

The Wounded Warriors Program was developed to address common issues that children ages six and up experience when a family member returns from a deployment with a visible and/or invisible injury.

The Comfort Crew wants military kids to know they are not alone. Our mission is to ensure every military child receives the best tools, strategies, and technology to prepare them for challenges and have a positive impact on themselves, their family, and our country.

Challenges

Since 9/11, an estimated 16,000 service members have sustained debilitating physical injuries and an estimated 273,000 have returned with Traumatic Brain Injuries. According to a report by the RAND Corporation, at least 20% of service members return from combat and report experiencing symptoms of PTSD. Less than half of these service members go on to receive treatment.

The children of these wounded warriors often do not have the tools to express their feelings about their parent's injuries. Without the language and tools to facilitate healthy communication, families are more susceptible to depression, financial difficulty, separation, and divorce. Children in particular become vulnerable to risk-taking behaviors and have a harder time performing in school, setting goals, and self-regulating.

How We Help

The Wounded Warriors Program supports families and children who are experiencing a loved one's return from deployment with visible and/or invisible injuries. Military children who request resources through our online Military Families Portal are given immediate access to age-appropriate support materials. These materials are packaged in our *Taking Care of You!* Kit and include a caregiver guide for parents. With this kit, families are encouraged to support one another when challenged with the obstacles of reintegration.

MORE INFORMATION

Military Families can request additional information about this program through our website www.ComfortCrew.org.

Key Numbers

- 270+ Thousand: Children Affected
- Five Thousand: Children Served
- 400 Thousand: Service Members with PTSD

Kit Essentials

Taking Care of You! Support for kids of Injured Heroes

- The journal includes prompts with space to write, draw, and self-express.
- The DVD is an animated movie highlighting common issues and strategies to process emotions.
- The Family Guidebook contains great information for the whole family.
- Cuzzie is a plush bear offering comfort.



The Impact

"Thank you for doing this for our kids; they are often overlooked in the whole process of reintegration after injury and deployment. It affects them more than people actually realize, giving up so much time with their loved ones and upon return, and dealing with issues no child should ever have to deal with. It was not their choice but nobody asked them!"

— Mother

"My dad was gone three times and I felt like he did not know us his family. I sometimes got so sad it hurt inside because it feels like he is not my same dad. But I promise your movie helped a lot. I wrote my ideas down in my journal and my dad read it and you know what he cried. And when he cried I knew that he cared and I felt so much better to know that he got his feelings back and I got my dad back."

— Delissa