

# Words From



January 2019

Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new year, we wanted to reach out to our Warrior Wagon family to keep you up-to-date on all things Warrior Wagons! Hopefully you will enjoy and look forward to receiving 'Words From Warrior Wagons'! For this first update, we wanted to give you a recap of 2018, and let you know what to look forward to from Warrior Wagons in 2019.

## Operations

Policies and procedures at Mayo Clinic continued to be "fine-tuned" in 2018. Clear criteria defining eligibility for a Warrior Wagon was developed with the help of staff. Additionally, an application form was created to help Warrior Wagons (along with staff) be more confident as to who and how we distribute our wagons. We are happy to report that as of the last day of 2018, 43 Warrior Wagons have been provided to families. WOW!



We are happy to announce that in 2019 Warrior Wagons, Inc. is expanding! Children's Minneapolis is excited to be a part of our community and offer our Warrior Wagons to patients. A past Warrior Wagon recipient's family has volunteered to handle the logistics of distribution for this location, which warms our heart.



## Support

In 2018, we were blown away by the different ways people supported our Warriors. People gave to our organization in ways that included: item drives, collections, service projects, and more. We are so very thankful for each one. We look forward to seeing the creativity of our supporters in 2019!



We were the proud recipients of grants from the Astrup Foundation and the Freeborn Mower Operation Round Up program. In addition, we were accepted into the "Power for Good" matching donation program through John Deere. In 2019, we will be continuing to seek funds through grants and corporate donations.

## Fundraiser

In April, our fundraising event brought in over \$26,000 between sponsorships, silent auction/raffle, and on-site donations. It was a wonderful showing of love and support from the community towards our organization and those we serve.



We are planning a 2019 fund drive with the theme "Pulling Together for Warrior Wagons" later in the year. Watch for more information on how you or your business can join us in "Pulling Together" to keep Warrior Wagons strong and growing!



## Note:

You may or many not have noticed, but our return address is now in Illinois. Our family moved to the Chicago area last October with Josh's job.

We view Warrior Wagons as an organization of our community, a group effort, that we have the privilege of running. In our physical absence, we've had many volunteers in the local area step forward to help with daily operations in SE Minnesota.

If you're interested in joining our volunteer team—please let us know! We have a system in place to keep Warrior Wagons running smoothly at Mayo Clinic through the help of many in the community.

We are so proud of the spirit and commitment of our hometown!

## Exposure

Our organization was featured in both the Austin Daily Herald and Austin Living Magazine. In addition, several appearances were made on KAAL TV in Rochester, as well as local radio stations. We also garnered national attention at the end of the year when Heidi was a caller on The Dave Ramsey's Annual Giving Show. We are so thankful for the many messages and emails from across Minnesota & Iowa, as well as the country giving us donations and encouraging us as a result of these features.



*We would like to thank you for your ongoing support of Warrior Wagons. Many of you were behind us every step of the way as we embarked on our own pediatric cancer journey with our Drew. We are very motivated to continue to pass on that love and encouragement through Warrior Wagons with your help. Thank you for supporting us, and now those that follow behind us. May God bless you in 2019!*

