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THE YMCA of Harrison County PROVIDES SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES AS PART OF NEW \$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

(Corvdon, Oct 2008)— As part of the new Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach Initiative, YMCA of Harrison County 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 YMCA of Harrison County is happy to help meet the critical needs facing families of deployed military service members,” said Lisa Fisher, CEO, YMCA of Harrison County, mother of past deployed sons, “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 military families, including those of the National Guard and Military Reservists.

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;
- Families living in newly established Joint Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) bases;
- 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 Robin Bays, Member Services Director and mother, of soon to be, deployed son. “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 visit www.ymcaharrison.org or www.ymca.net.

The YMCA of Harrison County serves over 7000 people in the surrounding counties. Since 2004, the YMCA of Harrison County has provided over 1,800 kids with free 3rd grade swim lessons, provided over \$150,000 towards family, youth, senior and adult membership fees, and gave nearly \$75,000 in program fees. The YMCA of Harrison County's Open Doors Program provides reduced rates for membership and programs. Please inquire at the YMCA of Harrison County or at www.ymcaharrison.org or call 812-734-0770, for more information. We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.