

## **Office Supply Restore Supports Family Readiness Groups**



The Net Zero Waste (NZW) Office Supply Restore reduces landfill waste by offering free-issue office supplies to Soldiers, Civilians and Installation-sponsored organizations. The program is committed to building awareness so that the Fort Polk communities can benefit from its unique service offerings. A great example of the NZW's value in action is found in the recent experience of Janine and Jonathan Proto.

### **It Started by Making Recycling a Family Value**

Janine and Jonathan Proto arrived at Fort Polk from Fort Benning in August 2017 with their expanding family. They were excited but uncertain of what challenges lay ahead. In Fort Benning, Janine and her husband were committed to doing whatever they could, no matter how small, to keep recyclables out of the landfill.

A week after arriving at Fort Polk, Janine and Jonathan faced their first challenge. Due to recent changes to the on-post curbside program for housing, recycling pick-up had ended. Janine and her family were without a viable recycling option. It wasn't long before Janine and Jonathan heard about the Fort Polk Recycling Center, also called the QRP, to help resolve this challenge. They talked about it, considered the tradeoffs, and figured it was well worth their time to collect their household recyclables and drop them off at the QRP.

### **The NZW Office Supply Restore Helps Leaders Get Things Done**

Since using the Fort Polk Recycling Center, Janine has been a faithful follower of the Fort Polk Net Zero Waste & Recycling Center Facebook page. One day, while scrolling through her Facebook timeline, Janine saw a post about free-issue office supplies available at the Fort Polk Recycling Center. This post piqued Janine's interest because she had recently accepted a leadership position for the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division Family Readiness Group (FRG). These items were just what was needed to get the group off to a strong start. After sharing this information with another FRG leader, Janine contacted the Net Zero Waste office to inquire about participation rules and making an appointment to pick up supplies. She was informed that Fort Polk-sponsored organizations were eligible to participate and that no appointment was needed. With full access to free-issue supplies, Janine browsed the restore and found gently used binders, reams of legal printing paper, and sleeves of unused disposable bowls.

### **The NZW Office Supply Restore Makes FRG Activities Possible**

The FRG has to maintain several documents. Through the Office Supply Restore, Janine was able to reprint and secure files within binders, update phone rosters, and reorganize lists. In addition to the administrative support the Office Supply Restore provided Janine, it also sparked her creativity used to host other events. Through ingenuity, Janine was able to think of other uses for her free-issued supplies. The FRG used the legal paper to make kid-friendly coloring pages, the bowls helped them host the Company Ice Cream Sunday, and promote Taco Tuesday Night.

For Janine, the Office Supply Restore provided her with an easy-access, zero-cost solution to demonstrate her organizational skills. These supplies also give her confidence to know that the next leadership group is set up for success. The Office Supply Restore not only helped Janine and several families to connect with their local FRG group, but reuse of these items ensures that as a community, Fort Polk generates less waste and keeps landfill costs lower.