Did you know?

In 2018, the YMCA of Southern Arizona became an Affiliate of the Armed Services YMCA, joining the other 19 Affiliates across the country that serve our military community.

In WWII, the YMCA helped form the United Service Organizations; the YMCA operated many USO service centers which also sent performers to entertain troops.

There were 4,859 YMCA volunteers in the Civil War, including American poet Walt Whitman, who was a field nurse.

The YMCA led national fund-raising efforts during WWI and raised $235 million dollars for wartime causes.

The YMCA awarded 80,000 educational scholarships to veterans, providing the model for the “G.I. Bill” that followed WWII.

The U.S. Congress authorized the construction of permanent YMCA facilities on military bases.

Irving Berlin was stationed a Fort Yaphank in 1918 and wrote the song “I Can Always Find a Little Sunshine in the YMCA”.

The YMCA travelled with the U.S. military to Cuba and the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

More than 26,000 YMCA staff and 35,000 volunteers served overseas during the First World War.

The YMCA operated more than 1,500 YMCA Canteens and Post Exchanges and performed 90% of the welfare work during war.

The YMCA operated 26 Rest and Relaxation Leave Centers in France during WWI which accommodated 1,944,300 officers and enlisted men.

The YMCA provided writing materials, postcards, stationary and assistance with writing services during the war, one of the most valued services by military and their families.