



November 16, 2008

## A shower in a sanctuary

Webster's defines sanctuary as "a place of refuge and protection." I looked it up last night because at the ginormous "Boots and Booties" baby shower for military moms at the Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne and George Breece both talked about Fayetteville being a "sanctuary city" for military families. Later, when I picked my sister up from the airport yesterday evening, I noticed a sign that said the same thing near the exit of the airport. A place of refuge and protection. I like that. And I think it's a pretty good description of Fayetteville.

I feel safe here as a military wife. This is a place where everyone understands what it means to be in a military family, even if they aren't in one themselves. People here are sympathetic to the unique demands that military life places on us and they're eager to assist us. I left my hometown and my family to come back to Fayetteville to have my baby on my own because here, even without close relatives nearby to help, I knew I would get more support than I would in my hometown. I wanted to be where people understood my life. That understanding has never been more clear to me than it was at that huge baby shower.

There we were, 1,000 moms or soon-to-be moms, receiving gifts donated for us at a party given for us, simply because we agreed to give a part of our lives to the military. [The New York Times even came down and wrote about the shower](#), so great are our numbers and so great was the event.

So I'd like to give a thanks as big as some of our pregnant bellies to all the donors and volunteers who made "The World's Largest Military Baby Shower" possible. You showed us that our sacrifices are appreciated and that the community we live in is truly a sanctuary for us. Thank you.

Being a native southerner, I am incapable of letting a gift go unacknowledged so I'll be writing a thank you note. If you attended the event - or even if you didn't but just want to express your thanks to the kind people who put the whole thing together - you can mail your thank you note to this address:

Boots & Booties

P.O. Box 87107

Fayetteville, NC 28304

or you can email a note to [info@fayettevillecares.org](mailto:info@fayettevillecares.org)

<http://blogs.fayobserver.com/operationmarriage/2008/11/16/a-shower-in-a-sanctuary/>