

Post helps Soldiers, civilians at Letterkenny

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Carlisle Barracks helps Soldiers, civilians at Letterkenny Army Depot

The Carlisle Barracks Child, Youth and School Services is branching out its program to include the Letterkenny Army Depot.

The project was started in 2007 when surveys found a need for child care services at Letterkenny. The previous facility was shut down 10 years ago due to a lack of need, explained Liz Knouse, chief of the Carlisle Barracks CYSS. Letterkenny is located in Chambersburg, Pa., about 30 miles from Carlisle Barracks.

“Letterkenny will be able to do a lot more for their employees with the addition of this facility,” she said. “It will allow more people to potentially work there because they will have child care close by.”

The project started with an assessment of the need for a child care program, which was determined by focus groups of Carlisle Barracks MWR personnel and the Letterkenny leadership and workforce.

“The Child Development Center is necessary to support the workers who support the Warfighters,” said First Sgt. Gregory Stevens, acting sergeant major of the depot. “The hard working men and women of Letterkenny Army Depot deserve a first rate facility and staff for their children. Supporting the families of Team Letterkenny is a priority for this command, and vital to the morale and welfare of its workforce.”

Phase one of the \$5million project has been completed, with the plans and site preparation being done. The facility will be a modular building, meaning parts will be constructed and then moved into position on the Letterkenny grounds. The building is tentatively slated to be completed and ready for use in the spring of 2010.

Once up and running, Letterkenny will have the same top-notch programs offered at Carlisle Barracks, from homework tutoring to physical fitness education. Hiring for the new staff is expected to begin at the end of this year. Some potential Letterkenny CYSS employees - experienced staff and college students - are spending this summer learning the capabilities of Army CYSS programs, Knouse said.

The Letterkenny leadership understands the importance of providing for their employees.

“We want to be a model employer and to do that we must support soldiers, employees and their families,” said Dr. John Gray, deputy garrison commander. “Top quality child care is an issue affecting many. We want to do all we can to make life a little better by working through Carlisle Youth Services to provide the best possible child care to everyone associated with Letterkenny. It has been several years we have tried to make this a reality and finally it is happening.”

Currently, Letterkenny youth enjoyed the Carlisle Barracks Summer Camp program. The kids are either bused into Carlisle for the day, or the camp directors, Don Watkins and Bobbie Stodter, travelled to the depot.