



# Cortland County Family YMCA

*We build Strong Kids, Strong Families, Strong Communities*

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*For Immediate Release*

**YMCA 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*

**(CITY, DATE)** — As part of the new Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach Initiative, The Cortland County Family YMCA will provide military families with access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs at community YMCAs nationwide. 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 Cortland County YMCA is happy to help meet the critical needs facing families of deployed military service members,” said Matthew Kemak, membership director. “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,” Kemak. “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.”

If you are a local military family whose spouse is deployed and interested in YMCA membership and programming feel free to contact the Cortland County Family YMCA at (607) 756-2893.

More information about the ASYMCA-DoD Outreach Initiative can be found by visiting [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org).

The Cortland County Family YMCA has been proudly building strong kids, strong families and strong communities for Cortland and the surrounding area for the past 140 years.

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**YMCA MISSION:**  
To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy body, mind and spirit for all