2020 Research Highlights

967 grant recipient families surveyed

Nearly 1,850 children represented
Our Military Kids empowers children and teens by funding sports, arts, and other enrichment activities while their parents are deployed overseas with the National Guard or Reserve or recovering from severe injuries sustained in a post-9/11 overseas mission.
Both National Guard and Reserve families and those with a severely injured service member do not always have the same access to resources and the military community that active-duty families do, making deployments and recovery more difficult.

“With the Guard we are not on a base, and there is never support from the Unit or community. Most forget about the family of the service member. It's uplifting that there are programs that show genuine care for the family. The grants are wonderful, but it's the care and acknowledgement for the kids that means so much.”

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“Our Military Kids really helps the families of the Reserve who are often left out and left on our own since we tend to not live near a base. We usually do not have the resources that active-duty families have nor do we have the community support. Our Military Kids really helps with the burden of deployment for the families of Reserve members.”
Many grant recipients experienced at least one symptom of psychological stress due to deployment or recovery.

- **69%** of children with a severely injured parent
- **64%** of children with a deployed parent

It helped my son with his social and emotional well being. He felt very disconnected from the community because of moving and my injury and COVID. This gave him something with which to look forward.
HAVING A PARENT DEPLOYED OR IN RECOVERY CAN ALSO IMPACT A CHILD’S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

38% Severely Injured Program Families reported that academic performance had worsened somewhat or greatly.

32% Deployed Program Families

Prior to participating, we saw so many meltdowns, refusals for everything from school to therapies, and emotions were high. Once we received the Our Military Kids grant, our girls improved. Online school participation got easier, they were on time for class, they started to actively participate on camera, and raised their hands to answer questions the teacher asked.”
PARTICIPATION IN GRANT ACTIVITIES CAN IMPROVE A CHILD’S MENTAL HEALTH.

89% of children with a severely injured parent
80% of children with a deployed parent

reported that their child’s grant activity resulted in reduced psychological stress.

During my husband’s treatment, my kids were scared and anxious at home. But when they went to play sports, they were happy and cheerful. It was really nice to see their cheeks were red from laughing so hard.”

The grant was a huge blessing to our family. My older son usually has a horrible transition when my husband is away. This time he didn't have a single issue. He was active, social, having fun, and found a few people who were children of military members as well.”
85% of children with a severely injured parent reported improved academic performance after their child began their grant activity.

55% of children with a deployed parent.

Participation in Our Military Kids has greatly improved my kids’ performance in school and has given them self-esteem and motivation, as they have felt special being able to participate in the sports that they love. It has been instrumental in them feeling empowered, unique, and able to connect like a normal kid.”

“The Our Military Kids grant helped my son improve his academic standing and lessened my guilt I felt for not being well enough to help him myself.”
OUR MILITARY KIDS GRANTS IMPACT THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

97% | 94%
Severely Injured Deployed

95% | 97%
Severely Injured Deployed

reported improvement in overall family well-being after receiving the grant.

reported that the service member’s morale improved as a result of their child’s grant.

The grants helped the kids develop connections and support outside the home. They gained physical and mental strength and confidence. As the caregiver for the wounded Veteran, they helped me to have the scheduled routine of attending classes. It gave me time each day to myself where I could breathe. I also felt supported by the organization because the teacher knew our story.”
When [my son] expressed an interest in Brazilian Ju Jitsu, I was able to jump on the opportunity knowing that the expense wouldn’t hinder his ability to join. He is now loving his sport and has enjoyed the mentorship from the members on his team.”
Their child(ren)’s activity grant(s) made parents feel more connected to:

**The Military**
- Severely Injured: 86%
- Deployed: 84%

**Their Community**
- Severely Injured: 86%
- Deployed: 80%

“Honestly, it feels like the families ‘left behind’ are forgotten about and it’s hard. This grant made us feel a little more appreciated and a bigger part of the military.”

“We did not feel so alone because of this grant. Being a Reservist and away from the military community is hard in a way no one understands. COVID-19 made it scary because we had three days notice for an unexpected deployment. It was nice to know that my kids were seen by someone and saw the sacrifice and upheaval this created in their life.”
My children are continuing their swim lessons even though we were financially strained by deployment. It helps maintain normalcy for them as well as teaches them a much-needed life skill.”

ALL THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR MILITARY KIDS.

97%
Severely Injured

90%
Deployed

would not have been able to afford the activity or it would have caused financial strain without Our Military Kids.
2020: 16 Years of Service to Those Who Serve

Sports | 40,416 GRANTS

Fine Arts | 17,347

Camp | 7,462

Tutoring | 3,230

Enrichment | 2,986

72,000 grants given

$28 Million in grant funding

Utah: 2,728
Minnesota: 2,558
Ohio: 2,922
Pennsylvania: 2,119
Utah: 4,658
North Carolina: 2,563
Texas: 4,326
Virginia: 2,200
Florida: 3,644
Georgia: 2,680
Our sixth consecutive 4-star rating, putting OMK in the top 11% of all charities!