

**San Diego Volunteers Gather on USS Midway Museum to Support Local Military**

Unique community event to bundle “Pantry Kits” for newly relocating military families

**WHAT:** The USS Midway Museum’s flight deck will be transformed into a patriotic celebration as more than 100 volunteers come together to support San Diego’s newest military families. In partnership with Target and Midway, Blue Star Families will host a one-of-a-kind community event where the volunteers will assemble 650 “Restock Your Pantry” kits, providing food essentials for military families who have recently relocated to the San Diego region. The kits will go directly to families who moved to San Diego this summer – many arriving with unexpected costs and no local support system. The “Restock Your Pantry” event is the flagship kickoff of Blue Star Welcome Week, a nationwide initiative of more than 250 activations that support the 600,000 military families who relocate every year. The event will have several surprises including an appearance by Target’s *Bullseye the Dog*.

**WHERE:** USS Midway Museum

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025 / 9 a.m.

 ***Media are invited to cover the celebration. Please RSVP to*** ***dkoontz@midway.org***

**DETAILS:** Blue Star Families (BSF) was founded by military family members in 2009 to empower families to thrive as they serve. BSF is committed to strengthening military families by connecting them with their neighbors – individuals and organizations – to create vibrant communities of mutual support. BSF’s innovative programs are solving specific challenges for military families, including fighting economic insecurity with resources that foster spouse career development, creating family strength with rich family programming, and providing critical peer support for caregivers.

 San Diego is home to the largest concentration of military families in the nation. With thousands arriving each year, these families face steep costs and challenges as they rebuild their lives from scratch in a new town. This “Restock Your Pantry” event shows how the community, and partners like Target, rally around them. Many of Target’s local San Diego employees have volunteered their time to help make the day extra special.

 Along with assembling pantry kits, the event will spotlight a Coast Guard spouse and mom of two who just relocated here after six deployments and three cross-country moves. She’ll be surprised with a recognition during the event on Midway for her commitment to helping others despite her own challenges.

 “Restock Your Pantry” is more than an event - it’s a powerful reminder of how San Diego comes together as a community to stand behind the families who serve the nation.

**VISUALS:** Volunteers, families and civic leaders assembling pantry kits, special surprises including a cupcake celebration for the Navy’s 250th birthday, and appearance by Target’s *Bullseye the Dog*.

**INTERVIEWS:** Blue Star Families CEO, Target executives, USS Midway Museum officials, local military spouses and volunteers.

**CONTACT:** David Koontz, USS Midway Museum – dkoontz@midway.org.

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