FALL 2016 ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS

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We serve a living God who is on the move, but who does not always move in ways we expect. Jesus gave the command, “Follow me,” on many occasions. Following someone indicates movement. This mysterious aspect of God was captured by C.S. Lewis in *The Chronicles of Narnia* in a lion character, Aslan: “They say Aslan is on the move — perhaps has already landed.” God has definitely been “on the move” in MCYM, leading us in new directions as we reach out to America’s military teens.

The MCYM Board of Directors, at a regularly-scheduled meeting on February 27, 2016, sensed God was moving MCYM away from its 36-year practice of contracted ministry. As a result, the board decided to end this practice by not signing any new contracts.

The board also directed MCYM to begin pursuing non-contracted ministry to military teens in a collaborative partnership with U.S. military chaplains, and to do so on-installation through formal written agreements with military commanders. MCYM has had initial success in pursuing these board directives at Army and Air Force locations in the United States and overseas. In addition, MCYM is in direct coordination with the other military services, who are also responding positively.

In the months prior to the board’s decision, MCYM adjusted its contracted-ministry model at some locations to adapt to the military’s rapidly-changing contracting environment. This caused one of MCYM’s partner agencies, Youth for Christ (YFC), to reconsider its approach to military-teen ministry and to develop a separate YFC-Military ministry model. This series of events led to the end of MCYM’s partnership with YFC, effective September 30, 2016.

Jesus “… said to them all: ‘ … follow me’” *(Luke 9:23, NIV).* God is on the move. Endings are also beginnings. The end of contracted ministry and the YFC partnership has created the beginning of non-contracted MCYM ministry and a new collaborative relationship with YFC-Military, similar to MCYM’s relationship with other Christian military ministries. MCYM is continuing in partnership with Young Life, and the non-contracted ministry model has been incorporated into this partnership agreement. As we all move together into the future, I trust the entire MCYM Club Beyond family will be led into the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to walk in, as we continue to reach out to military teens with the gospel and heed the call of Jesus to “Follow me!”

In Gratitude,

Marty McCarty
Executive Director
ON THE MOVE AT FORT CARSON

By Jodi Chesemore, Director of Communication, MCYM

“This is going to be great and I already talked to my other mom friends and we are going to make this happen!”

For over 10 years there has been a prayerful concerted effort to have Club Beyond officially at Fort Carson. In September it became our first non-contracted location and the enthusiasm is running high from parents to kids!

Fort Carson is the fourth largest Army Post in the U.S. This 137,000 acre base is the home of the 4th Infantry Division, the 10th Special Forces Group, the 440th Civil Affairs Battalion (USAR) and more! Military families at Fort Carson experience multiple deployments and live with the uncertainty of moving each year. This inconsistency, along with the fear that comes when a parent is deployed can make life challenging for military teenagers at Fort Carson, but it also provides an incredible opportunity for Club Beyond staff to walk alongside these teens, earn the right to be heard and help them realize their full potential as they share the good news of God’s love with them.

Chris Bell, community director for Club Beyond, brings with him several years of experience working with Young Life’s Dale House (a residential home for troubled teens) and serving with Club Beyond overseas. “I’ve already noticed a great energy to this base and strong sense of community. It’s been a thrill to get into the middle school on post and see the joy from each kid’s face every day. They are talkative, joyful and a great joy to be around! Looking forward to getting more momentum behind club and seeing what God has in store!”

Please pray for Chris as he begins building relationships with the students at Carson Middle School on base!
One of the perks of doing Club Beyond in England has been connecting with U.K. Young Life in their ministry with British kids. This summer, Alconbury and Spangdahlem had the privilege of taking some of our students along with them to the new Young Life camp in Scotland, Cairn Brae, for “the best week of their lives.”

Cairn Brae has a dizzying array of activities: canoeing, kayaking, AirSoft, Frisbee golf, the Highland messy games, an all-camp hike, octoball, and even learning a ceilidh (“kay-lee,” a traditional Scottish dance, like a square dance). But all of that is designed for kids, not just to have fun, but as part of hearing and experiencing the gospel in a way they can relate to. A daily highlight was club, where our speaker Brooke Johnston used humor, art, personal stories, and Scripture to explain how much Jesus loves them. Students were able to process this during cabin times, where we, their leaders, sat down with them after club to listen to their thoughts and questions after each club.
By the end of the week, we had five of our Alconbury kids say “yes” to a relationship with Jesus. At the new Christians walk on the last day, Brooke got the students to select a rock and take it up the hill overlooking the camp to add it to the cairn: a physical act to help remember a spiritual act. It’s moving to be a part of, and lets kids see that many others made the same decision they have.

“I’ve attended Cairn Brae for two years now and I can honestly say those two weeks were some of the best in my life,” said Julie, an 11th grader. Thad, also a junior, said, “There are just no words to describe it. They took a book that was made thousands of years ago and made it more interesting than most books are today.” He added: “During this past year I’ve spent with Club Beyond, I have grown and changed as a Christian and as a person. And to be quite honest, that has to be one of the best things anyone can do for me.”

For the guys who went to camp, we’ve now started a weekly “guys lunch” to start reading and discussing the book of Mark. Pray for us as we get to continue investing in these students’ lives as they follow after Jesus!
A SAFE HAVEN
By Steve Paquette, Community Director, Fort Benning

This summer I received a phone call from the youth worker in Fort Polk, Louisiana. She informed me that an Army family was moving to Fort Benning, and she wanted their daughters to get plugged into Club Beyond on Fort Benning. She gave me the girls’ phone number so I could contact them and tell them about activities we have going on with Club Beyond and how they could get involved. A few weeks went by, and we made contact with Sarah, one of the sisters, and let her know about the high school Club Beyond activities and schedule.

The second week of high school club, we met Sarah for the first time. She was a bright and bubbly young lady, and I could tell she was going to fit in at Club Beyond. As I was speaking with Sarah, she informed me that after they moved to Fort Benning, her sister, Molly, had been diagnosed with leukemia. Molly is in the seventh grade and attends the middle school on post. Molly’s chemotherapy requires her to be at the Children’s Hospital in Atlanta. Since Molly spends all week at the hospital, her mom stays with her. Sarah informed me that her dad takes care of her and her sixth-grade brother, Adam, during the week, and the family visits Molly on the weekends. It became obvious that Sarah was missing her sister and the time they spent together.

This has become like a deployment for Sarah’s family. When one parent is away, the older children tend to have to don new roles. Sarah has been asked to become a surrogate mother, helping take care of her younger brother. Sarah’s dad is a lieutenant colonel and a battalion commander on Fort Benning, a job that demands much of his time. I recently had the opportunity to visit Sarah’s dad in his office and let him know that we, as Club Beyond, are a haven for his teens during this uncertain time. I was able to pray with him and encourage him as well.

Club Beyond has been an outlet for Sarah to decompress. She has been able to come and put the stresses of the family aside for a little while and be a teenager. Sarah has been able to connect with other teens from her school at Club Beyond and make new friends. What a privilege it is to walk with her through this difficult time in her life. Weekly, we remind Sarah that, even though she can’t see it, God has a plan in all of this, and He is always going to be there walking alongside of her.
Club Beyond is a Christ-centered community of leaders with an exclusively military focus. Our methods are incarnational, and our perspective is ecumenical. We leverage strategic partnerships for the greatest results. We value professionalism from our staff and excellence in our stewardship.

Christ-Centered Community
Committed to healthy relationships with God, self and others.

Military-Focused Ministry
Exclusively serving military teens, families and chaplains through volunteers and staff.

Incarnational and Ecumenical
Pursuing relational inreach and outreach ministry with every military teen.

Strategic Partnerships
Collaborating with like-minded organizations for the greatest results.

Professionalism and Stewardship
Expecting excellence in ministry, administration and finances.
"Marathon" has been defined as: a difficult undertaking; a lengthy and difficult task, event, or activity. Our American Servicemen and women continue in the enduring marathon of defending our freedoms and protecting our nation while the stressors of military life continue to affect their families. In addition to the normal adolescent pressures, military teens deal with frequent moves, inconsistent relationships, and anxiety and fear when a parent is deployed. It is these same kids, who because of the challenges they face, have the potential to become our resilient leaders of tomorrow.

Club Beyond/MCYM is privileged to walk alongside military teens, mentoring them and modeling the love of Christ. This last year, 90 Club Beyond staff, along with nearly 1,000 volunteer leaders, worked to provide youth ministry on 45 military installations around the world. Club Beyond serves at locations with nearly 65,000 military teens, but another 235,000 teens live on installations where we do not currently have ministry. Please join us in our vision of seeing “every military brat believe” and caring for the leaders of tomorrow.

VISION: Let every military brat believe.
MISSION: Celebrate life with military teens, introduce them to the Life Giver, and help them become more like Him.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Healthy subject matter experts providing effective military youth ministry.
MCYM is a faith-based ministry, which means that the largest single source of income is raised by staff through thousands of individuals, churches, foundations and corporations who invest in the lives of military teens through their donations.

MCYM adheres to high standards of financial responsibility and transparency. To ensure that military teens benefit directly from donations, 90 cents of every dollar is spent directly on Club Beyond Programs. We want to ensure that every dollar is leveraged to reach every Military Teen we can through staff and volunteers who spend thousands of hours being with teenagers and ensuring they experience God’s love through this relational ministry.
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“Camp was good because it gave me a place where I could be with people my age and learn about something new and personal with friends. My favorite part was interacting with the people from all over the world making friends and memorable moments. Club Beyond has made a difference in me by helping me find out things about myself as well as things about God I did not know.” — 12th grader

“I found that so many people have the same storms as me, and I don’t feel so alone now.” — 6th-grader

“It has saved me from a life I did not love and protected me from falling into drugs again.” — 10th grader

“Club Beyond has introduced me to starting a relationship with God, and I am ready.” — 8th-grader

“Club Beyond gives me a safe place with amazing people. It allows me to bring my relationship with Christ home.” — 9th-grader
Shannon (Peters) Klingen was introduced to Club Beyond when in middle school her military family moved to Bitburg, Germany, in 1997. Her parents, Pete and Angie Peters, quickly became volunteers for Club Beyond, and her first experiences were volunteering at the events and trekking along to Service Projects, Beach Breaks and Winter Blitz. Her parents have continued to support Club Beyond staff and served as Interim Community Director in Brussels last year for a few months.

When her parents were assigned to Dover AFB in Delaware in 2003, Shannon found a familiar place in Young Life. Beginning her senior year in a new country and place, she clung to Young Life and quickly grew close to the local staff. Their home was just about the only place she hung out her senior year; it was pivotal as she processed that major move at a significant time in life.

Meanwhile ... Keith Klingen grew up as a product of the church and had no real direct knowledge of Club Beyond or Young Life until he met Shannon and heard about her faith journey.

“Getting to know Shannon and her family more and more throughout the years, I could feel the whisper of the Lord encourage me to lean into military ministry. There is something so special and unique about military teens and their families, and I’m thrilled that I have the opportunity to serve both God and country by ministering to them. What a remarkable opportunity to build friendships with teens who experience such a unique upbringing. For a long time I actually tried to avoid this — the whole working with military teens thing. I had myself convinced that I wouldn’t be able to relate to military teens. After all, I grew up in the same town and never moved out of town until after I was married.

After Shannon and I started to think more specifically...
about our calling, I woke up one morning with the realization that ‘if I was able to convince this military girl to marry me and have a life together, then surely I actually could relate to military teens.’ As funny as that sounds, it was an eye-opening moment for me. I had already proven to myself that I could do it.”

As only God seems to do, opportunities arose for both he and Shannon to be involved with Young Life as volunteers and eventually as staff. In December 2015, a conversation with the interim area director in Stillwater, Minnesota, where they were working with Young Life, led to conversations with the Alaska regional director, which in turn led to more conversations at the Young Life Celebration in January 2016. Seven months later, the Klingens arrived at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and we are thrilled to have their experience, passion and faithfulness serve the military teens at this base.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS

More sponsorships are available. Please contact Christine Anderson at mcym@mcym.org.
Possible Positions World Wide

**International:**
- Alconbury, England
- Ansbach, Germany
- Aviano, Italy
- Baumholder, Germany
- Brussels, Belgium
- Camp Zama, Japan
- Garmisch, Germany
- Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- Grafenwoehr, Germany
- Hohenfels, Germany
- Kaiserslautern, Germany
- Naples, Italy
- Rota, Spain
- Stuttgart, Germany
- Vicenza, Italy
- Wiesbaden, Germany
- Yokosuka, Japan
- Youngsan, S. Korea

**United States:**
- Fairchild AFB, WA
- Fort Benning, GA
- **Fort Bliss, TX**
- **Fort Bragg, NC**
- Fort Hood, TX
- **Fort Jackson, SC**
- Fort Knox, KY
- Fort Riley, KS
- Fort Rucker, AL
- Fort Sill, OK
- Fort Stewart, GA
- Fort Wainwright, AK
- Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson, AK
- Joint Base San Antonio, TX
- Luke AFB, AZ
- Norfolk, VA
- NAVSTA Mayport, FL
- Whidbey Island, WA

Please visit our website, clubbeyond.org, and click on "GET INVOLVED" to learn more about the current open positions, job descriptions and application process.