

April 22, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CITIZEN-SOLDIER FAMILIES ASSISTED BY CHARLOTTE CHURCHES

Congregations Reach Out with Caring Community Teams

Many North Carolina National Guard and Reserve soldiers and their families are challenged by the demands and risks of extended deployment. To answer this call, congregations in Charlotte will come together on Thursday, May 5, at the Charlotte University Holiday Inn to attend a workshop to learn more about developing support networks for the families and loved ones of active-duty National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

The workshop, entitled “Building Bridges – Caring Communities Fill the Gap with Support and Service,” will train congregation members from a variety of Charlotte churches to form Caring Community Teams – groups of six or more people working together to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support for Citizen-Soldier families. Information will also be provided about an upcoming training event that will teach participants how to organize Caring Community Teams in their own congregations.

This workshop is one part of the Citizen-Soldier Support Program, a statewide community-based initiative aimed at serving National Guard and Reserve personnel and their families during times of mobilization, deployment and return from duty. This federally funded program is being spearheaded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in partnership with Duke University, N.C. State, UNC-Charlotte, East Carolina, UNC-Greensboro, Virginia Tech, Bryn Mawr College and UNC-TV.

The free workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. at the Charlotte University Holiday Inn located at 8520 University Park Drive. To reserve a spot in the upcoming workshop or obtain more information about Caring Community Teams, please contact Faith Community Team coordinator Michael Worsham at (toll free) (866) 757-7295 or mworsham@duke.edu.