

STAR-SPANGLED BABIES



OVERVIEW

The Star-Spangled Babies program provides baby showers to expectant moms in growing military families. Due to deployments and frequent relocation, military parents-to-be often live far from their extended families and support systems. And like many new parents, they have questions, concerns, and fears.

Operation Homefront's Star-Spangled Babies showers provide these new and expectant parents with early childhood education tips and a support system when loved ones are far away.

AT A GLANCE

Star-Spangled Babies provides military parents-to-be with critical tools including:

New parent education

Common topics include:

- Postpartum support and referrals
- Sleep issues
- Stress management
- Financial planning and job skills
- Marriage counseling
- Therapeutic services

Support systems

Through peer connections with other military families, Operation Homefront promotes strategies for keeping the deployed parents involved and making the new moms and dads feel at home in the military community.

RESULTS

528

NEW AND EXPECTANT PARENTS SUPPORTED IN 2020

18,771

NEW AND EXPECTANT PARENTS SUPPORTED SINCE 2008

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Through the support of **CSX**, **Procter & Gamble**, and generous monetary and in-kind donations from local partners, we host these supportive baby showers. The need continues.

Find out how you can help at [OperationHomefront.org](https://www.OperationHomefront.org).



After a devastating miscarriage, the baby boy on the way is a blessing for dual-military parents Pfc. Joyce Sanchez and Spc. Jose Alvarez, both in the Army. He also brings with him the trepidation felt by many first-time parents.

"I'm a little scared actually," Joyce said. "When you are a first-time mom you don't know everything or what all to buy, stuff like that."

When she saw a social media post about an event benefitting military parents, she was quick to sign up. It was her first Operation Homefront Star-Spangled Babies Shower. Joyce was among the 31 moms served at the October 2020, event the Fayetteville, North Carolina area.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers and staff organized a drive-thru event where families picked up the varied offerings that included diapers, wipes, toys, blankets, and other baby items. For Joyce, the event has helped her stock-pile necessities for when little Ignacio is born. She thanked the donors for thinking of military families and making hers feel special.

"It was exciting," Joyce said. "You get there and everyone is excited for you, so that makes you feel happy, like your baby is blessed. Honestly, I cried that day. The (event) made me feel like this baby is a blessing and everyone loves him and wants to take care of him—even people he didn't know."

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

90%

of Operation Homefront's expenditures go directly to programs supporting military families.

TRUSTED & RESPECTED

[OPERATIONHOMEFRONT.ORG](https://www.OperationHomefront.org)

