



Walter Reed Society, Inc.
8901 Rockville Pike, Box 303
Bethesda, MD 20889
support@walterreedsociety.org
www.walterreedsociety.org
301-571-1580

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE WRS DURING 2023



The Walter Reed Society provided assistance to families of pediatric patients hospitalized during the 2023 Holidays.

The Walter Reed Society provided assistance to WRNMMC in support of enlisted personnel attending the WRNMMC's Holiday Ball.

The Walter Reed Society provided assistance to AAMMC in support of enlisted personnel with the purchase of commissary gift cards during the Holiday Season.

The Walter Reed Society provided support to WRNMMC for its Rapid Hiring Initiative in October 2023.

The WRS received a request for assistance via Behavioral Health for an active duty member who is in outpatient program for PTSD related to sexual trauma. She has been in the AMEDD FOR 7 years as a 68W, combat medic. She applied and was accepted into the Occupation Therapist Course while assigned in Korea and was sent TDY to Ft Sam for phase 1 with follow-on at WRNMMC. The incident occurred while attending the course which resulted in her not being able to focus on her studies and as a result she was removed from the course and was placed in an attached status to WRNMMC. This has been occurring over the past 4 months and she has not been paid as she still in technically assigned to Korea.

She was given a \$1,500 loan from AER two months ago but was not eligible for a grant since she will eventually be paid. Her normal monthly pay was \$3,800. She has engaged her Chain of Command with no results as Korea is not attending to the situation. She discussed this with the IG and was told that since it involves an Overseas Command she would be better off making this a congressional inquiry which she did and she awaits the results. She will be returning from the PTSD program on 11/9 and at some point she will be assigned as a 68W.

Considering how long she has been without pay and her current medical challenges the WRS provided a one time grant.

The WRS received a request from the AER office at Ft. Detrick for assistance for an active duty member who experienced a fire in their rented townhouse that destroyed the house and all of the family's belongings. She, her husband and two grandchildren (with them until December) moved to a local hotel. The Red Cross provided 2 a night stay in a local hotel and the AER provided a grant for uniforms and clothing and offered a loan for hotel expenses. The Soldier has several financial issues and declined the loan. She had a loan in the past and it was a challenge in paying it back. They found another place to rent that requires a deposit and the first month's rent. This remains a difficult time for this family just before the holidays and being able to move into a home immediately with this help is important. The WRS provided assistance for the deposit and first months rent.



The WRS received a request from a member of a local Marine Corps Group for assistance with the travel of a wounded Marine and care provider from Washington DC to Rota Spain. There is a Marine Corps Ball hosted by the Marines stationed there. The local Marine would be their Guest of Honor / Keynote Speaker with travel dates of 11/2 and returning on 11/7.

The Marine was stationed in Afghanistan during the withdrawal of the US and was wounded by the suicide bomber during that evacuation, his physical injuries included the loss of a leg and arm. He was treated at WRNMMC. He also recently testified before Congress investigating the US withdrawal.

I communicated with the Semper Fi /America Fund and while they are aware of the request their funding criteria does not allow for travel of this nature. While this request is a bit unusual it does support the health and well being of a Marine, who continues to be treated for his overall injuries with a sense of being embraced as a Hero and validation of his continued contribution to the Marine Corps.

The request would cover the travel only as the Marine Group stationed in Rota would cover transportation and lodging. The WRS provided this support.

We received a request via the Ft Belvoir AER office from a Specialist 4 assigned to Ft Belvoir. Her Veteran step-father, who raised her, has been ill and she was notified that he is now in hospice and has only days remaining. Her dependent sister resides with her and neither have any funds or credit cards. Even though payday was today her entire pay, less \$300.00, has gone to her monthly bills.

This is to request assistance for her and her sister to travel to Hartford, Connecticut to bid farewell to their Dad. This would include travel, car rental, lodging, and incidentals. There are also some burial cost. Her family life/issues are extremely disjointed to the point they have no lodging for them when they get home.

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When discussing this situation thru today I can't help but know that there are many, many more like her in our military, living from paycheck to paycheck and hoping something doesn't break or someone in the family doesn't get sick or die. She has been in the Army for 3 years and while carrying the burden of supporting her adult parents because "that's her obligation" she is striving to move upward. Another issue is the fact that hospice seldom moves the way folks think it will. It would be understood that if funded this would be considered a one time humanitarian farewell trip in support of our current Soldier and her Veteran father. The AER has very confusing rules on how they decide and in this case they don't assist when there are no funds owed. I plan on a continued discussion with the AER folks and see if we can obtain written rules for future use. The WRS provided this support.

The WRS supported the Quality Directorate's "Fall into Resiliency" day at WRNMMC.

The WRS received a request for assistance for the mother of an active duty Marine who was stationed in Korea and suffered a medical emergency while running. It was discovered that he had a cancerous tumor that had invaded his brain stem. He arrived at WRNMMC in August and his mom, who is a single parent, drove here to be with him. He has had surgery that resulted in paralysis on his left side. He has just started 30 daily radiation treatments. The patient's sister remained at home with her job and school attendance, neighbors are checking in on her. Just prior to receiving the news about her son, the mother's long time boyfriend died of an asthma attack that resulted in cardiac arrest. The mother performed CPR. Her unemployment has stopped and she continues to have household obligations back home. Her current bills are mortgage, electricity, gas, water, internet, cell, car payment, and car insurance. The Marine and his mother will likely be here for several months and her need will continue while she remains here with him. The obligations above reflect those of a single mom who is a thrifty person. Who has a \$130.00 per month car payment? The WRS provided a monthly grant for this mom and continued to monitor the patient's condition and her need to remain with him.

The WRS provided support for the renaming ceremony of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital to the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center. We received the following note, *"It was a great ceremony with catering reception. Without the support of the Walter Reed Society, the ceremony wouldn't have been a success. Thank you for your superb support for the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center."*

The WRS purchased eight new massage chairs for the AAMMC at Ft. Belvoir to replace the chairs we had purchased for them several years ago. These chairs had been very heavily used by the patients and staff to the point of being worn-out.

The WRS provided support of the WRNMMC Ethics Symposium in October 2023.



We received a request for assistance via a Pediatric Mobility Clinic nurse/Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation for the 8 y/o daughter of a Navy E-5 who has been diagnosed with severe global developmental delay, epilepsy and autism. The clinical staff recommended she have a safety bed, referred to as a "Cubby Bed." TRICARE denied the request. There is a quote was received from Nu Motion Mobility, a company WRNMMC and the WRS has worked with over the years. The WRS discussed this quote with them and it was revised down. The justification from the medical staff is well done and it seems clear that this young service member and family would be well served with this bed for obvious reasons. The WRS provided this support.

The WRS provided support for the Graduate Medical Education Professionals Day at WRNMMC.

The WRS received a request to provided assistance for an E-2 who arrived at WRNMMC in July to attend the 68C nursing course. Since his arrival his pay has been incorrect and he is having a challenge with his monthly obligation of a car payment,. Insurance and other obligations. The WRS provided a one time grant.

The WRS provided support to the family of a child born with an extremely rare medical condition requiring multiple surgeries. The WRS provided support for non-TRICARE covered medical care recommended by her providers.

The WRS assisted the Viet Nam Women’s Memorial Foundation in their donation of a 24 inch maquette of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial to WRNMMC. The WRS also purchased a pedestal and plaque for the Vietnam Women’s Memorial’s display in a prominent location in the hospital.

The WRS received a request for assistance via the Army Emergency Relief for a medically retired Army E-4. The soldier served for 6 years and was discharged with PTSD and is currently being treated at WRNMMC and the DC-VA. He had been working up until five months ago when his medications were changed and left him anxious, lethargic and “out of sorts.” He is married with three children. His spouse is unable to work as child care costs would exceed her income. They own a 2010 GMC with 135,000 miles; the engine and transmission require replacement and repair. The estimate for this work was \$11,732.78; he used their savings to pay a deposit of \$5,089.51 leaving a balance of \$6,643.27. He could not get a loan to cover the additional cost but due to credit issues. Their household income is \$4,100/ month VA disability and monthly rent is \$1,100. The WRS provided assistance with the car repairs.

The WRS supported the WRNMMC medical education graduation ceremony reception.

The WRS provided grant funds for the WRNMMC Nurses Week activities.

The Walter Reed Society purchased 20 tickets for E4/ GS5/6 and below for the FBCH Spring Ball. When other planned support fell through the WRS provided grant funds for the Speaker for the FBCH Spring Ball.



The WRS provided assistance to the FBCH for production of a suicide prevention video associated with their Mental Health Month Initiative in May 2023.

The WRS provided support for the FBCH Research Symposium held on May 18, 2023.

We received a request for assistance via a MATC Case Manager for support for the family of a patient who was medically retired after a full career in the artillery. He spent a year at WRAMC in 2008 as a result of a below the elbow amputation of his left arm as a result of an IED. He returned last month with a diagnosis of aggressive cancer of his

tracheotomy in place as he heals and awaits radiation followed by chemotherapy. Bone was taken from his leg to reconstruct his jaw and tissue from his chest to reconstruct his tongue and mouth. He is not able to speak or eat. Following his illness his spouse had to give up her job to assist him at the hospital as there were no other relatives to assist. She received training in tube feeding and tracheotomy care and attends to his many daily needs. The surgeon emphasized the need for a close family member's presence especially since he is not able to speak. The continued care will involve radiation for the next month followed by chemo for another month, then reevaluation. It's likely the continued care will be for the next several months. Given their monthly expenses consisting of rent, utilities, cell, gas, incidentals, and food the WRS provided an monthly grant for several months. Following a poor prognosis at revaluation, very sadly the patient chose to end his life.

The WRS supported the "Spring into MHS Genesis" event at FBCH.

We received a request for assistance via the Ft Detrick AER office for assistance for a local ROTC instructor in Fredrick, MD. His partner's mother who lives in Georgia passed way yesterday and he, his partner and their 3 children and Great Dane dog are leaving via a rental car for Georgia. Their car was not large enough and the rental car is \$911.00. In addition his mortgage, water, gas, electric and cable are due and the expected expenses in Georgia are causing a financial hardship. AER is not able to provide a loan as he and his partner are not married. He lives in WV and recently purchased their house and all of the related expenses have depleted their savings. Also there is no extended family in Georgia to assist with the funeral. The mortgage is \$2,300, electric \$230, cable \$205, water \$101, gas \$95 and car rental \$911. Recommend we assist with these bills and provide a \$500 grant as well.

The WRS provided vouchers for taxi support for patients who were brought via ambulance to the ER at WRNMMC or AAMMC and had no way to get back home or were transported from WRNMMC to AAMMC via ambulance and had no way to get back to their POV at WRNMMC.

We received a request from occupational therapy/ low vision department for assistance for a spouse of a retired member who has been diagnosed with macular degeneration of both eyes. Her eyesight is seriously failing and she is need of special eyeglasses that provide assistance with her current eyesight. The WRS provided this assistance.



The WRS assisted Mission M4 with its donation of a Portable Video Display unit for the third floor MRI Suite at WRNMMC.

The WRS supported the Holiday Door Decorating Contest at WRNMMC. We received a note: *“The MSSO Team sends their sincere appreciation to everyone that made this contest possible.”*

We provided support for a WRNMMC professional development event on 3 March 2023.

The WRS provided support for the Human Research Protections Program Symposium at FBCH. One of the key aspect of the program is to provide leadership in the protection of the rights, well being and welfare of humans in regards to how their personnel information will be protected. This program is supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We received a request via a case manager at the MATC for a 10 year Navy member diagnosed with glioblastoma. He is being treated at WRNMMC and travels from his home to the hospital as needed. He is terminal and his family also a Navy member assists with the care. The home is not wheelchair accessible and it's very difficult to transport him in and out of the home as needed. As an example on Monday there was an emergency need to rush him to WRNMMC and neighbors needed to help carry him to the car. Rental option seemed to be the best pathway. The WRS provided this support until the patient's death.

The WRS provided a one time grant to assist a widow of a service member who is being treated at the MATC. The patient was run over by her husband's ex-wife that resulted in the amputation of her right leg and serious injury of her left leg. As she was recovering her husband suddenly died at his desk at work. She is in need of a wheelchair and TRICARE will cover part of the cost leaving her with a copay. This request is to cover this co-pay as she is struggling as she seeks assistance in moving from this area.

The WRS supported refreshments for the Patient and Family Partnership Council meetings.

The WRS provided assistance to the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center as they celebrated the 10* Year anniversary of the Intrepid Spirit Center with a ceremony and reception.

During the year the WRS funded 4 Wounded Warrior dinners at American Legion Post 41.

The WRS purchased a two-year subscription to the Predictive Index Software to assist WRNMMC leaders in improving their management style.

The WRS supported the Graduate Medical Education's office Thank A Resident day at WRNMMC.

WRS ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO OTHER NON-PROFITS



The WRS provided support to the Fisher Houses Bethesda to purchase needed supplies for the families staying at Fisher Houses.

The WRS supported Wreaths Across America to sponsor about 58 wreaths for placement in a local veterans cemetery. *“I thank you very much for the support of the Walter Reed Society and for your personal support as well.”* — A Wreaths Across America Volunteer

The Red Cross requested the WRS purchase an additional 25 Inner Balance Bluetooth sensors for distribution to appropriate patients. The Inner Balance sensor and app teach you how to shift from stress and frustration to balance and resilience with real-time feedback, based on your own heart rhythm.

The WRS assisted the WRNMMC USO with funds to support a cooking clinic with Chef Egg.

The WRS approved a grant to Community Building Art Works to support their special event in August, “Day of Belonging.”

Via the American Red Cross the WRS provided 25 devices called Inner Balance Bluetooth for Android and iPhones. The Inner Balance sensor and app teach you how to shift from stress and frustration to balance and resilience with real-time feedback, based on your own heart rhythm. Response from the ARC: *“This is fantastic news! Please extend my gratitude to the WRS board for its generosity.”*

The WRS continued its support of the Oakleaf Club of Greater Washington DC’s Pediatric Stuffed Animal Program. As children are no longer allowed to bring their own stuffed animals into the hospital this program provides aid and comfort to these children who are undergoing various invasive procedures and help significantly in making their experience more enjoyable. The WRS is pleased to present this gift for the purchase of stuffed animals and toys in partnership with Gund, the stuffed toymaker. The Oakleaf Club has an established relationship with this toymaker, they receive the products at wholesale prices and the quality is exceptional.

The WRS in cooperation with American Red Cross sponsored the Rose Mologne Award given to a outstanding Red Cross Volunteer at WRNMMC. The WRS provided the recipient an engraved crystal rose bud vase and made a donation to the ARC in their name.

The WRS provided a grant to the local chapter of Blue Star Families.

The WRS provided funds for quarterly events hosted by Operation: Key West for pediatric patients at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center.

