**A Soldiers Battle: Giving More than His Fight in Local Community**

While most families are enjoying various Christmas festivities throughout the holiday season, one **military** **family** is giving back to their **community** this **holiday season** even though one of their **family** members will be deployed to Afghanistan right after **Christmas** and before New Years.

Mark Robinson recently came home after serving six months in Afghanistan and now has to return to Afghanistan without knowing how long he is deployed. “He is home now, leaving after the holidays and before New Years; I always say the sooner it starts, the sooner he will be home. It’s never easy and the timing is never good,” said Robinson.

The Robinson family is having a more **traditional Christmas** by focusing on the essential **priceless gifts** they have received and doing what they can to other **families** who are less fortunate this **holiday season** despite their circumstances. They value each other’s time and lend a hand to their **local community** members who are less fortunate this year.

Minimal gift giving and hospital visitations will be part of the Robinson’s **Christmas tradition** this year. They are visiting cancer patients with their therapy dog, Dawson and raising money for under privileged kids at the YMCA through **Priceless gifts**.

“Christmas to us is just the date on the calendar…we understand what it means from a religious standpoint, but to celebrate and be together as a family is the true meaning to us and we will celebrate any day we need to,” said \*Jada Robinson, wife of Mark who has been in the military for eighteen years.

**Christmas traditions** all depend on when deployments happen since it is usually unknown when Mark is going to be deployed. Each year, the **holiday season** varies for this **family** who has sacrificed a lot for this country.

“My son is never a good one to cope- I always **fight** it and break down in the background,” said Robinson. You keep going on- you can’t get sucked in and get upset- it will be God’s will in the end anyway.”

“My husband is the best guy in the world-loves God, our country, and our family. I couldn’t be any more proud of my husband, even though there’s a lot of pain and sadness when he is gone,” said Robinson.

Their 5-year-old-son is comforted with positive distractions by his mother this **holiday season** with what he should be thankful for and is blessed with, not focusing on what will happen next.

\*Names have been changed due to the military circumstances.