



# **Army Emergency Relief Press Release**

*Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own*

December 9, 2009

## **Army Emergency Relief Earns 4 Star Rating - Its Fourth Consecutive Year**

Washington, DC – Army Emergency Relief (AER) recently earned its fourth consecutive 4 star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. According to Charity Navigator, only 8% of the charities they rate have received at least 4 consecutive 4 star evaluations. This coveted rating reflects AER's sound fiscal management and program efficiency in providing financial assistance. In 2008, 91 cents of every dollar spent by AER was for the program costs involved in taking care of Soldiers and their Families.

AER is the Army's own military aid society, founded in 1942 in response to the need for Soldiers and their Families who were experiencing financial emergencies in World War II. Since its founding, AER has provided over \$1.2 Billion of financial assistance.

AER provides financial assistance for such needs as emergency travel, housing, car repair, food and utilities. With assistance provided in the form of a no-interest loans and grants, AER provides the Army a valuable resource in helping take care of Soldiers and their Families.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their Families wherever they are located and the amount of assistance approved is only limited by a valid need. Soldiers and their Family members requiring AER assistance need only contact their Chain of Command or local AER office. *The Mannheim AER Office is located at Sullivan Barracks, Building 253, and phone is DSN 385-3101/Civilian 0621-730-3101.* Under AER's Command Referral Program Company Commanders and First Sergeants have the authority to approve AER loans to their Soldiers up to \$1,000. Based on reciprocal agreements, Soldiers and Families not near an Army Installation AER office can seek assistance from the Air Force Aid Society, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance or a local chapter of the American Red Cross. When the Mannheim AER office is closed, emergency assistance may be obtained by calling the American Red Cross After Hours number at DSN 431-2334 or CIV 07031-15-2334.

AER distributed over \$19,000 in spouse scholarships in the Mannheim Community for the 2008-2009 School Year. In 2008, AER distributed over \$130,000 in relief in the Mannheim Community and over \$160,000 in 2009 in relief in the Mannheim Community. This shows an increasing need for AER assistance. Mannheim's 2010 Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign will take place March 1 – April 16. The theme for the 2010 Annual Campaign is "Helping Maintain Army Strong". Please support AER with a contribution and encourage others to contribute. Full details on AER's assistance programs may be found by contacting Mrs. Dana Booker, Mannheim's AER Officer at [dana.s.booker@eur.army.mil](mailto:dana.s.booker@eur.army.mil) or on the web at [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).