

# Family Navigator

Supporting Military  
Families With Special  
Needs and  
Responsibilities

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# Navigator Program

“The dream was always running ahead of me.  
To catch up, to live for a moment in unison with  
it, that was the miracle.”

Anaïs Nin



# Overview

- ✦ Development
- ✦ Web-based Tool for Families and Professionals
- ✦ Navigator Service for Families
- ✦ Community of Practice



# Development

- ✿ Groundwork: Survey, research, funding application
- ✿ Year 1: 2006: Navigator role, website, conference
- ✿ Year 2: 2007: Populate site, community of practice
- ✿ Year 3: present: Build support across the country



# Web-Based Tool for Families

- ✦ Your Community: Resources provided by 33 Military Family Resource Centres (MFRCs)
- ✦ Find Resources: By topic and target group: Children, adults, eldercare and casualty support
- ✦ Share with Others: Forum for communication

<http://www.familynavigator.ca/>



# Professional Toolkit

Website has a side for families and a password protected side for professionals, which includes:

- Framework
- Service Components
- Creating a Family Network
- Advocacy
- Building a Community Network



# Navigator Service Components

- ✦ Education: Share information
- ✦ Family Support: Find resources and support
- ✦ Community Networking: Build connections
- ✦ Respite: Options, funding



# Navigator Process

1. Clarify the issue
2. Identify potential resources
3. Create an action plan
4. Follow up





# Community of Practice

- ✦ Link professionals across the country
- ✦ Learn and share from each other
- ✦ Strive towards the goals



# Lessons Learned

- ✦ Successes
- ✦ Challenges
- ✦ Moving forward



# Successes

- ✱ Family Support
  - ✱ Military Lifestyle: Individualized support
  - ✱ Special Needs and Responsibilities
- ✱ Navigator Conference
- ✱ Navigator News: Monthly newsletter for staff
- ✱ Community of Practice: Linking MFRCs



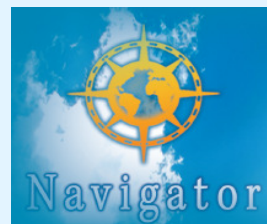
# Challenges

- ✱ Family Network: Families connecting w families
- ✱ Time: Web updates and new initiatives
- ✱ Commitment: Staff changes, time to commit
- ✱ Funding: National implementation



# Moving Forward

- ✦ Ongoing Website Maintenance
  - ✦ Populate and Update
  - ✦ Toolkit
  - ✦ Forum (Family Network)
- ✦ Promote and Network Locally
- ✦ Maintaining Community of Practice



# Questions?



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