



Mission

Our Military Kids, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides grants to children 3 years of age through the 12th grade of deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel and children of all Wounded Warriors, to cover fees for tutoring, athletic, or fine arts programs. Such grants allow these children to participate in a range of activities that might otherwise be unavailable to them because of economic hardships resulting from their parents' deployment or injury, or because they live too far from a military installation to avail themselves of the opportunities available there.

Population Served

Currently, there are more than 85,000 children, ages 3 to 18 years of age, directly affected by the deployment of Guard or Reserve parents serving in the war on terrorism. The program is offered to all children of deployed National Guard and Reserve military personnel, and to children of all Wounded Warriors--active, Reserve and National Guard.

Goals/Outcomes

- Help children and families of deployed Guardsmen and Reservists and all Wounded Warriors maintain as normal a life as possible.
 - The loss of the daily presence of a parent in the home is a huge stress. The worry about the deployed parent's safety and the disappointment that the missing parent cannot participate in family/school activities is significant.
 - Art, music, and drama are wonderful outlets for a creative mind. Kids can lose themselves in the creative process, giving themselves a respite from their daily routine and stressful family concerns.
 - For the sports-minded child, group sports are a wonderful way to balance the mind and spirit and often help a child through difficult times and situational stress.
- Provide assistance so children can more easily cope with the challenges and difficulties surrounding a severely injured parent.
- Recognize children of Service Members for the personal sacrifices they make, and acknowledge them with an award packet including a congratulatory letter, **Our Military Kids** certificate, and patch.
- Raise awareness in communities around the nation by raising additional grant monies through donations from local businesses.

A Proven Success

Survey responses from 617 families using the grant program conducted during July 2010 revealed:

- 99.2% found the grant application process easy;
- 99.9% believed their children were positively impacted by the grant award;
- 59.5% indicated the program would be considered a valued benefit when making a reenlistment decision;
- 80.2% noticed an increase in the stress or anxiety level of their child during the parent's deployment;
- 93.8% indicated that participation in an activity benefited their child;
- 99.8% thought the Our Military Kids program should be continued and made available to other families;
- 99.7% believed the program contributed to improved morale for the Service Member and his/her family.

Since April 2005 through September 2010, **Our Military Kids** has provided more than \$8.8 million in grants to more than 22,000 children of deployed service members from every branch of the military living in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. Through the generosity of its donors, **Our Military Kids** has thus far been able to approve every grant request received from an eligible child.

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