

Survivor Outreach Services

When Nicole moved back to Columbus in 2009, she immediately connected with the Survivor Outreach Services program on post. She took her son to various events so he could meet other children in similar situations and attended meetings.

As a survivor, Nicole said she appreciates SOS being there for her in case she has questions.

“God bless the Army for knowing that is needed,” she said. “We have a place to go. If we need help, we’re not uncomfortable walking into a building and saying ‘help me,’ because that’s what it’s for.”

SOS is for any Family member who had a loved one die while on active duty. It provides services such as counseling referrals, benefits and financial counseling, resource information, support groups and social activities.

And it’s not just for Families at Fort Benning, said Michael Doorbal, SOS financial counselor. The local program covers a wide area of Georgia and parts of Alabama.

During a time of tragedy, Doorbal said it can be hard for the bereaved spouse to focus on the difficult details of running a household. That’s where financial counseling for home-buying, college planning, investments, insurance and the like, along with all the other services SOS provides, comes in, he said.

“The Army doesn’t want them to be forgotten,” he said. “Survivor Outreach Services embraces that Family and says, ‘You do have that place where you can still call home and you have an SOS family that will take care of you.’ We encourage all survivors to be a part of that community so they can support each other. Whenever they have