



Natasha's Wood Foundation...

We believe in children's wishes and dreams



The following acknowledgment is from the Office of Personnel and Support Programs, (PSP), The Office of Morale and Welfare, Support Our Troops

Written by: Mr. Ryan Cane, Senior Manager Recreation Programs (PSP)

Grant applications for the Natasha Wood Arts Program are due September 30, but I have already heard some wonderful ideas of what Bases an Wings want to do. When awarded each Base will receive a copy of Twiglet's First Birthday and will work on creating art work for A Pollen Fairy Named Squirt.

In addition on July 24, I met with the Recreation Therapist who will help design a resiliency based activity with a NW theme. (Natasha's Wood characters)

When children participate in recreational play, they develop physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively. What they learn at play provides a strong foundation that will help prepare them for future life experiences.

Studies have shown that recreation, sport and play are integral to building resilience in children. Through participation in organized activities children are developing core characteristics that will help them overcome challenges associated with the military lifestyle. Some of them you mentioned. **The CAF/DND Ombudsman report on Military Families found** "Military families are challenged in providing a healthy environment in which to raise their children. Military families are understandably worried about the long-term impacts of military life generally, and deployments specifically"

Positive experiences in recreation nurtures and helps child grow:

- Competence
- Confidence
- Connection
- Character
- Contribution
- Coping
- Control

Your (NWF), support covers organizing a quality program that builds resiliency, funds cover the costs of program instruction and supplies.

I look forward to sharing the 5 Bases with you and their creative ideas to impact children of military families, an impact that would not be possible without the generous support of Natasha's Wood Foundation and the leadership, creativity and empathy of its founder.

Ryan Cane
Senior Manager Recreation Programs