 JOIN OUR LIST OF STAR SUPPORTERS

Generous supporters including government contractors, national retailers, and family foundations support Our Military Kids. We appreciate every donation, whether it comes from a corporation or an individual.

Monetary support is the best way to help Our Military Kids. Each grant award averages $430. In its first decade of operation, Our Military Kids awarded more than $10 million in grants. The funding provided by our donors keeps this program alive. Donors are recognized based on levels of giving:

- **Gold Star:** $500,000
- **Silver Star:** $250,000
- **Bronze Star:** $100,000
- **Blue Star:** $50,000
- **Red Star:** $25,000
- **White Star:** $10,000
- **Star:** $5,000

No matter what color your star, your donation will be recognized. A list of supporters can be found on our website, and is also included in every edition of the Quarterly Donor Update, which is provided to all donors and to Members of Congress and military leadership.

Please join us in our mission of recognizing and supporting military children. You can make a profound difference in the lives of our service members’ most precious assets - their children.

Our Military Kids
6861 Elm Street, Suite 2A
McLean, Virginia 22101
www.ourmilitarykids.org
P: 703.734.6654 F: 703.734.6503

“Without the help of Our Military Kids, my children would not have found a safe place within an activity to decompress, socialize, and take care of themselves.”
SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY CHILDREN

On September 11th, 2001, life changed for everyone in the United States. Our sense of safety and security disappeared. Since then, thousands of service members have been deployed overseas to combat terrorism. And some have been seriously injured.

Military children with injured or deployed parents need our support. They desire the opportunity to thrive in the face of adversity. Developing anxiety about the unknown when a parent is deployed, or experiencing stress when a parent returns home with severe injuries, are potential challenges faced by children of our military. Our Military Kids ensures these children are engaging in positive activities and focusing on the things that make them the happiest.

OUR MISSION

Our Military Kids provides substantial support in the form of grants to children of wounded service members from all branches of service, as well as children of deployed National Guard and Military Reserve personnel. The grants pay for participation in extracurricular activities and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is serving our country or recovering from injuries.

HOW IT WORKS

Eligible families complete a one-page application, which is downloadable from the Our Military Kids website, www.ourmilitarykids.org.

Along with the application, applicants are required to provide proof of the child’s dependency and documentation from the activity’s provider that outlines the associated fees. For children with a severely injured parent, we require a letter from the service member’s case manager certifying his/her injuries as service connected. For children with a deployed parent, we require a copy of the military parent’s deployment orders.

The staff evaluates each grant request and with requirements met, a check is paid directly to the selected organization within the child’s community. Our Military Kids also acknowledges each grant by mailing a “Top Secret” package that contains a certificate of recognition, patch, wristband, and dog tags.

“Because of Our Military Kids, my children have had the opportunity to participate in activities that have been greatly beneficial. My daughter is now a skilled gymnast, and we would not have discovered this talent without the help of Our Military Kids.”

WHEN IT ALL BEGAN

Compassion and kindness inspired the founding of Our Military Kids in 2004. They were concerned that school-age children of Reserve and National Guard military service members lacked access to support services during their parent’s deployments. The families live all over the country, with more than 60 percent living at least 25 miles from the nearest military installation.

Additionally, overseas deployments create financial difficulties for the families, who oftentimes are unable to afford their child’s activity fees.

Linda and Gail created a program for children that erased geographic and financial barriers. After receiving its 501(c)(3) status in early 2005, Our Military Kids initiated a pilot program with a Winchester, Virginia National Guard unit. It was so successful, Our Military Kids began serving children nationwide. The program expanded further in 2007 to include children of severely injured service members from all branches of service.

“During the holiday season, I received a Frozen doll for my daughter. It was the most thoughtful gift and she is in love with it.”

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

The opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities has a big impact on a child’s mental health. Research has found such participation to be essential to ensure a child’s emotional stability. That’s where Our Military Kids comes in.

Our Military Kids surveys its grant recipients annually to gauge the effectiveness of its grants. The surveys consistently reveal that approximately four out of five military children cope with increased stress and anxiety when a parent returns home injured. However, activities effectively help to counteract that stress and anxiety.

Our survey shows that for 98% of wounded service members, having a child receive a grant from Our Military Kids contributed to improved morale during the recovery process.

According to The Future of Children Journal, in a 2013 issue entitled “Military Children and Families,” a service member’s injury may cause the family “income [to] fall, and they may lose access to community resources such as child care, youth activities, and sports programs. To succeed, families need support both inside and outside the military system as children adjust and reorganize.”

A whopping 98 percent of grant recipient families report that the grant from Our Military Kids benefitted their child and reduced some or all symptoms of stress.