2021 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

1,035 grant recipient families surveyed

Nearly 2,000 children represented
Our Mission

Our Military Kids recognizes the sacrifice of children of deployed National Guard, deployed Reserve, or post 9/11 combat-injured service members by offering extracurricular activity grants that build the child’s self-confidence, enhance family wellness, and strengthen a shared sense of community.
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.

“This grant allowed our daughter to participate in an activity and take her mind off her Dad’s deployment. There is not much help for the Reserves, and this was very appreciated.”

“We are in the Air National Guard, meaning that the community is not as invested as communities which typically surround military bases. Few people understand the impact of a deployment. So, it was nice to feel appreciated.”
MANY GRANT RECIPIENTS EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE SYMPTOM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS DUE TO A PARENT’S DEPLOYMENT OR RECOVERY.

69% of children with a severely injured parent
66% of children with a deployed parent

reported that their child experienced psychological stress due to their parent’s military service

Our oldest daughter has shown signs of secondary PTSD from her dad. Having a physical outlet like Jiu Jitsu and dance gives her an opportunity to release the tension in a positive way into something she really enjoys.

Crying/Depression | Acting Out/Aggression | Attention Difficulties
32% | 35% | 31% | 33% | 35% | 27%
[This grant] has significantly helped our children focus more and be more attentive. This has allowed them to improve at school and be more connected at home.”

HAVING A PARENT DEPLOYED OR IN RECOVERY CAN ALSO IMPACT A CHILD’S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

36% SeVERELY INJURED

27% Deployed

Program Families

Program Families

reported that academic performance had worsened somewhat or greatly during a parent’s deployment or recovery.
PARTICIPATION IN GRANT ACTIVITIES CAN IMPROVE A CHILD’S MENTAL HEALTH.

89% of children with a severely injured parent reported that their child’s grant activity resulted in reduced psychological stress.

76% of children with a deployed parent

“Military kids take on a lot of stress, as much as we try to keep it off of them. Dance has allowed our children to try something new, be kids and move that stress out of their bodies. Movement is crucial to so many aspects of health.”

“My children were crying every single day. Once we received the grant and got my kids enrolled in karate, their attitude and emotions got better. This grant helped them utilize their emotions and feelings through their sport.”
PARTICIPATION IN GRANT ACTIVITIES CAN ALSO IMPROVE A CHILD’S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

85% of children with a severely injured parent and 51% of children with a deployed parent reported improved academic performance after their child began their grant activity.

“I don’t know what I would have done without this scholarship that allowed my kids to participate in extracurricular activities. Not only has it improved their school studies, but their attitudes as well.”
BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN GRANT ACTIVITIES REACH BEYOND ACADEMICS AND MENTAL HEALTH.

92% SeVERELY INJURED | 70% Deployed  
Built self-confidence

76% SeVERELY INJURED | 50% Deployed  
Learned valuable life skills and/or values

“[The grant] allowed my sons to play baseball with their classmates and friends. It helped with purpose, teamwork, energy, and a host of other things. Plus, it gave them something to talk to their mom about while she was deployed.”

NOTABLE DIFFERENCES

73% For Severely Injured families, the grant activities gave children space to “be a kid”

92% For deployed families, the activities helped children stay active and/or busy during the deployment/activation
Due to the impact my service has had on me, I do not maintain activities for myself or my children outside of school. Therefore, this program has been a great success in socializing them and me. It has also given them the opportunity to do extracurricular activities they would otherwise not be able to, due to my restricted financial situation. I am forever grateful for Our Military Kids and don’t know where we would be without them!

97% Severe Injured
92% Deployed

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

85% Severe Injured
94% Deployed

reported that the service member’s morale improved as a result of their child’s grant.
[The grant] allowed my kids to play baseball with their classmates and friends. It helped with purpose, teamwork, energy, and a host of other things. Plus, it gave them something to talk to their mom about while she was deployed.
Their child(ren)’s activity grant(s) made parents feel more connected to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Military Community</th>
<th>Their Local Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severely Injured</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployed</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have a hard time making friends with other parents and at times this makes it harder for my younger kids to develop closer relationships with their friends. **Relationship building is part of hockey because of team dinners, tournaments, and camaraderie.** All I had to do was show up with my kids and these other parents welcomed me into their group.
"The piano lessons were a creative outlet that provided one-on-one time for my daughters with a trusted adult, that they enjoy. It gave them something to practice each day, something to talk to their father about and "show" him on video calls, and it provided some normalcy to our lives."
The grants my children received allowed us to keep them in summer activities when I was making less money during deployment. This allowed me to focus more on my mission and less on financial burdens at home.

would not have been able to afford the activity or it would have caused financial strain without Our Military Kids.
2021: 17 Years of Service to Those Who Serve

Sports | 43,117 GRANTS
Fine Arts | 18,252
Camp | 7,742
Tutoring & STEM | 5,964
Enrichment | 532

77,000 grants given

$30 Million in grant funding

Utah 2,810
Minnesota 2,799
Ohio 3,071
Pennsylvania 2,254
Virginia 2,729
North Carolina 2,268
California 4,522
Texas 4,925
Florida 3,952
Georgia 2,805