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The Invisible Wounds of War

"To care for those who have borne the battle, and their spouses, children, and families."

**General
Description
And
Grant Request
Summary
(Short Version)**

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"To care for those who have borne the battle, and their spouses, children, and families."

This Non-Profit will create improved mental health care to returning military and their extended families in the State of Georgia. It will develop more understanding of the military culture to the civilians within the infrastructure of this State who have not had much previous contact with the military. It will make access to mental health providers easier who have received training on the military culture and needs. It will be supported with expertise and information in a single location via a website. It will assist trained mental health clinicians to be more available to Reserve and National Guard families distant from military and VA facilities. This will be done in an interfaith, non-political environment with the humanitarian interest to benefit the veterans and their extended family members. We intend to build a model in the State of Georgia, and once operational, become a national organization.

What makes our approach unique is that we are addressing both the supply and demand associated with mental health care in the State for veterans. Our education offerings will increase the number of mental health providers familiar with the Military Culture and capable of addressing PTSD symptoms. Related education offerings about the Military Culture to community leaders and extended family members throughout the state will improve the quality and quantity of the referrals made to the mental health providers. We are addressing the complete ecosystem associated with improving mental health care for the returning military and their families.

54% of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are from Reserve and National Guard Units. Conservative estimates indicate that over 50% of those returning have some form of mental health needs. PTSD and Sexual Trauma are the highest in this war than in any other war. A Presidential Commission in 2007 said that military and VA facilities are excellent but virtually inaccessible to many; that the private sector needs to be used to be successful. We will be part of that response for Georgia.

We will focus our training on four constituencies that creates a complete infrastructure that understands and better serves the military culture: military and extended families, licensed clinicians who are trained in PTSD treatments and marriage and family issues, congregation and other community leaders who will be in contact with the returning military and extended families, and existing social service support organizations.

Our Non-Profit will launch and operate a website to support the groups above, build training material customized to the nuances of each of these groups so that they understand and can serve the needs of someone from the military culture, and conduct seminars and training in various forms so that the largest possible number come in contact with this needed information.

The result will be that Georgia will have a larger, more complete mental health infrastructure that is educated and familiar with the needs of returning military and their family members. The long term impact of doing this will improve Georgia communities, make them safer, and result in a better quality of life for all the members of military families. In Georgia, we will be able to bring those citizens who have served our country "all the way home"