

Greetings Friends of the Fort members!

Here's a quick update of Friends happenings over the past month.



A few Saturday's ago Friends sponsored and staffed a very successful USO Food drive at our local Wal-mart. Over \$1,500 in non perishable food items plus over \$350 in cash was collect in just 5 hours. It was great to see the generosity of our community. The USO is a private, not for profit, organization dedicated to creating a "home away from home" for America's service members. The local facility at Fort Leonard Wood serves an average of 2,000 service members each week. They offer snacks, Internet access, movies, books, greeting cards and a place to relax. Every food item and all cash will stay local to support our local FLW USO.

On June 12 Friends along with other regional organizations supported the AUSA "Salute to the Soldier" Golf outing at Piney Valley golf course on FLW. Held in conjunction with the Army's birthday celebration, over 25 Soldiers were given a FREE day of golf with community and business leaders. Thanks to the many Lebanon businesses who supported this great event.

On June 18 over a dozen Lebanon leaders enjoyed a day at FLW. Friends partnered with St. Robert / Waynesville and Rolla organizations plus St. John's Hospital Lebanon and organized a tour of the installation. This event included a command brief, bus tour, lunch in Soldier facility, plus hands on training. All in attendance were impressed with the size and scope of the Fort.

Our Wounded Warrior Fund continues to help Soldiers and their families in time of need. To date in 2009 10 grants requests have been approved totaling \$5,300. This terrific program is a regional partnership with AUSA, Friends of the fort, the Committee of 50 from St. Robert/Waynesville, and Rolla's Phelps for the Fort. The goal has always been to have a check in the hands of Soldier or family within 48 hours.

As you can see it's been a busy month with much more to come this summer. As always you are welcome to join us for committee meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 am at the Chamber offices. Our next meeting is 9 July. We hope to see you there. Thanks for being a Friend of the Fort!

Mission - "Build strong relationships between communities, create awareness, and promote the expansion and effectiveness of Fort Leonard Wood".

Steve Ehrhardt