

Walter Reed Society Assistance for 2025

The WRS has an Open Proffer to the Case Managers and departments that informs them that we stand ready to assist families with the purchase and or reimbursement of medical equipment/items that are recommended by the medical staff. All of the request that are sent to our committee have a recommendation by the patient's provider or they would not be sent. We do not have a sliding scale of our support based on rank to include lodging and other less expensive items as we have been blessed with some great donors who support our work.

The Walter Reed Society provided support for a Special Operations Command conference at the Walter Reed USO Building.

We supported the Allergy Fellowship Program with their Annual Program Evaluation Committee Meeting luncheon attended by program directors, fellows, and faculty members.

The Society supported the multiple fellowship disciplines within the OB/GYN department at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. This activity served to support and strengthen integral training programs for our physicians as they care for our service members and their families.

We supported the Department of Nursing's monthly Town Hall Meetings

Provided a Naval Academy midshipman with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) a special wheelchair needed to support his current level of functioning. For community distances he benefits from use of this portable and compact power wheelchair to allow him to have safe and independent mobility for attending classes and integration into the community. He is currently staying in barracks at the academy and does not have a lot of storage. This wheel chair provides the best option for him and gives him the ability to get around independently and attend classes.

We provided a specialized wheel chair for the spouse of a retiree who has been treated for MS since 2015. This item that allows her to have more independence as she is unable to wheel herself in a manual chair was not approved by TRICARE.

She has had MS for a number of years having had to quit working in 2015 due to falls and near falls. In 2019 her husband suffered significant cardiac issues resulting in his hospitalization and months without being able to work. Since then, her husband has been able to work only part time due to his health issues and his wife's health issues. In 2020 they assumed responsibility of her husband's three young grandchildren who were 3-6 y/o. She is the primary caregiver and cook in the home. Since then, she has had several flares and progression of her MS to include a hospitalization a year ago requiring an in-patient rehabilitation stay and then home health. She has no ability to be in the community on her own.

She and her husband came in so she could trial a collapsable, compact power wheel chair. She was laughing and smiling as she figured out how to use this wheel chair. Her husband practiced and could open and close the chair and pick it up. It is small enough to be used on the main floor of their home and allow her to work in the kitchen safely. They envisioned her being able to go with the children to the park, or family outings, which presently they are not able to do as he cannot push the wheelchair and hold onto three small children at the same time. Her husband so thoughtfully observed "She could go out on her own in our community which is very accessible! Everyone deserves to be able to go out by themselves for some time alone with their own thoughts and she can't do that now. This chair opens her world again."

Her Walter Reed provider said, "While she is in her early 40's, she has had MS for 17 years, and has been my patient for nearly 10 of those years. This was the most sincere expression of joy I have ever seen. She and her family would greatly benefit from having this wheelchair." The provider reached out to the WRS when TRICARE declined to provide her this chair.

We supported the Graduate Medical Education (GME) office in its participation in the national Thank-A-Resident Day program to express appreciation to the residents for their work. The program of events was developed by trainees, for trainees. The GME office expanded their efforts to the entire week as there are over 60 different programs with residents at both WRNMMC and ATAMMC. All GME programs are required by their accreditation bodies to have resiliency activities and these activities qualify.

We provided a lightweight power chair to a 64-year-old female dependent of a retired Navy member who has recently received a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Due to the progressive nature of this condition, she needed a wheel chair she could use and transport. Her condition had already progressed to being wheel chair bound and she was able to use the lightweight power chair to get around independently. It is also easily transportable so they can use it to get her to her many appointments. TRICARE would not provide this chair.

The Society supported a networking lunch for the 2025 Chief Resident Leadership Symposium.

The Society supported Nurses Appreciation Week from May 5-9, 2025. Nurses Week celebration events included hosting a Salad Bar event on May 5th both night shift and day shift nurses on the inpatient and outpatient floors and Pizza Handout on May 9th during day shift operations.

We provided support for the general surgery residency program's end of year program recognizing the accomplishments of there graduating residents.

The Society supported WRNMMC's Organization Day events.

The Society supported an art program for pediatric inpatients centered around tie dye shirts that the children make themselves. After several minimally successful attempts unfortunately we had to concluded our support as the logistics of base and patient access were too great to overcome.

The Society supported the 2025 Chief Resident Leadership Seminar.

The Walter Reed Society received a request for assistance via the mobility clinic for a 9 year-old daughter of a retiree with the following explanation: "I have a patient that needs help with getting a wheelchair. She is 9 years old with the most severe form of spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She is dependent on the wheelchair as her primary means of mobility in the community and at home. She has a power wheel chair that is used primarily in school. She is in need of a new wheel chair due to the fact that she has outgrown her previous one. She needed both a power wheelchair for the school and the manual wheelchair for home and in the community. TRICARE would not cover a second piece of mobility equipment for the patient. The WRS provided the requested second wheel chair.

We received a request concerning a 25 year old former Marine with metastatic osteosarcoma and end stage renal disease. He recently transitioned home and is on home hospice for end of life/comfort based care. He is still receiving peritoneal dialysis. He has an above knee amputation and due to significant weight loss, he is unable to use his prosthesis because it won't stay on. He needs a new socket and unfortunately due to being on hospice care, TRICARE will not cover the needed prosthesis. The hospital was unable to provide one for him because he is in North Carolina and it would be too difficult, especially with the peritoneal dialysis, to travel back to WR. A prosthetist was located in North Carolina who comes highly recommended by the Special Operations community. He offered to make the socket and provide needed supplies at cost. The WRS funded the new prosthesis.

We provided support for Nurses Week 2025 activities that helped play a significant role in nurse's resilience and fostering relationships between providers of multiple disciplines. Activities also support wellness and a collaborative working environment for the staff at WRNMMC.

We received a request for assistance via the MATC for a National Guard Soldier involved in an accident in 2023 that resulted in a BLK amputation of his right leg. He has been experiencing difficulty with the skin grafts required prior to having a prosthesis made. He has experienced complications that could possibly lead to an ATK amputation. During this period of time he has been in a manual wheel chair and crutches and his shoulders are shot. It is felt that a power wheel chair would be beneficial at this point in his treatment. The Society assisted with the TRICARE co-pay.

We received a request for assistance via the Pediatric Mobility Clinic for a 7 year old Army dependent with a history of autism who has limited safety awareness, is unable to consistently follow instructions and has fallen multiple times due to poor protective reflexes. The falls have resulted in multiple injuries and at least one documented concussion. He needs a stroller to help with fall prevention and further injuries and elopement. TRICARE denied the stroller and the Society provided the assistance the family needed to complete the purchase.

We provided support for the WRNMMC Neurology Residency Program retreat.

Supported activities to celebrate and thank the Patient Safety Advisors.

The Society supported 2025 Summer Safety Day events.

The Society provided one time financial assistance to an Army retiree who was a fairly recent bilateral amputee (September 2024) who has multiple medical issues. In September 2024 he had a knee replacement surgery at Ft. Belvoir that eventually resulted in the amputation of his left leg. He is very susceptible to infections and antibiotic resistant. Several months later his right leg became infected and this also resulted in the amputation of right leg. He was admitted to WRNMMC in June and had an additional 5 inches taken from one of his amputations. Because of a number of other personal issues, he is undergoing what is hoped will be temporary financial issues.

We received a request via a Case Manager at the MATC for 24 y/o AD sailor who was involved in a boating accident in May when he fell off the boat and got hit by the propeller severely damaging his arm and his chest. He ended with a grade 4 liver laceration, and laceration to his lung, near drowning and amputation of his arm. He is currently at WR on TAD status, and does not have a Non-Medical Attendant (NMA), but needs one. His sister drove from Texas but will be on unpaid leave. She can stay with him in Bldg. 62 while her NMA status is pending. We provided a grant to help cover unpaid expenses at home, during her travel and while at WR.

We received a request via the MATC for assistance for a triple amputee who lost both his arms almost up to shoulder level. With the short length it will be very challenging for him to use prostheses. He is currently here at WRNMMC from Ukraine on a 1 year Secretarial Designee status accompanied by his wife. In coordination with the VA, the MATC is in contact with a company who specializes in independent feeding devices and they have a feeding device called the Obi Medical Robot that would allow him to feed himself. This would promote as much independent living as possible and this device would certainly allow him much critical independence. As a Secretarial Designee he is

not TRICARE eligible. After discussion among the Board, the Society provided this support as he is an authorized patient at WR in need of this support.

The Society supported the internal medicine residency program's "Lunches with the Fellowships" where internal medicine residents met for lunch with other clinical departments. These were concerned an huge success.

The Society provided support for the Navy Psychology Program in August held at the WR USO.

We received a request via the Pediatric Mobility Clinic Coordinator for funding for a 7 year old female dependent of an active duty soldier in need of a gait trainer. She has outgrown the current one due to her growth and TRICARE denied the request for a replacement. She has a complex medical history including chromosomal abnormality syndrome, global developmental delay, significant equino-varus deformity. She needed a new one to accommodate her growth.

We received a request from the Pediatric Mobility Clinic Coordinator for assistance with funding a co-pay for a wheelchair. TRICARE covered the wheelchair but not the co-pay required of the retiree sponsor. The patient is a 16 year old female with spina bifida s/p MMC closure tether cord release. She needed a new wheelchair due to her current one being more than 5 years old with constant breakage and unable to repair. She is enrolled in college and the wheelchair is used for her to navigate around campus.

The WRS assisted the family of a 13 year old with adjustment disorder in the context of familial conflict who was in need of a child/adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) after a suicide attempt via overdose. At the time this care was not available within the military system and the family was referred to civilian care. Because the sponsor was retired from active duty a co-pay was required. However given the family's current financial situation, they are not able to afford the co-pay and the were unable to get this needed care for their daughter. The Society provided resources to cover this co-pay for her to get this care.

The WRS provided a special car seat for the child of an active duty Marine who could not be discharged home from the NICU at WRNMMC because she was too small in weight and length to safely fit into the seat the family had initially purchased. Having an appropriate car seat is a requirement for discharge.

We provided reimbursement for lodging required for an individual with a chronic lung condition that became serious enough that she was unable to ambulate more than a few feet at a time. Her 30y/o daughter who lived with her as her care taker suddenly passed away. Loss of her caretaker required a move into a local hotel as she was not able to maneuver the apartment stairs and care for their dog. Family arrived from out of town planning to relocating the mom and dog with them.

We identified a need for support via a request from a Case Manager in the Pediatric Mobility Clinic for a 5 year old dependent son of a veteran's former spouse. The son is diagnosed with autistic disorder and has no safety awareness; he is currently able to unbuckle his car seat while the car is in motion. The clinician's request for a special car seat (Roosevelt Car Seat)that is equipped with a special tamper proof lock was denied by TRICARE. The Society provided this special car seat.

We received a request from the OIC of the Active Duty Medical Home, Internal Medicine for an active duty Sailor who had a lower body tumor removed that resulted in loss of feeling in the left leg. The need is for adaptive vehicle equipment that will allow this Sailor use hand devices so he may drive again. TRICARE will not provide this need equipment. With command and JAG approval, the Walter Reed Society did.

The Society supported a "Puppies and Pancakes" event in December to boost morale for trainees who are working at the hospital around the Holidays and are not able to go home and visit family.

We supported the monthly WRNMMC Director's Town Hall meetings.

During the federal government shut down we provided support for the Uniformed Services University's efforts to provide Holiday gifts for lower enlisted families via a Wishing Tree and as well as necessities via a Food Pantry.

**WRS Support for Alexander T. Augusta
Military Medical Center for 2025**

We supported the following esprit, team and morale building events at ATAMMC during the 2025 year.

ATAMMC Strategic Off-Site

Doctor's Day

Patient Experience Week

Nurse's Week

OneTeam Feast

Breast Cancer Awareness Run

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Holiday Ball

Holiday Parties

Research Symposium

WRS Collaboration with Other Non-profits in 2025

Several years ago the Society made a conscious effort to expand our collaboration with other non-profits. We saw this as an opportunity to be a "force multiplier." Most of the efforts have been in the NCR but on occasion we reach out beyond to assist non-profits that are well known to at least one and sometimes more of our Board members. Some of these listed below are continuations of successful collaborations from 2023 or before.

The Walter Reed Society partnered with the **American Red Cross** to provide food items for meals and other assistance to those effected by the federal government shutdown between October 1 and November 12, 2025, the longest shutdown in history. Of course the hospital remained open and military and most civilians continued to work, some without pay or limited pay. With financial support from the Society the Red Cross prepared bags of food items that were offered to hospital staff. In addition, gas gift cards were provided to those in need. Flyers were placed on the food bags recognizing the WRS.

In collaboration with the **American Red Cross** the WRS provided Alpha Stim devices for appropriately referred patients. These devices may assist with non-drug treatment of anxiety, insomnia, depression, and pain. TRICARE has refused to provide them for active duty patients even when requested by DoD providers.

Again in a continuing collaboration with the **American Red Cross** the WRS purchased Inner Balance Bluetooth sensors for distribution to appropriate patients referred by providers with the hospital. 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.

Along with the **American Red Cross** the WRS sponsored the third Rose Mologne Award given to a outstanding Red Cross Volunteer at WRNMMC. The WRS provided the recipient, Dr. Inge Guen, an engraved crystal rose bud vase.

The Society continued its collaboration with **Leashes of Valor**, an organization that provides service dogs to veterans. Their motto is “One Leash Saves Two Lives” — the life of a veteran and the life of a dog. In 2025 two WRS sponsored dogs graduated from the program. Wally, named for Walter Reed, was paired with a veteran from Montana; Ronnie named for LTG Ronald Blanck was paired with a former Marine helicopter pilot.

The WRS continued to fund quarterly wounded warrior dinners for the **Disabled American Veterans** Night-Out Program at the American Legion Post 41.

On behalf of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) we wish to thank you for sponsoring and hosting the delightful dinner on Friday, January 9, 2026 at the American Legion

Post 41 for the patients, caregivers and families from the Fort Belvoir Soldier Recovery Unit and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. As always, the service the staff provided was so kind and helpful. Everyone truly enjoyed the food that was prepared!

This was the third successive year the Walter Reed Society has cosponsored a special day-long event at the Strathmore organized by **Mission Belonging** (formerly Community Building Art Works), a local non-profit that focuses on using art expression of every form to help veteran and military members with lingering unpleasant effects of their military experiences, in particular combat.

Comments from attendees support the high value of this event: “ I felt very welcomed. It was just a lovely experience. I felt like my soul was watered”. Another commented, the best part of this event “was feeling comfortable in a social setting, and listening to other stories, poetry, and art. It’s heart breaking and heart warming and I enjoyed not feeling different.”

The Walter Reed Society in co-operation with **Mission M4** provided two Bubble Rovers for pediatrics patients at WRNMMC. The rovers are a sensory integration tool designed to meet the needs of individuals experiencing sensory integration dysfunction. Products help users to balance incoming sensory and environmental information and work to develop the subconscious ability to process and respond to stimuli. By activating the senses of vision, touch, hearing and movement, a rover device can help the user integrate and organize responses.

As in previous years, the WRS funded the **Oakleaf Club of Greater Washington’s** stuffed animal program providing stuff animals to children being cared for at WR.

The WRS provided continued support for the local chapter of **Blue Star Families** supporting their work with military families in the area. We received the following form them: “With the Walter Reed Society’s support, BSF executed year-round programming spanning creative expression, self-care, civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and family connection. These efforts reached caregivers of wounded, ill, and injured service members, Veterans, and their families—many of whom were newly introduced to Blue Star Families through partnerships with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the VA Medical Center Washington, DC, and peer caregiver organizations.

The Society provided support to **Wreaths Across America** by sponsoring Veterans' Wreaths to be placed at the US Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery. For each wreath we sponsored, volunteers will place a wreath on a headstone and said the Veteran's name out loud, continuing their story for the next generation.

We continued our support for **Operation Key West** (OKW) to provide quarterly events at Dave and Busters for the pediatric patients and their families at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center. In addition to the quarterly parties OKW provides 12 "Smile Packages" (one per month) to the entire family of an ill child identified in coordination with the hospital.

We received a request for assistance from the regional office of **Serving Together**, a non-profit focused on assisting Veterans and Families primarily in connecting them to similar non-profits that can provide direct assistance.

This request was to assist a homeless veteran with PTSD and other medical challenges by paying his expenses in moving donated furniture to his apartment. We assisted with this move not to exceed a recommended amount.
