

Operation Comfort Warriors is a living example of The American Legion's commitment to care for those who have defended this nation.



HOW RECIPIENTS BENEFIT

Today, wounded warriors need a variety of items to help in their recovery. Some patients need loose-fitting sweatsuits to cover their healing wounds without adding pressure to burns sustained in combat. Others need iPods to help drown out the tinnitus that has plagued their ears since their vehicles struck IEDs. Still others need fitness equipment to rebuild strength in their muscles.

From gift cards to patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, to electronics for Marines at Camp Pendleton, OCW represents the Legion's expression of gratitude. These gifts will not make our wounded warriors whole again, but they show that the Legion recognizes and appreciates their sacrifices.

The success of the program relies entirely on donations, which are used to purchase items for U.S. servicemembers.

To make a donation, go to www.legion.org/ocw.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

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BECAUSE WE CARE



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OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home, joining other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars end, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties.

While the care at military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" – items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

HOW TO HELP

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to troops.

HOW TO GIVE: Visit www.legion.org/ocw to contribute a donation electronically, using your credit card. Checks may be mailed to Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

HOW TO RAISE MONEY: A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in sponsoring a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to OCW via the website or mailing address listed above.

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Check out www.legion.org/ocw for the latest news and information about the program.

HOW IT WORKS

The Legion contacts officials at military hospitals, warrior transition units and surrounding communities, and obtains lists to determine which items are most needed by wounded, injured or ill servicemembers. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It's as simple as that. No red tape.

All of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues received, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the troops.