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USO Northwest announces hiring of Portland Center Manager

SEATTLE, WA (April 15, 2014) – After a 41 year absence in Portland, the USO Northwest is ready to support the local military and their families once again. With a new center opening July 1, and over 80 volunteers ready to serve, the only thing missing was a center manager.

The USO Northwest is proud to announce Christine Vu will manage the new center at the Portland International Airport.

"I am delighted in our selection of Christine to become our USONW PDX Center Manager," said Joe Williams, Chairman of Portland USO Board of Advisors. "There is no doubt in my mind Christine will be hugely successful in running our day-to-day operations involving not only our center at PDX, but with all of our outreach activities in Oregon and Southwest Washington."

Christine started as a volunteer, assisting Joe with campaigning for community support for the new USO center. Christine's many hours within the community and with service members further increased her desire to provide USO services to the military, she said. In 2013, she was announced USO Northwest's Volunteer of the Year for Oregon.

"I am so grateful for such an amazing opportunity, not only to work for a great organization, but to be the first manager of a brand new USONW center," said Christine. "I'm so excited to be able to reach out further to the military community in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and honored for the chance to give back to a community that has sacrificed so much!"

The new center she will be managing is 635 square feet of space on the mezzanine level of PDX. The center will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year. A soft opening for the center will be held May 8.

"I hope to quickly figure out all of the best, most efficient ways to run the center with the support of our great volunteers," said Christine. "I know I will have to rely on them when challenges come up along the way."

One challenge Christine anticipates is figuring out the correct policies and procedures to implement with the center, being as the airport has never had a USO center before.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing our volunteers interact with our military guests and their families," said Christine. The volunteers have been signed up for months, waiting for the opportunity to support our guests coming through the center, and they are so passionate about providing as much help as possible."

Christine's boundless energy, tremendous enthusiasm and attention to detail, coupled with her dedication to serving the military and their families, will help her be a great manager and solidifies why she is the perfect choice for the new center, Joe said.

"The USO Northwest has been looking forward to supporting our service members and their families in Oregon and Southwest Washington with a center, as well as other forms of outreach," said Don Leingang, USONW Executive Director. "We know Christine takes our mission to heart and will ensure we are always by the side of our military personnel."

About USO Northwest

USO Northwest serves more than 500,000 active-duty military and their families annually throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington State, and is an important part of the USO (United Service Organizations), a historic non-profit organization lifting the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide.

USO Northwest provides a touch of home through its centers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, its USONW Mobile Canteen RV, and innovative programs and services. It also provides critical support to those who need it most, including military deploying overseas and arriving home, military families, wounded warriors and their families, and the families of the fallen.

USO Northwest is not a government agency, but a private, nonprofit organization relying on the generosity of volunteers and donors. USO Northwest also is supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-15348). To join us in this patriotic mission, and to learn more about USO Northwest, please visit usonw.org.

About USO Northwest Portland Center

In July, 2014 the USO Northwest will be opening a center at the Portland International Airport (PDX). Currently, the USONW has raised \$199k in cash, pledges and in-kind donations for this new 635 square foot center. The center will be available to all military personnel and their families, including reservists and veterans. Amenities provided include laptops with free WiFi, TVs, XBOX 360s, places to sit, and free snacks. For more information on the PDX Center please visit usonw.org/pdx.

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