



YELLOW
RIBBON FUND, INC

Welcoming Our Injured Service Members Home

The Yellow Ribbon Fund is a 501 (c)(3) organization founded in 2005 to assist injured service members and their families

- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
- Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- Nationwide through our Ambassador Program

YRF's mission is to “fill in the gaps” for the injured and their families where the government cannot

Yellow Ribbon Fund provides housing and transportation needs to families while they are visiting their loved ones at Walter Reed Bethesda and Fort Belvoir

Since 2005:

- **6,200** hotel reservations for **13,700** room nights (for family members)
- **9** apartments for **13,500** nights (for the injured and family members)
- **1,800** rental cars for **68,000** rental car days (for family members)
- **23,000** cab rides (for the injured and family members)

Mentoring and Follow up for the Injured:

- Hundreds of injured service members are mentored each year – informal discussions on career and educational goals. College scholarships for 25 injured service members each year with Colorado Technical University
- Yellow Ribbon Fund follows up with each injured service members of whom we have contact information for after they return home. Similar follow up is done with family members to see what needs are not being met. **1,500 calls in 18 months**

Thousands of tickets to ball games, concerts and shows are donated and distributed to injured service members and their families. Social events each month at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir

Caregiver programs:

- Therapeutic massages
- Dinner and movie nights
- Kids matinees
- Date nights
- College scholarships – University of Maryland University College (new program with three scholarships), Colorado Technical University (25 scholarships year)
- Caregiver Resource Fair

Gaps and Snags:

- Three month minimum to process VA disabilities upon retirement. Pay is delayed for injured veteran and the caregiver
- Medical benefits delayed for injured veterans
- Ineffective AW2 representatives
- Ineffective FRC representatives

DoD to Improve Transition:

- Educate the families on what to expect
- Create a support network for the families
- Financial counseling
- Minimize the three-month gap
- Involve families in the TAPS courses
- Need improved contacts for better career-ladder jobs (not just (DoD, government jobs
- Teach how to transfer military skills to civilian workplace
- Additional focus on small town jobs and work-from-home jobs



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