

**Community Service 2011 Partner of the Week: ThanksUSA
Week of February 13, 2011**

ThanksUSA Supports Our Military Families

ThanksUSA, a charitable effort to mobilize Americans to “thank” our active-duty troops by providing need-based scholarships to their children and spouses, is partnering with the Financial Services Roundtable to promote academic support for military families. Since 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships for students pursuing education in the finance industry. ThanksUSA helps thousands of students develop their skills and talents so they can participate fully in the economic life of America.

“We can never forget the sacrifices our military families make every day to protect our country,” said Steve Bartlett, President and CEO of the Financial Services Roundtable. “It is important to ensure these families have the opportunity for higher education regardless of financial limitations.”

ThanksUSA is one of the most ambitious scholarship programs available to active-duty military spouses and provides meaningful supplemental support for their children who fall through the cracks of other governmental programs. Students like Shadie Andraos, who graduated *summa cum laude* from Cleveland State University with a BBA says, “I am an analyst at Barclays Capital. The scholarship assistance I received from ThanksUSA gave me the flexibility to pursue internships during college, which ultimately lead to my full-time offer.”



Shadie Andraos

As the ranks of veterans continue to grow, many of them with long-term health issues, spouses are finding that it falls to them to become the primary breadwinner. Mona Renee Ayres, a ThankUSA scholar in California, is the mother of three daughters and the spouse of a combat wounded Marine. Her goal is to earn a college Education and pursue a career in a field that she truly enjoys.



Monica Renee Ayres

Raymond Phua, a ThanksUSA scholar, was able to pursue undergraduate studies at Washington State University. Ray, currently employed as a consultant with Alvarez & Marsal Business Consulting, says, “Learning from the global community and gaining international experience would not have been an option for me without the support from ThanksUSA.”



Raymond Phua

Rebecca Kershaw, a ThanksUSA scholar from Mississippi, will earn her Bachelor of Accountancy degree this May. After passing her CPA exam, Rebecca plans to seek employment as an auditor for a global CPA firm. “If it were not for people like you, students like me would not be able to attend college. This scholarship is such a great way to show support for the men and women who risk their lives for our country.”



Rebecca Kershaw

The financial services industry supports ThanksUSA each year on “ThanksUSA Trading Day.” On that day, participating Wall Street firms will donate a portion of trading commissions to support these important scholarships. ThanksUSA Trading Day will be held May 12, 2011.

“At Bank of America, we feel that making a military family’s education more accessible is one of the best thank-yous we can give our service members,” said Jeff Cathey, Senior Vice President for Military Affairs at Bank of America.

For more information on ThanksUSA, please go to www.ThanksUSA.org.