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FFF campaign has special meaning for Indy coordinator

By **Steve Lawson**
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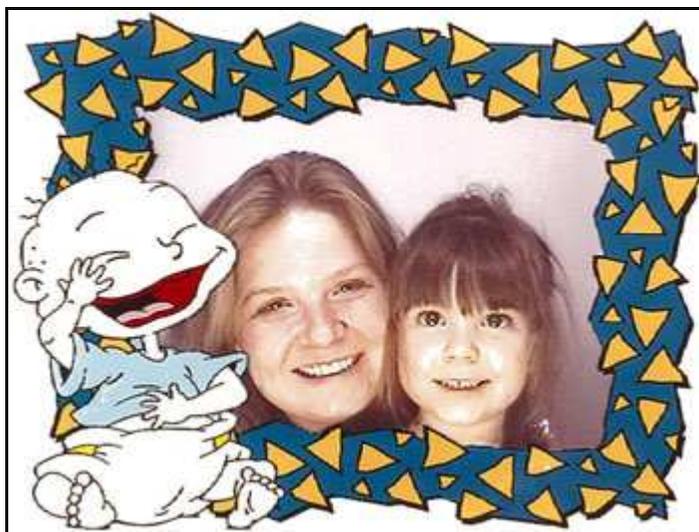
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DFAS HEADQUARTERS, Sept. 9, 2015 –

Being food insecure is not an issue most of us have to face, but for a DFAS Indianapolis employee, it was a fact of life for almost two years.

Amy Armitage, a Foreign Military Sales employee and head of this year's DFAS Indianapolis Feds Feed Families campaign, was then a single parent with a small daughter and making \$10 an hour at her job. With no child support coming in, she was also in a situation where she made too much to qualify for other programs.

"While living in subsidized housing," Armitage said, "I got connected with a neighborhood group who helped me find a food pantry near my townhouse.



Amy Armitage and her daughter Savannah are shown in this early 2000s photo. Savannah was a fan of the cartoons and was allowed to select macaroni in the cartoon shapes at the food pantry where they were able to shop once a month. (Courtesy photo)

"We would go to the trailer once a month and you could get so many pounds of food. I remember waiting until that day in the month when I could go," she said.

Armitage recalls that the older couple that ran the bank would sometimes let her daughter Savannah go back and pick out the macaroni and cheese.

"It was at the time when the shapes of the macaroni were in Rugrats," Armitage said, "and my daughter remembers going and picking the boxes out.

"It was hard to have to go, but the couple was very nice and made it comforting to go."



Amy Armitage (Courtesy photo)

Armitage said she never forgot the importance of going to the food bank, "I had always told my daughter that at some point if we got the chance to help someone else, we would pay it back.

"I know there are a lot of parents that struggle even with two people working," she said. "There are kids whose best meal is the one they eat at school, so anything I can do to help is worth the effort."

Years later, Armitage secured a term position at DFAS Indianapolis on a team that worked the travel vouchers for the BRAC site closures.

"I was able to transfer to a permanent position and have been here almost 10 years," Armitage said. "DFAS has meant so much to me; I began to go to college here and ultimately ended up getting my associate's degree.

"Now that I've finished my FM certification, I am going to shoot for my bachelor's degree next," she said.

The Feds Feed Families campaign continues through Oct. 2. Check the local site for donation locations and any other options to donate food. For more information or to make a large donation, contact the site representatives below and watch site news for more information on specific campaigns or activities.

"I can still remember the trailer," Armitage said, "and the feeling and warmth of the pantry.

It was a stressful time for me and I needed the food to get through but it was also a comfort to know it was there when I needed it."

Current totals (as of Aug. 28)
DFAS weekly total - 7,822 pounds
Overall total - 24,778.30 pounds
Hall of Fame Rebecca Tippens, DFAS Columbus - 400 pounds

Site POCs for this year's campaign are:

DFAS Cleveland - Kimberly Stahley and Kim Pilar

DFAS Columbus – **Daniel Faltermaier** and **Misty Wyatt**

DFAS Indianapolis – **Amy Armitage**, **Kate Santeramo**, and **Robin Smith**

DFAS Limestone – **Arthur Faucher** and **Amelia Beil**

Mark Center – **Stanley Ponder** and **Mike McCarty**

DFAS Rome – **Kathleen Twiss** and **Tanya Tyson**

DFAS Texarkana – **Donald Carrier**

DFAS Japan – **Lindsay Harris** and **Jerome Walters**

Have a Feds Feed Families experience to share? We're looking for stories to help support this year's campaign. Send your stories, ideas and photos to steven.j.lawson6.civ@mail.mil.

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