



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.”

Happy New Year!

We finished another successful year serving fellow childhood cancer families at our three hospitals across the Midwest. As you’ll read, our local coordinators continue to do a great job on the ground! Support keeps finding us throughout our communities, and we’ve had several opportunities to raise awareness about childhood cancer. We are starting 2023 with excitement, as Warrior Wagons is growing again!

Operations



Warrior Wagons welcomes **Minnesota Health Fairview Masonic Children’s Hospital** to our family! **Barb Trotz**, a nurse at the Minneapolis hospital, is our new local coordinator. She learned about our program and wanted to help bring Warrior Wagons to Minnesota Health. In December, details were worked out with staff and supplies were shipped for the first set of Warrior Wagons. We were able to gift Warrior Wagon number one and two at Masonic Children’s Hospital the week of Christmas. It is such an honor to be a part of a new facility, helping families when they need it most. We look forward to watching Warrior Wagons become a part of this hospital’s landscape, and seeing the community grow around them.

Meanwhile, our team of coordinators are keeping Warrior Wagons rolling out elsewhere in Minnesota and Illinois. **Kelly and Meagan Osborne** at **Children’s Minnesota** in Minneapolis had another great year distributing Warrior Wagons, receiving donations, and helping Barb get started at Masonic. At **Mayo Clinic** in Rochester, Minnesota, **Martjin and Katy Bos** also did a fantastic job assembling and delivering Warrior Wagons, as well as representing us in SE Minnesota. **Jeff and Kayleigh Borchardt** at **Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago** were busy keeping up with demand for Warrior Wagons in downtown Chicago, and also fostering support in their generous community in 2022.



We say it every newsletter, but it’s worth repeating. Warrior Wagons wouldn’t be possible without the time and commitment of those on our team. Thank you to each local coordinator for all you do!

Words from Warriors



Isla, age 3
Rhabdomyosarcoma
Lurie Children’s

“Thankful for this wagon from Warrior Wagons, it has gotten us through many trips to the hospital and relieved my tired mama arms more times than I can count.”



Finn, age 4
B Cell ALL
Children’s Minnesota

“On a really sad & stressful day at the hospital—our social worker brought [our Warrior Wagon] in. It was so nice to know that someone else thought of us & understood what we were going through. Warrior Wagons is such an amazing way to help families going through the cancer journey.”

Warrior Wagon Counts:

Mayo Clinic:	126
Children’s MN:	127
Lurie Children’s:	100
M Health Fairview:	2
Total To-Date:	355



Support

Three hundred and fifty five Warriors have received a Warrior Wagon because of the generosity from our communities. We are humbled and overwhelmed once again by the love and support for our Warriors and their families in the second half of 2022. Here are some highlights:

In August, the **South East Minnesota Realtors** group presented Martijn Bos, our Mayo coordinator, with a check for \$1,500. It was a collection from their members which funded six full Warrior Wagons. This group has donated to Warrior Wagons in the past, we are thankful to have kept their support!



During Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, September, Warrior Wagons was blessed by our friends at **Super Herber Bro Foundation**. Began by a past Warrior family, the foundation once again donated a portion of the proceeds from their annual fundraiser to Warrior Wagons. We were thankful to have a booth at their event, sharing information about our organization. Four more Warrior families will be given a Warrior Wagon through this family's generosity!

Also during September, Warrior Wagons partnered with **Boston Scientific**. The international medical solutions company invited our Director, Heidi Becker, to be a part of an online seminar and panel discussion hosted by the company's Cancer Research Advocacy Focus Team.

Boston Scientific
Advancing science for life™



The company raised funds and collected items to fill our Warrior Wagons throughout the month. In total, we received over \$2,100 in donations and matching funds, and plenty of supplies to keep our local branch stocked up for a while! We are very thankful for this new partner.



Handmade quilts were received from the women of **First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie**, Minnesota, this fall. They included a check for \$200 along with their beautiful handiwork. Thank you ladies!

We continue to be blessed by the men of **F3 Naperville**. The Chicago suburb men's fitness club gave just over \$2,000 in November. Jeff Borchardt, our Lurie Coordinator, handled the donation in support of our Lurie Children's Warriors. That's eight more Warrior Wagons funded by this group!



The **Interventional Oncology-TheraSphere group** of Boston Scientific in Maple Grove, Minnesota, held their own holiday item drive for Warrior Wagons. Their donation filled a vehicle! Megan Osborne, our Children's Minnesota coordinator, gladly accepted the collection for our Warriors.

We are thankful for each of these gifts, and the many others given to us in 2022. Our monthly and annual donors, business partnerships, and single gift supporters make Warrior Wagons possible, and allow us to continue to expand our program.

A fourth branch of Warrior Wagons means so much to our family. We are grateful that more Warriors will now receive our little red wagons as they begin their journey. Another hospital that our Drew was never in will now be filled with the wagons that carry his legacy forward. How encouraging as we near the six year mark since our son entered into Heaven. We love and miss you every day, Drewy!

~The Becker Family— Josh, Heidi, and Molly

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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 four 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

