



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Barb Bettin, President\CEO
YMCA of Lincoln, NE
(402) 434-9201
bbettin@ymcalincoln.org

**THE LINCOLN YMCA PROVIDES SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES AS PART OF
\$31-MILLION INITIATIVE**

Armed Services YMCA and Department of Defense partnership gives military families access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs

(LINCOLN, MAY 31, 2011) — As part of the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach Initiative, the YMCA will provide military families with access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs at community YMCAs nationwide. Membership fees will be underwritten by the DoD and administered through Military OneSource, an information and referral service for military families. YMCA of the USA, the national resource office for America's 2,686 YMCAs, will help launch the initiative at participating YMCAs across the country.

"The Lincoln Y is happy to help meet the critical needs facing families of deployed military service members," said Barb Bettin, President\CEO, Lincoln YMCA. "Families are the most affected when a loved one gets deployed, so we are deeply committed to providing them with the support they need."

The ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative responds to a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to support military family readiness and to ensure that military family readiness programs and activities are available to all deployed National Guard and Reserve families, and some active duty families in certain special categories.

Eligible military families participating in the initiative are eligible for YMCA memberships based on participation requirements. Those eligible to participate in the new initiative include:

- All interested families of joint deployed National Guard and Reserves of all military branches;
- Active Duty Independent Duty station personnel and their families; and
- Relocated spouses and family members of deployed Active Duty personnel.

"The YMCA has a long history of supporting military service members and their families – since the Civil War – so it was natural for us to join this initiative," said Bettin. "During this time of conflict, it is more important than ever that we continue providing services and support to these families in the absence of a deployed spouse."

More information about the ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative can be found by visiting www.asymca.org. For information about participating YMCAs, please www.ymca.net.

In 2010, the Lincoln YMCA provided over \$1,221,742 in financial assistance and services to children, families and individuals in our community serving children through the annual Strong Kids Campaign. The Y is also a leader in three important community initiatives including Character Development, which is integrated into all programs, Developmental Assets, which are building blocks for a strong community and Activate America, which focuses on youth obesity, healthy and active living.

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