## WNYHeroes, Inc. Supporting Our Western New York Veterans



Dear Hero,

This has been an incredibly difficult year in our country and our community. The Covid19 pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Especially affected are Veterans and their families who were marginally meeting their day to day needs prior this pandemic. This is the area that WNY Heroes has been assisting Veterans with for the last 13 years.

While there are several small fund-raising events held each year, our largest annual event is the **Red, White & Blue Gala held at the Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino.** This year, because of the Covid19 pandemic, the Gala has been cancelled. Last year there were nearly 1,000 people in attendance and the revenues raised sustain our programs throughout the year. We have decided to hold a virtual gala with the intention of continuing to sustain the programs we provide.

In order to continue our support of Veterans and their families we need your help. Our mission is to provide access to essential services, financial assistance and resources that support their lives and sustain their dignity. As more Veterans return home, the need for assistance is greater than ever. We are asking you to help by donating an item that can be used in the auction or purchase a virtual table for \$1,000.00. Last year there were 100 tables at the gala. All sponsors/supporters will still be given the same recognition as in the past with names/logos on all social media and any radio spots. We will also be mentioning your support during the virtual gala.

We will be more than happy to have one of our volunteers arrange to pick up your donation. Please take a few moments and look at our website, WNYHeroes.Org. You are vital to our success this year. Thank you for being our Hero!

Christopher M. Kreige

President, Co-Founder

WNYHeroes

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## **About WNYHeroes**

WNYHeroes was founded in 2007 to help our local Veterans with the difficult times that so many face when they acclimate back into civilian life. Our organization has continued to grow every year since its inception and has become critical in providing immediate financial assistance to Veterans in need. As more of our Veterans return home, the need for assistance has grown at an alarming rate, to as much as \$25k a month. With this growing need, WNYHeroes has also grown. We have successfully kept our promise to Western New York by keeping administrative costs to less than 25%.

**WNYHeroes Programs** 

Heroes Bridge: Our grant program helps veterans and their families with financial assistance for life-sustaining needs. This program will cover up to 4 months of past due mortgage, rent or utilities. Checks are made payable directly to landlords and utility companies.

Pawsitive for Heroes: Our service dog program was started in 2014 for our combat Veterans returning with PTSD, anxiety, and hyper-vigilance. Service dogs and Veterans are paired up and trained, enabling our Veterans to return to normal life with their families, their employers, and throughout their communities.

**Operation B.O.O.T.S.**: This program is designed to get Veterans out for an evening of fun and socializing with other Veterans and their families. Each month, at no cost to the Veteran, we sponsor a different activity and dinner. From bowling to zip lining, we will safely get Veterans out of their comfort zones while making new friends and networking with Veterans on how to get the benefits they have earned.

**Little Heroes**: This program provides funds to Veterans so their child/children can participate in extracurricular activities within their communities. WNYHeroes sponsors Operation Purple<sup>a</sup> and Operation S.T.A.R. where children attend a week-long summer camp designed for military children. Operation Purple<sup>a</sup> is designed for children whose parents are deployed. Operation S.T.A.R. is designed for children whose parent was killed in action or died from military related illness.

**Adopt–A–Veteran Family**: This program helps the veteran and their families during the stressful holiday season through local donations and community sponsorships. Through these efforts, a Veteran's family is provided with food, clothing, and gifts to help give them a memorable holiday, free of financial burden.

**Operation Back Pack**: Local businesses and sponsors donate backpacks and school supplies for all ages and grades prior to the start of the new school year. This allows the children to have the necessary supplies to enable them to succeed in school.

**William E. Kramp, Jr. Scholarship**: We offer scholarships to Veterans and their family members to help complete their college education once they have exhausted their GI bill. The scholarship is a one-time grant for the amount of \$1,500.

**Operation Automotive**: This program allows our community to donate their used vehicles to our Veterans in need of transportation. Through this effort, our partners agree to do any maintenance needed to ensure our Veterans are given a fully functional and safe form of transportation.