

# FallenHeroes

The sadness you feel after the death of a loved one is called grief.

The Fallen Heroes Program was developed to address common issues that children ages six and up experience when there is a death in the family.

The Comfort Crew wants military kids to know they are not alone. Our mission is to ensure every military child receives the best tools, strategies, and technology to prepare them for challenges and have a positive impact on themselves, their family, and our country.

## Challenges

Since 9/11, there have been on average at least 400 military kids a year that experience the loss of a parent in a combat related death. This number does not include military children who have lost a step-parent, grandparent, or sibling serving in the US Armed Forces. Every year about 250 military kids are affected by an active-duty service member's suicide. In addition, about 2,000 children of veterans are affected annually by the suicide of a parent and thousands more are affected by the loss of a grandparent.

## How We Help

CCMK created the *Memory Box: Helping Military Kids Handle Loss*, designed to support military children who have experienced the death of a parent or close family member.

The Fallen Heroes program ensures that military children who lose a loved one to war, suicide, or death receive the support necessary to not only cope with their loss but thrive in the aftermath. The resources and services aim to help military children feel connected and supported so they know they are not alone during this difficult time.

The Grief Comfort Kit is centered around the Parents Choice Gold award-winning animated DVD, "What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?", which uses gentle humor, original music, and a compassionate storyline to explain loss to children.

## Key Numbers

- 30 Thousand: Total Children Affected
- 10 Thousand: Children Served
- 23: Suicides A Day of Active Duty and Veterans

## Kit Essentials:

*What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?* Support for kids of fallen heroes

- Award-winning animated DVD, "What On Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?"
- Award-winning book, *What On Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?*
- A journal for self expression with original artwork and writing prompts.
- Coco™, a plush toy mouse who offers comfort and companionship
- Family Guidebook with insights and tips for the whole family.



## MORE INFORMATION

Military Families can sign up to participate in this program at no cost through our website [www.ComfortCrew.org](http://www.ComfortCrew.org).



### The Impact

"Thank you very much for making that memory box. The USO gave us the Grief Kit after my step dad died in Afghanistan. My little brother was crying all the time. I put lots of good pictures and notes in it. I love

that mouse doll too. That was a good thing for that box."

— Lesley

"Many thanks to Trevor and the Comfort Crew for making the Grief Kits available to the Children of our Fallen Heroes. It is an excellent source of information to assist them through this very difficult time in their life."

— Harvey Mikulencak,  
SOS Support Coordinator