

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

Operations

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, including our operations here at Warrior Wagons. Each of our three branches faced unique challenges in the first half of 2020. We are so appreciative of the work from our team that went into collaborating with hospital staff to find ways to continue placing Warrior Wagons with families.

Mayo Clinic

Warrior Wagon’s partnership with Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, remains strong. At this original branch, Warrior Wagons are given to families through staff, a helpful practice during this time of increased health risk for our Warriors. Our Mayo Coordinator, Morgan Core, continues to keep our operations running smoothly. We appreciate her, along with the several Warrior families who have now joined our team as consistent volunteers. As of this mailing, 69 families have received a Warrior Wagon through Mayo Clinic!



Children’s Hospital of Minnesota

Families and staff at Children’s in Minneapolis have dealt with not only the pandemic, but civil unrest. After pausing operations, we are happy to report that Warrior Wagons are rolling out once again! Coordinators Matt and Sarah Steele have resumed distribution and are working with staff to develop a plan to distribute more Warrior Wagons to families as we move forward in 2020. A total of 36 Warrior Wagons have been gifted to Warriors in Minneapolis!



Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Warrior Wagons is celebrating one year since establishing operations in Chicago! This growing branch has adapted to the current situation by having staff distribute Warrior Wagons to families, limiting the possibility for exposure. New coordinators Jeff and Kayleigh Borchardt have been working hard to keep up with demand as the hospital has seen a spike in new pediatric cancer diagnoses. Eighteen Warrior Wagons have found homes with families in Chicago.



Warrior Wagon Team Updates



The Becker Family relocated from the Chicagoland area in May 2020. Jeff and Kayleigh Borchardt volunteered to step in and serve as the local coordinators for the Lurie Children’s Branch. We truly appreciate their willingness to be a part of Warrior Wagons and continue to serve families in the Chicagoland area.



As our organization grows, so does the behind the scenes work. We are excited to have added a student intern to our team. Kali Meiergerd, from Austin, Minnesota, joined Warrior Wagons in March. Kali has already been helpful with administrative tasks and wagon assembling. We are excited for her help with future tasks and projects!

Support

Without the generosity of our communities, Warrior Wagons wouldn't be possible. Warrior Wagons is about families helping families, and we are so thankful to be part of that process. Here are some 1st half 2020 highlights:



To start the year, Medicap Pharmacy of Austin, MN, donated the proceeds from their winter flu shot campaign, a total of \$1,650!

A local chapter of the men's fitness group F3 in Naperville, IL, held a member challenge which involved a charitable donation. We are so thankful that many members chose to support Warrior Wagons! Together they gave enough to sponsor a full Warrior Wagon.



The quilt donations we receive from quilters in both Iowa and Minnesota, and now Wisconsin, continue to be AMAZING! This set photographed was donated by the Comfort Quilters, a group located just across the river from the Twin Cities in Wisconsin for our Warriors at Children's Hospital of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



The Stewartville, Minnesota, Boy Scout Troop #56 donated corn-filled warming/cooling bags to help comfort our Warriors at Mayo Clinic.

And last but not least, Bounce World Rochester, MN, donated 50 day passes for our Mayo Warrior families to use during their treatment in February.

Warrior Wagons and St. Baldrick's Foundation

In March, Bolingbrook 4 Kids in Illinois held their annual fundraiser for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a charity that funds childhood cancer research. We were honored to be invited to be a part of the event, setting up a table and sharing our story. Many people brought items to fill Warrior Wagons for Chicago area families.



Please Note:

Our address has changed again! The Becker family relocated to Firestone, Colorado, in May after Josh accepted a new position within Hormel Foods at Justin's Nut Butters.

Please update our address to:

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



Taking life one day at a time, cherishing time with family and friends, and appreciating the little things are disciplines families learn early on in their pediatric cancer journey. Especially during these times, we encourage everyone to benefit from adopting those strategies too. At Warrior Wagons, we will continue to trust the Lord and keep working to bring comfort, hope and joy to each family that receives one of Drew's little red wagons.

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