



August 1, 2009

## **FLORIDA BRAIVE FUND AWARDS \$2 MILLION IN NORTH FLORIDA DURING FIRST YEAR**

JACKSONVILLE, Florida - The **Florida BrAlve Fund** concluded its first year of grantmaking awarding almost **\$2 million in grants** to North Florida organizations that help military service personnel and their families during the difficult transition from active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq to U.S. civilian life.

From August 2008 through July 2009, The Florida BrAlve Fund awarded 10 grants to Northeast Florida organizations, supporting a wide range of services, including reintegration services, medical and mental health services, information services and emergency financial assistance. A complete listing of grants is attached.

Grants went to organizations located across North Florida, from Volusia County on the Atlantic Coast to the Florida Panhandle.

“The military community is an important part of North Florida and we are honored to have the opportunity to provide this level of support,” said Kathleen Shaw, program director with the Florida BrAlve Fund at The Community Foundation in Jacksonville. “The community organizations with whom we have worked have demonstrated a deep commitment to this community and an understanding and sensitivity to the unique needs of these service men and women.”

The Florida BrAlve Fund was established at The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, and two other Florida-based community foundations, in 2008 with funds from the Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund of the Los Angeles-based California Community Foundation. IADIF was created in response to a multitude of unmet needs arising

among military service men and women and their families as a direct result of their deployment.

Each community foundation received \$5 million to support the unmet needs of men, women and families impacted by deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Through the redistribution of grant funds to qualified nonprofit organizations that serve the target population, The Community Foundation in Jacksonville supports those individuals living north of Levy, Marion and Volusia counties. The Dade Community Foundation and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice support those living elsewhere in the state. (For more information, visit [www.floridabraive.org](http://www.floridabraive.org).)

The Fund anticipates a second round of grants to be awarded during 2009-2010.

The Community Foundation in Jacksonville works to stimulate philanthropy in order to build a better community. The oldest community foundation in Florida, it has assets of \$161 million.

**Contact:**

The Community Foundation in Jacksonville  
Kathleen Shaw, Program Officer  
904-356-4483

[kshaw@jaxcf.org](mailto:kshaw@jaxcf.org)

Mary Kress Littlepage, KBT & Associates  
904-384-8496

[mekl@comcast.net](mailto:mekl@comcast.net)



*Helping Floridians impacted by  
deployment to Afghanistan & Iraq*

### **2008-2009 GRANTS**

**American Red Cross, Capital Area Chapter** - \$150,000 for emergency financial assistance to meet the needs of military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and based in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

**American Red Cross of Northeast Florida Chapter** - \$607,256 for emergency financial assistance to meet the needs of military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and based in Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette, Dixie, Columbia, Levy, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns and Putnam counties.

**American Red Cross of Northwest Florida** - \$150,000 for emergency financial assistance to meet the needs of military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and based in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties.

**Eglin AFB Support Center Activities Council** - \$20,000 to provide a monthly Deployed Spouse dining program and special events for families affiliated with Eglin Air Force Base while their loved ones are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, and to offer emergency assistance to fill gaps beyond services currently available for these families.

**Florida Alliance of Information & Referral Specialists (211)** - \$152,990 to establish the BrAlve Helpline, a single 1-800 number accessible throughout the State of Florida and operated through regional 211 call centers. The Helpline will offer information and referral services for active military personnel and veterans serving

or who have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan and their families. The focus will be on supporting and connecting these military families to services to help them cope with the challenges of daily life prior to, during, and after their deployment, including the often stressful transition back to military life. These military personnel and their families will also be able to search for services in their area via a BrAlve Helpline Online Resource Database.

**Hurlburt Field Airman & Family Readiness Activities Council** - \$40,000 to provide reintegration retreats and activities for returning military personnel and their families, and a deployed spouse and returning families dining program for military personnel and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Services provided for those in Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa and Walton counties.

**National Guard Foundation** - \$425,956 to establish the Florida National Guard Emergency Relief Fund, assisting eligible Florida National Guardsmen and families impacted by deployments to Iraq and/or Afghanistan with financial emergencies, as well as reintegration assistance following a deployment.

**United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties** - \$240,000 to increase the community's capacity to care for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom military personnel, veterans, and families who need access to quality, culturally competent, and timely mental health support services.

**Workforce Board of Okaloosa/Walton Counties** - \$50,000 to provide specialized training for school guidance counselors and local community support organizations (including nonprofit and government agencies, substance abuse and mental health providers, and others) to enable these professionals to better understand and provide support to military personnel and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Workforce Plus** - \$150,000 to add a staff member to the Veterans Services department of WORKFORCE *Plus*, serving Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla counties, to provide job referral and counseling services and help Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans translate and market their military experience in a civilian employment environment.