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IMPACT REPORT
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FISCAL YEAR

2021



**WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROJECT®**



In 2011, Army Staff Sergeant Beth King sustained major injuries in a helicopter accident in Afghanistan. The accident caused Beth permanent spinal and back injuries in addition to a traumatic brain injury (TBI), leading to limited mobility, imbalance, and sight loss. “I had lost all hope of regaining my purpose in life,” she said.

With support from a fellow warrior, Beth did find hope in a three-wheeled bike when she participated in her first Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) Soldier Ride®. Besides making new friends, she learned about other adaptive sports opportunities that have helped her find healing, connection, and purpose. Today, she is an advocate for early TBI treatment and gives back by educating others about the positive effects of adaptive sports.

“Wounded Warrior Project helped me find a support network of people who inspire me to keep going and who help me realize I can still do anything I put my mind to.”

— WOUNDED WARRIOR **BETH KING**

OUR MISSION:

to honor and empower
wounded warriors.



Wounded Warrior Project is honored to support so many veterans and families. This past year, we created more connection opportunities for wounded veterans; invested in critical mental, physical, and financial wellness programs; and provided a voice in Washington for those who have served our country. We remain humbled by the mission we uphold and are grateful for the generous support of the American public, which makes this work possible.

— WWP CEO LT. GEN. (RET.) MIKE LINNINGTON



Since our founding in 2003, WWP has been committed to helping injured veterans achieve their highest ambitions. While the nation has ended most military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, we know that the effects of war can last a lifetime.

That's why we remain focused on breaking down barriers to **mental health care**, improving **physical health and wellness**, helping veterans find **new civilian careers**, providing **long-term rehabilitative care** for the most severely injured, and **advocating for policies** that advance the WWP vision: **to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history.***



WOUNDED WARRIORS PAY

\$0

FOR OUR SERVICES —
THEIR DUES WERE PAID
ON THE BATTLEFIELD



IN FY2021, WE INVESTED NEARLY

\$210M

IN LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS
FOR WARRIORS AND
THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

*The information and statistics in this report represent program activity, impact, and Annual Warrior Survey results during the 2021 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021).

CONNECTION

No one knows what a warrior is going through better than someone who has been there. WWP helps warriors by providing a network of support and connecting them with other veterans through community events and peer support groups.

THE NEED:

As warriors navigate civilian life, it can be difficult to find the same sense of belonging they once felt in the military. This connection to peers and community is critical to overall well-being.

90%

of warriors agree that people who aren't military don't understand their experiences.

OUR IMPACT:

Of warriors and family members who participated in WWP connection events:

96%

reported that they felt socially connected to their peers.

96%

said they felt like they had people they could depend on.



WOUNDED WARRIOR
PAUL DELACERTA

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

This generation's signature wounds of war often can't be seen. WWP is investing in wounded warriors and their families through programs that help manage post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), TBI, combat stress, depression, and other conditions.

THE NEED:

About 1 in 5 warriors say they struggle to get the mental health care they need. WWP is bridging that gap with accessible, innovative, high-quality care.

75%

of warriors report experiencing PTSD as a result of their service.

OUR IMPACT:

72%

of warriors experienced fewer PTSD symptoms after receiving treatment through Warrior Care Network®.

68%

of warriors reported improved psychological well-being as a result of participating in WWP Talk emotional support calls.



WOUNDED WARRIOR
ANTOINETTE WALLACE

PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

When warriors commit to making positive changes to improve their health, WWP is ready to assist. Through coaching, nutritional education, shared physical activities, adaptive sports, goal setting, and skill building, warriors are empowered to make long-term changes toward a healthier life.

THE NEED:

Due to their injuries sustained during service, many warriors live with chronic pain and sleep problems. WWP's physical health and wellness programs aim to reduce the burden of these injuries on their daily lives.

77%

of warriors report living with some degree of high-intensity to severely limiting pain.

OUR IMPACT:

Of warriors who participated in WWP's coaching program:

51%

experienced a reduction in pain.

56%

experienced an improvement in quality of sleep.



WOUNDED WARRIOR
SEAN SANDERS

WOUNDED WARRIOR
TYSHAWN JENKINS



FINANCIAL WELLNESS

WWP knows that the time after service can feel like a whirlwind, from navigating Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits to successfully forging a new career. We advocate for warriors and their families by providing resources and assistance to live financially resilient lives and achieve their highest ambitions.

THE NEED:

Warriors face unique barriers to employment, with mental or psychological distress being the most commonly cited by unemployed warriors — leading to an unemployment rate more than twice as high as the general U.S. population.

42%

of warriors indicated that they, at some point in the past 12 months, did not have enough money to make ends meet.

OUR IMPACT:

2,100+

warriors and family members achieved meaningful employment with veteran-friendly employers through WWP career coaching services.

\$159M

in VA benefits were secured for warriors and their families.



WOUNDED WARRIOR
JEFFREY ADAMS

INDEPENDENCE

Through the WWP Independence Program, the most severely injured warriors are provided resources and support to help them live a more independent life.

THE NEED:

One in four warriors needs aid and assistance from another person due to service-connected injuries or health problems. WWP is providing ongoing support for the most severely injured warriors — giving them more independence and their caregivers more time to focus on their own well-being and resilience.

21-30

hours of care per week is required, on average, for warriors who need aid and assistance.

OUR IMPACT:

190,000+

hours of in-home and local care were provided to the most severely injured warriors, helping them reach and maintain a level of autonomy that would not otherwise be possible.

Of the caregivers who support these warriors,

49%

have experienced fewer symptoms of depression after receiving support from WWP.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

As a voice for our nation's wounded warriors in Washington, DC, we advocate for policies and initiatives that make a real difference for veterans, improving the lives of millions of warriors, family members, and caregivers.

FY21 HIGHLIGHT:

WWP supported the introduction of the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act to ensure lifesaving health care for all veterans. Many warriors have been exposed to various contaminants while on deployment and experience severe, rare, and early-onset health conditions. This legislation will expand health care eligibility both now and in the future for all military toxic exposures.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & INVESTMENTS

We believe that no one organization can meet the needs of all injured veterans alone. By collaborating with other military and veteran support organizations, we augment critical WWP services and reinforce our existing efforts in communities that need them most.

FY21 HIGHLIGHT:

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WWP co-chaired and powered the Hidden Helpers Coalition with a \$1.5 million dedicated fund. Through this initiative, WWP is partnering with best-in-class veterans and military service organizations to provide an extensive network of programs and services for the youngest caregivers of America's wounded warriors.

Every donation helps warriors achieve their highest ambition. When they're ready to start their next mission, **we stand ready to serve.**

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woundedwarriorproject.org/donate
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