

# Words From



January 2021

“We give newly diagnosed pediatric cancer families collapsible wagons filled with both practical and comforting items to assist them on their cancer journey”

## Operations

We were busy during the second half of 2020 keeping up with new families at all three of our branches. The surge of new cases following COVID shutdowns had us working hard maintaining supplies and arranging distribution. We appreciate the hard work of our coordinators and volunteers at each hospital for making sure we didn't miss any new Warriors.



## Children's Hospital of Minnesota

Our program in Minneapolis came back strong to finish the year! Coordinators Matt and Sarah Steele continued making sure newly diagnosed families at Children's started their journeys with a Warrior Wagon. We gained more support from the Twin Cities community, and we welcomed new team members to assist with distribution. A total of 53 Warrior Wagons have been gifted to Warriors in Minneapolis!



## Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Coordinators Jeff and Kayleigh Borchardt have done a great job in their new role during the last half of 2020. The number of Warrior Wagons given out at Lurie nearly doubled in the last six months, with 33 families receiving a Warrior Wagon in Chicago to-date. We are very thankful for the enthusiasm and support at our newest branch.

## Mayo Clinic



Eighty six families have received at Warrior Wagon at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, since our program began in 2017. We continue to be amazed and appreciative of the support from our Warrior Wagon home in SE Minnesota. Morgan Core, our coordinator for Mayo, kept up with the quick pace of new diagnoses with help from local volunteers. We are proud to continue to serve families alongside the same community that gave Warrior Wagons our start.



## Warrior Wagon Team Updates

We are happy to share that Kelly and Meagan Osborne are joining our team to help with distribution for our Children's Minnesota branch in Minneapolis! Their son, Chance, received treatment for pediatric cancer, and they are eager to help fellow families through Warrior Wagons. Welcome Osbornes, and thank you for your willingness to serve with us!



"Thank you so much for our wagon and all the goodies!! Everything has already come in so handy! My son actually doesn't leave his wagon while at the hospital...he even does his chemo in it just thank you so much, it is people like you that make this rollercoaster ride do-able"

Kelyn Meyer Age: 5  
Fighting T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at Mayo Clinic

## Support

We continue to be so grateful for the generosity of companies, groups, and individuals, which seemed unchanged due to the pandemic. We say it repeatedly because it is so true, Warrior Wagons wouldn't be able to serve Warrior families if it wasn't for your support. Here are some of the items and funding we received in the second half of 2020:



Sarah Steele hosted an Osborne Book party to provide books for our Minneapolis Warriors. As a result of the party, 85 books were directly donated and an additional \$1,600 was used to order more.

Kwik Trip donated 50 gift cards totaling \$1,250 for our Mayo Branch. Radio Flyer sent us 10 wagons that became Warrior Wagons in Chicago.



Handmade quilts continue to be a favorite item in our Warrior Wagons. Our quilting group in Iowa is joined by other quilters around the country who donate their beautiful handiwork to our organization.



A family member of a current Warrior at Mayo organized a Thirty One party to supply us with the large tote bags that hold all the goodies in our Warrior Wagons. An amazing 70 totes were garnered from the event!



The Super Herber Bros foundation made a contribution at the end of the year, funding several full Warrior Wagons. A current Warrior's family founded this charity, and we are so honored to have their support!

## Community Outreach

A special gift was added to our Warrior Wagons given out during September at Mayo by the group hosting "Paint The Town Gold." Cofounder Heidi Becker was interviewed by a local TV news station covering the event.



Chicago-area podcast *Live & Love Local*, featured Warrior Wagons in a November episode. The podcast encourages giving back to the local community. We were grateful to have the opportunity to share about Warrior Wagons. It was our first podcast experience!

## How You Can Help:

We are frequently asked how people can help. The best way is to donate funds for us to use to purchase and fill our Warrior Wagons. You can do this online (on our Facebook page or website) or use our address to mail checks:

Warrior Wagons, Inc.  
PO Box 83  
Firestone, Colorado, 80520

You can also:

- Use Amazon Smile and set Warrior Wagons, Inc., as your preferred charity
- Purchase items from our Idea List on Amazon: <http://a.co/5UnsFTn>
- Volunteer your time or services



*The last six months of 2020 were a rollercoaster for everyone, including us. We celebrated with our Warrior families, and we mourned with our Warrior families. Through it all, we continue to be grateful for the privilege to pass on the little red wagon that was given to our family when it was our turn. Thank you for allowing us to gift other families with more than just a wagon full of stuff—but also hope and joy when they need it most. Looking forward to 2021 and where God takes Warrior Wagons next! ☺*

*~The Becker Family—Josh, Heidi, and Molly, in loving memory of our Drew*

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