

## WoundedWarriorProject.org



### **Mission**

To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of the severely injured service members, to help severely injured service members to aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

### **What WWP Does**

The WWP seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world. Many of the injuries are traumatic amputations, gunshot wounds, burns and blast injuries that will retire these brave warriors from military service. WWP is a non-profit organization with NO political affiliations.

### **How We Do It**

By providing programs and services to severely injured service members and their families during the critical time between their initial rehabilitation while on active duty and their eventual transition to civilian life.

### **Backpack Program**

Severely injured service members arriving from overseas often begin the recovery process with little more than the hospital gowns provided to them. Our backpack program provides these men and women with comfort items, ranging from clothes to CD players, to help lift their spirits. Male and female versions of the packs are provided to the severely wounded upon arrival at military trauma centers in the United States, with a more compact version of the pack being provided upon transport to facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan prior to returning to the US.

### **Benefits Counseling**

WWP employs a highly trained staff of benefits counselors who identify the government benefits and services needed to assist patients as they return to their communities and re-enter civilian life.

### **Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project**

The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, through our partnership with Disabled Sports USA, provides opportunities for injured service members and their families to experience everything life has to offer through sports and recreation. Snow skiing, water skiing, canoeing, golf, cycling, and rock climbing are great ways to develop a positive self-image and outlook and combat the feelings of depression and alienation that often accompany traumatic injury.

### **WWP Outdoors**

WWP gives recovering service members the chance to participate in outdoor sporting events with other healing service members. Through a partnership with the American public and communities around the country, WWP Outdoors offers hunting, fishing, shooting, camping, and boating opportunities all across America. The experience allows these veterans to be outdoors and active, build friendships, and give them a feeling of empowerment in their own healing process, and without the need for a lot of special equipment.

### **Warriors to Work**

Getting injured veterans back into the work force is a primary focus for WWP. This program helps wounded warriors find occupational direction and possible employment based on their skill set, interests, and employment opportunities. WWP works with outside groups to develop tools that can be utilized by both disabled applicants as well as employers looking to hire qualified applicants.

Through the generous donations of private citizens, organizations and corporations, wounded warriors are provided opportunities that ease the transition to civilian life. This support is also complemented by both grassroots and national events hosted for the Wounded Warrior Project by volunteers and organizations nationwide. Your help will further enable us to contribute positively to these programs and the people they affect.

### **WWP Peer Mentoring**

WWP will be partnering with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors ([www.phoenix-society.org](http://www.phoenix-society.org)) on a peer mentoring program entitled Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR). SOAR is a program designed by The Phoenix Society and a national committee to provide training to burn survivors or their family members who want to volunteer to help others whose lives have been touched by a burn injury. Besides our formal peer mentoring program, WWP provides and fosters opportunities for peer interaction and mentoring at all of our various sports and recreational events where WWP Alumni can meet, support, and inspire newly injured warriors.

### **Coping with Combat Stress Seminars**

WWP has held a series of two-day seminars entitled “Coping with Combat Stress”. These free, two-day events offer workshops and sessions for service members who are transitioning into civilian life from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The seminar is designed for both disabled and able-bodied service members who are understandably dealing with the effects of combat stress while reintegrating back into civilian life.

### **WWP Intern Program**

The Wounded Warrior Service Excellence Scholar Program offers veterans who have been severely injured in the line of duty the opportunity to put their unique skills and experience to work while earning a stipend to help pay for living expenses during enrollment in college, and that will not affect any retirement or disability benefits. WWP Interns work in helping other injured service members by bringing their experience of recovering from an injury to their peers. They serve as a benefits counselor, work as a

peer mentor, help lead adaptive sporting events, and work with WWP staff in accomplishing organizational goals that benefit wounded service members.

### **Outreach & WWP Alumni Program**

The goal of the WWP Alumni program is to provide assistance, communication, and camaraderie beyond initial times of need and into the future. We do not ask for membership dues because those who are eligible for membership have already paid their dues. We want to be able to provide assistance and continue communication in a long-term capacity, maintaining the bonds of sacrifice that wounded warriors share from their service to this great country.

### **Advocacy & Policy**

Wounded Warrior Project gives wounded service members and disabled veterans a voice in local and national issues. WWP's policy program monitors, creates, and pursues legislative and policy changes that will benefit active duty service members and disabled veterans of the current military conflicts. With advice and input from the wounded service members and families we serve, we develop policy and legislation covering the range of problems they face. WWP policy staff is currently working with both Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the quality of amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation and care for OEF/OIF amputees. We are also carefully monitoring the VA's creation and implementation of a new Polytrauma system of care to ensure adequate rehabilitation and care for service members coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe traumatic brain injuries (TBIs).