

Camp Lejeune

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Next we went to the Wounded Warrior Battalion, an actual military barracks that houses many of our wounded men and women. There we met an American that should make every one of us proud. Mr. Ed Salau, the Veterans' Service Officer for Wounded Warrior Battalion-East (based at Camp Lejeune), is truly an exceptional man. Gravely wounded in Iraq, he has persevered and is now the most inspiring and articulate voice for wounded servicemen/women imaginable. Ed showed us around the barracks and put a face on the issue for all of us.

The programs of Hope For The Warriors are both inspiring and moving. Please read through them and think about supporting us this coming June.

As you read about each program, keep in mind that in 2010 you can direct your donation to the program of your choice.

A Warrior's Wish. This program was recognized as a Newman's Own Award-Winning Innovative Program for 2007. The knowledge that wishes can come true directly impacts the spirit of a warrior and of the families and communities that support them. It allows wounded vets to have an experience above and beyond their immediate needs. Disabilities can create some monumental hurdles, and when priorities change, sometimes the small, important wishes for life must be set aside. Beyond meeting immediate physical and emotional needs, a Warrior's Wish fulfills a desire for quality of life—such as realizing a dream to go hunting, ride a bike again or own a home adapted to a warrior's specialized needs.

Warrior Hope and Morale Fund. Wounded service members are currently spending months, sometimes years, in hospitals and rehabilitative facilities. Signature injuries—including amputation, severe burns and traumatic brain injury—require lengthy hospital stays and lifelong care as do a multiplicity of other injuries. Exhaustive rehabilitation can dampen the spirit of the bravest warrior. The Warrior Hope and Morale Program offers injured service men

and women opportunities for respite and recreation outside of their rigid rehabilitative schedules. The Warrior Hope and Morale Program celebrates and reengages the fighting spirit of wounded warriors by meeting emotional needs, restoring hope and inspiring a steadfast recovery as an important part of long-term rehabilitation. Whether it is a golf outing, fishing trip or chance to attend an event such as Fleet Week in New York City, the Warrior Hope and Morale Program provides Wounded Warriors the opportunity to move forward, embrace new experiences, and in the process, forge new friendships that will enhance their inner spirits. With your support, the Warrior Hope and Morale Program will help to restore hope in the eyes of a hero.

Above and Beyond. The mission of the new "Above and Beyond" program is to assist wounded service members through the transition to the next phase of their careers by providing them with the tools and one-on-one guidance to move beyond recovery and into a life of hope and new prospects.

Spouse/Caregiver Scholarships. Hope For The Warriors awards scholarships to U.S. military spouses of wounded and fallen warriors. The purpose of the scholarships is to identify, recognize and reward exceptional spouses for their strength, fidelity and resolve despite adversity and to aid in their continued education at a reputable, accredited college or trade school as they assume critical roles in the financial well being of their families. Scholarship awards are \$5,000 to be made co-payable to the scholarship recipient's institution for tuition, books and supplies. Individuals may reapply for up to four years for a maximum of \$20,000. The scholarships will be awarded twice a year to spouses or caregivers of a wounded service

member and to spouses of fallen service members.

Immediate Needs. The recovery process and transition to life beyond recovery can take an unexpected financial toll on wounded service members and their families. Travel, lengthy stays at the bedside, and lost income, and other issues can create stressful financial burdens. In order to help alleviate stress, Hope For The Warriors works daily with wounded service members and



their families to meet immediate needs, allowing time to focus on recovery. The Immediate Needs program addresses needs that are a direct result of a service member's injury. In addition, the Immediate Needs program seeks to alleviate added stress and unexpected expenses of

family members of fallen service members when delays or shortfalls in government disbursements create financial hardships. The following examples of immediate needs, although not a comprehensive list, have been deemed appropriate to the program:

- Travel to bedside where the government does not provide assistance.
- Rental cars
- Lodging assistance
- Assistance with child care
- Groceries
- Gas
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Emergency assistance with essentials to daily living—i.e., rent and utilities—during transition between active duty and disability payments. Must be verified by active-duty chain of command or VA caseworker.
- Items that assist and or supplement programs at Military Treatment Facilities and VA poly-trauma units.

Warrior House. Recognizing that wounded warriors with spouses and their families also benefit from the camaraderie and shared experiences of

others, Hope For The Warriors™ has founded the Warrior House™ program. Warrior House provides transitional, adapted, guest housing for wounded families until they can find suitable long-term housing. In addition, Warrior House will provide lodging for families visiting wounded service members at the Wounded Warrior Barracks (Maxwell Hall) or Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune. Warrior House I & II will provide adaptive housing for wounded marines and sailors returning to Camp Lejeune for unit homecomings.

Hope-n-Comfort Bears. Hope For The Warriors offers Hope-n-Comfort Bears to children of the wounded and fallen to provide comfort and encouragement during hospital visits, funerals, relocations and loss.

Wounded Warrior Barracks. Hope For The Warriors pledges its support to the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton as well as to the Army's Wounded Warrior Units and other installations so wounded service members of all military branches can come together as a team to recover and transition to the next phase of their lives, whether it be back to duty or to civilian life.

Spouses' Support Group. Wives of three wounded marines who realized there was an unmet need for additional support in coping with questions, stressors, lifestyle changes, and uncertainties that arise throughout the recovery process founded The Wounded Warrior Spouses' Support Group at Camp Lejeune. The group provides an environment where spouses can begin or continue on their own journey of healing and can gain information and camaraderie through the shared experiences of others who have walked a mile in their shoes. Members find that participation helps not only themselves but also their marines. Time taken for self-care alleviates worries marines have about their spouses' wellbeing, thereby allowing the marines to focus on their own recovery. In addition, newly attained information has permitted some to take advantage of unclaimed benefits.

Please support these efforts and save the date for Pine Knoll Shores' Kayak for the Warriors: June 12, 2010. Thanks.