriptions to
Business
Publications



staffed, which gives us a green in the accreditation requirement for ACS."

ACS has eight civilian and three contract employees, and plans to add five new employees. Positions added are in the employment readiness program, information and referral, mobilization and deployment and a family advocacy specialist. Downey said before the additions, other ACS employees augmented these positions.

"It also has a great impact on the service availability," she said. "Especially during the mobilization and redeployment of Soldiers and families."

ACS will also be able to offer more parenting classes through the Parent-to-Parent program. The program offers new parents hospital visits when the baby is born and follow-up home visits.

"We like to welcome new Army family members and offer parents a place to come and adapt to the new requirement in their families," Downey said.

She also said ACS would be able to extend its reach to similar Guard and Reserve family support programs.

"It's a connectivity," she said. "That was the Army's plan, to integrate Guard and Reserve into the fold."

The bulk of FMWR's Army Family Covenant changes are in Child and Youth Services. Children and spouses of deployed parents, wounded warriors or fallen warriors now have a variety of free or discounted child care and discounts for Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills classes. For example, a family of a wounded warrior can receive 16 hours of free care per child per month and a discount of \$2 per child hourly rate beyond that, unlimited free hourly child care during medical appointments, up to four free SKIES classes per child and up to two free sports

ONLINE POLL

ADVERTISEMENTS

RSS FEEDS

XML [Click here](#) to find out about our RSS feeds and what they are

classes per child. Wounded warrior families would also get free child care during mandatory deployment meetings and family readiness group meetings. For more information about CYS Army Family Covenant benefits, visit FMWR online at www.fortleavenworthmwr.com/mwr_youth.

Steve Wilburn, Community Recreation Division director, said the BOSS grant supported a dinner for the Headquarters and Headquarters, 705th Military Police Battalion Soldiers returning from deployment and their families. FMWR Recreation was also able to stock the refrigerators at the Single Soldiers Quarters.

"We're moving along and able to offer reduced pricing and programs," Wilburn said.

He said the Army Family Covenant allowed Gruber Fitness Center to offer longer hours and free lap and open swim at Harney pool.

Future plans for covenant dollars include outdoor recreation equipment rental. Families will be able to rent small boats, fishing gear and camping equipment. In the same facility at 755 W.

Warehouse Road, there will be an auto craft shop. Car owners with the know-how will be able to change the oil and make minor repairs to their vehicles. The facility is scheduled to open this winter.

Sometime this fall, FMWR and Fort Leavenworth will host a "big name" concert funded through the Army Family Covenant. Wilburn's keeping that name a secret for now, but the concert will likely be in Eisenhower Auditorium at the Lewis and Clark Center.

Donna Shinn, FMWR director, said Army Family Covenant has truly had an effect on its five focus areas: family programs and services; health care; Soldier and family housing; schools, youth services and child care; and expanded employment and

education opportunities.

"The bottom line is that it gives us money to do more programming to serve more Soldiers," she said.

Copyright © 2006 [GateHouse Media, Inc.](#) Some Rights Reserved.

Leavenworth Lamp WEEKLY :: Room 112, 600 Thomas Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
Phone: (913) 684-5267 | Email: editor@ftleavenworthlamp.com

Original content available for non-commercial use
under a [Creative Commons](#) license.



IYP and SEO vendors: [SEO by eLocalListing](#) | [Advertiser profiles](#) | [Yellow Pages by Premier Guide](#)