

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **200+ military men and women celebrate Martin Luther King Day by sprucing up a center for homeless children**

WASHINGTON, DC: Bright Beginnings, Inc. welcomed service men and women from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard to clean, straighten and spruce up the Center on the Martin Luther King Holiday. Military volunteers and their families tackled clean up duties in all areas of the center, including classrooms, play areas, libraries, storage spaces and administrative offices.

“Bright Beginnings was so pleased to welcome more than 200 service men and women who used their day off as a day on at Bright Beginnings,” says Executive Director Dr. Betty Jo Gaines. “Their service is one of the best ways to celebrate Dr. King’s life and legacy. We can work together to accomplish great things. All of us at Bright Beginnings are grateful for their service on this holiday and every day.”

“The Martin Luther King Holiday is a perfect time to bring attention to the issue of homelessness in our community, especially for our youngest citizens and for veterans as well,” says Olivia Hunter, the Naval District Washington Regional Community Service Manager.

Bright Beginnings, which has served more than 2,100 homeless children and their families during the last 20 years, is a nationally-accredited child and family development center for homeless infants, toddlers and preschoolers and their families. Holistic education and therapeutic services positively impact school readiness and prepare homeless children for kindergarten. Bright Beginnings’ family-stabilizing services create a more stable environment for homeless children and get their parents back on their feet.

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