CEO Corner // Message from RADM Cari Thomas

Little did we know when we last turned the annual calendar what this year would hold.

For nearly a century, Mutual Assistance has flexed and adapted to the needs of the Coast Guard community. With new programs to meet the pandemic, I am so proud of the adaptability and resilience that CGMA demonstrated this year. I am particularly grateful for the generosity of our supporters as well as the flexibility and finesse of our staff and representatives in the field. Amidst the socially distanced rhythms that have become the norm, the reach of our assistance has touched thousands of Coast Guard families as they have traversed the bends and necessary course adjustments due to the pandemic, fires, storms, and individual challenges.

From all that has passed, we pivot to strengthen the ties of our shared resolve for the days ahead.

Semper Paratus,

Cari B. Thomas

RADM Cari B. Thomas, USCG (ret)
The holidays have arrived bringing goodwill and great cheer!

Will you share your wishes for warmth and wonder with Coast Guard families as we close out the year?

Donate

Twins Ava & Olivia: Sisters in Waiting

There is a thrill of getting exactly what you want after waiting a long time. Eight-year old twins Ava and Olivia experienced that thrill this year when they were adopted by their stepfather, Fireman Austin Perry. Something their mom, Chelsae Perry says “the girls were asking for since they were three.”

As Austin heads to A-school, Chelsae is planning to start training for certification as a medical technician. It was while Chelsae was learning about what CGMA offered for her education goals that she discovered assistance for adoptive families. She was pleased to learn that stepparent adoption was included.

Every adoption story is different, but one thing they have in common is a lot of waiting. The Perry adoption involved waiting for the right time to even start the process so that could complete it while living in one state for long enough.

This summer, during the adoption process, another thrill arrived for the Perry family, Riley, a baby girl. While waiting for their little sister’s arrival Ava and Olivia wondered to their parents, “Will her last name be Perry?”
CGMA is honored to stand with families at these distinctive milestones. From an adoption grant for the twins and a layette package to welcome baby Riley to education support, Mutual Assistance is a ready source of support.

Chelsae reflects on her family’s experience, “It is beyond a blessing to get some help from you guys.”

Although their adoption became official last month, Ava and Olivia are waiting for one more piece of their adoption puzzle, the new birth certificate that will officially and in print seal their last name as Perry. Together Austin and Chelsae are focused on the future for their girls, their careers, and life as a family.

Getting assistance to Coast Guard families take partnership and teamwork with the financial support of friends like you. CGMA connects the Coast Guard community by helping our own. Will you make a gift that makes a meaningful difference for families like the Perrys?

Wishing for peace and goodwill as we close out the year? By making a donation today you are giving peace of mind to Coast Guard members.

Give a Year-end Gift

P.S. Remember your charitable contributions made for the rest of the year are eligible for a 100% tax deduction under the CARES Act legislation.

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