

Alumna ♦ Above and Beyond Award ♦ finalist

10/31/07

In 2004, Molly VanDuser, AU class of 1999 of Fuquay Varina, NC, had a comfortable life and a thriving practice as a professional counselor in western New York State where she had lived for 45+ years. But she was moved deeply when her son, an Army captain, called from Afghanistan to say, "We need more counselors like you at Fort Bragg -- my guys have seen too much." Within two months, Molly rented out her home and moved to be near the base, armed with only three weeks' of clothes, a computer, and her books on treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Molly worked briefly at Fort Bragg with the Victim's Advocate Program and began volunteering as a guest speaker on mental health to help veterans and military families deal with PTSD. She then joined Webster University as an adjunct faculty member at the Pope Air Force Base satellite unit, where, today, she teaches graduate-level counseling students who are also military personnel. That began her efforts to train and mentor as many local therapists as she could to treat for trauma/PTSD. Molly presents regularly at regional workshops and at state and national conferences as an expert on combat stress. She has worked with the American Counseling Association as a member of their Governing Council and has chaired the Task Force to study and disseminate information on military family resiliency. In 2007 she formed a corporation, Peace of Mind, Inc., the first trauma treatment specialty clinic in her area to offer best practices in mental health. Molly continues her own training and research through the National Center of PTSD and Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Her mission remains the same as the day she left New York -- to help the soldiers and their families. And she is doing it, one soldier and family at a time, by sharing her expertise. Above and Beyond Award Finalists! And thank you to all the thousands of people who go above and beyond every day to brighten the lives of our service members and their families. We received hundreds of inspiring nominations, and have narrowed down the finalists in each category. Now we need your help. See the list of finalists below and follow the 'Vote Now!' button to learn more about the nominees and to cast your votes! Go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/...>