

# Words From



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



## Summer Greetings!

We had a great first six months of 2022 at Warrior Wagons. Operations have ran smoothly, and support has found us in many ways. Warrior Wagons rolled past our five year anniversary in March. In June, we gave our 300<sup>th</sup> Warrior Wagon to a newly diagnosed child and their family! We are grateful to have been a part of so many childhood cancer journeys at our three partnered hospitals. We hope you enjoy this update on all things Warrior Wagons.

## Operations

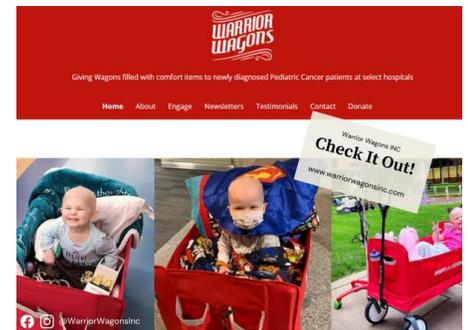
Receiving a Warrior Wagon continues to be a part of the childhood cancer patient experience at **Mayo Clinic** in Rochester, Minnesota. **Martijn and Katy Bos**, along with their family, have hit their stride as coordinators for our home hospital. To-date, 121 Warrior Wagons have been given to families at Mayo Clinic. We are thankful to continue serving the same community and hospital where Warrior Wagons began.

**Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago** remains our highest volume branch of Warrior Wagons. The downtown Chicago hospital keeps coordinators **Jeff and Kayleigh Borchardt** busy, where our total wagons given out is now 86! We celebrated three years at Lurie this summer.

In the Twin Cities, coordinators **Kelly and Megan Osborne** do a great job maintaining the **Children’s Hospital of Minnesota** branch of Warrior Wagons. One hundred and twelve families have now been gifted a Warrior Wagon through our program since January of 2019. We’ve had a steady year so far gifting families our Warrior Wagons as they begin their journeys at Children’s.

We are proud of how well our team of coordinators maintain relationships with staff, manage their supplies and the distribution of Warrior Wagons, and process donations from their communities. They are certainly the hands and feet of Warrior Wagons, and at the same time, the face of Warrior Wagons locally. No families would receive a Warrior Wagon without their time and effort. Thank you coordinators!!

## Website Update!



Thanks to the generously donated time and skills of a professional, Warrior Wagons’ website got a refresh this spring! Check out [www.warriorwagonsinc.com](http://www.warriorwagonsinc.com) and learn about our program, backstory, and ways to help.

## Words from our Warriors



**Dominic**, age 3  
B-Cell Leukemia  
Lurie Children’s

“Thank you for the wagon!! Seriously a life saver and full of incredibly useful and quality goodies!!”



**Ellison**, age 5  
B-Cell Leukemia  
Mayo Clinic

“Our [Warrior Wagon] has truly been one of the most amazing blessings we have received through this journey.”

## Support

Thank you to everyone who has given to Warrior Wagons in the first six months of 2022. Without your help, it wouldn't be possible for our team to serve Warriors and their families. We remain amazed at the unique ways our community have found to support our Warriors. Here are some highlights of our year so far:



In February, **St Joan of Arc Parish and School** in Lisle, Illinois, held a school-wide item drive for Warrior Wagons. The students brought in hundreds of items which will go into Warrior Wagons bound for Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. This was a huge donation that will keep that branch stocked up for a long time!

**Boy Scout Troop 56** of Stewartville, Minnesota, made small cloth bags filled with corn for our Warriors at Mayo Clinic this spring. These bags can be heated or put in the freezer and used to provide relief and comfort just where it's needed.



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, **Josh Benning** crossed the finish line at the Eau Claire Marathon in Wisconsin wearing his Warrior Wagon shirt proudly! He and his crew represented our organization with t-shirts and signs, giving us visibility and spreading awareness of childhood cancer. We received a \$100 pledge in honor of his run!

In June, **The Thirsty Belgian** in Rochester, Minnesota, raised money for Warrior Wagons with each pint sold of a special double IPA. The business partnered with **Thesis Beer Project** to develop the one-of-a-kind brew, in honor of a local Warrior family. Enough was yielded from this fundraiser to sponsor a Warrior Wagon for a future Mayo Warrior.



It was with much gratitude that Warrior Wagons accepted the memorial funds of **Steven Walker** of Austin, Minnesota. Upon his death in late May, his family chose to direct all gifts given in his memory to Warrior Wagons. Over \$2,000 in total was donated, enough to fully fund eight Warrior Wagons for families at Mayo Clinic. This was a very meaningful gesture, showing us another example of beauty from heartbreak.

Every donation helps Warrior Wagons tremendously. We are grateful to all who decide to give so we can keep giving our Warrior Wagons and grow our reach to more deserving families. Thank you to those who've set up monthly donations, contribute yearly, or who have given a single donation—large or small. You are making a difference, being the good in this world!

### How You Can Help

Each Warrior Wagon has an approximate value of \$250. Monetary gifts help the most, allowing us to purchase and fill Warrior Wagons for our three branches. You can donate online (on our Facebook page or website) or use this mailing address to send donations:

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

Other ways to help:

- 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

*Five years and 300 Warrior Wagons! Its hard to believe. The loss of our Drew will always be painful, but it helps more than you know to keep his memory alive through Warrior Wagons. With each little red wagon a part of our Drew lives on, continuing to bring his sparkle and big joy to others.*

~The Becker Family—Josh, Heidi, and Molly

[warriorwagons@gmail.com](mailto:warriorwagons@gmail.com) [www.WarriorWagonsInc.com](http://www.WarriorWagonsInc.com)

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