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## **Army Emergency Relief Begins Annual Fundraising Campaign – “A Hand Up for Soldiers”**

ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 1, 2020 – Army Emergency Relief (AER) kicked off their 2020 campaign with a focus on offering “A Hand Up for Soldiers.” The campaign runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> with the goal of creating greater awareness of AER’s programs as well as providing Soldiers the opportunity to donate to their fellow Soldiers.

“The assistance we provide Soldiers in need is the primary focus of the Army’s Annual AER Campaign, as well as ensuring that 100% of Soldiers are fully informed on the programs and benefits of AER.” said AER’s Director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason. “AER’s zero-interest loans and grants help Soldiers when they face difficult financial situations remain focused on their mission. I encourage every Soldier to be part of the Army’s Legacy of Caring and offer your Battle Buddy ‘A Hand Up!’”

Army Emergency Relief is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Soldiers and their Families. Since it was founded in 1942, AER has provided assistance to more than 4 million Active and Retired Soldiers and their Families. Last year AER provided \$70 million in assistance to 40,000 Soldiers and their Families. That includes more than \$10 million in full Grants to Soldiers and \$9 million in scholarship grants to Spouses and Dependents. Additional donation information is available at: <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/donate/>.

Soldiers, Active or Retired, in need of AER assistance can either contact their unit Chain of Command, go directly to an AER office at their nearest Army installation, or contact one of our partner organizations. AER has reciprocal agreements in place with the other military aid societies. This allows Soldiers to apply for AER assistance at any Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard installation with a military aid office. The American Red Cross call center (877-272-7337) can also help Soldiers apply for AER assistance if no transportation is available, or if there is no convenient military installation. Additional program information is available at: <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org>.