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CONTACT: Amanda Jekowsky
EMAIL: ajekowsky@woundedwarriorproject.org
PHONE: 202-644-9150

Wounded Warrior Project® Announces Community Integration Collaboration with Augusta Warrior Project *-- Initiative Expands Ability to Provide Underserved Wounded Service Members With Needed Support--*

Jacksonville, FL (September 24, 2013) – Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), whose mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors, today announced that it has selected Augusta Warrior Project (AWP) as the collaborating organization to participate in WWP’s Community Integration initiative. The Community Integration collaboration with Augusta Warrior Project will develop a coordinated, community-based approach to successful reintegration into civilian life and expand access to needed services for wounded service members within their own communities. The initiative will begin in Augusta, Ga., with plans to expand to an additional five regions over the next year.

“The collaboration with Augusta Warrior Project allows us to extend our programs’ reach in underserved communities, build community support for warriors transitioning from military to civilian life, and empower other nonprofits to increase the services that are available to injured service members,” said Charlie Abell, Executive Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs at Wounded Warrior Project. “By joining forces, this innovative collaboration allows us to build up the strength of communities where demand is outpacing supply and increase and enhance the support we provide to wounded service members.”

The Community Integration initiative will allow Wounded Warrior Project and Augusta Warrior Project to provide a wider cross-section of services in a holistic manner by strengthening the local non-profits that serve the veteran population and empowering communities to build networks of support. Wounded Warrior Project will provide mentorship and funding through the collaboration, study the trends and needs within communities, and measure outcomes, while encouraging the sharing of best practices. Augusta Warrior Project will serve as the lynchpin within the community to ensure that injured service members have access to the full scope and range of programs and services that are available in their region.

August Warrior Project is a previous recipient of a WWP grant, a program designed to bridge gaps in care and services by supporting exceptional nonprofits that provide high-quality, high-touch programming to injured service members in underserved regions. The WWP Grants Program fosters teamwork and collaboration by recognizing the critical needs of returning service members and their families and cultivating a network of organizations that collectively strive to provide comprehensive support. The Community Integration initiative builds upon the success of the Grants Program by designating an organization to act as the cornerstone of community-based organizations and services, coordinating local resources to provide holistic support to injured service members returning home.

“Augusta Warrior Project is excited by this opportunity to assist Warriors in communities across our country by replicating the model we developed in Georgia,” said Jim Lorraine, Executive Director at Augusta Warrior Project. “We are grateful to Wounded Warrior Project for making it possible for us to stand up organizations that will serve their local communities in meaningful ways and we look forward to the challenge ahead. WWP is the national leader in serving Warriors and it is our honor to work alongside them in this endeavor.”

It is estimated over 50,000 servicemen and women have been physically injured in recent military conflicts, another 320,000 have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment, and as many as 400,000 additional service members live with the invisible wounds of war including combat-related stress, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The goal of the Community

The greatest casualty is being forgotten.”

Integration initiative is to meet the critical needs of these service members by bringing needed services and support directly to them.

“Augusta Warrior Project shares our mission to honor and empower Wounded Warriors and foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation’s history,” Abell said. “This collaboration bolsters our ability to connect injured service members with our programs, and to provide additional services outside our scope of offerings that align with our mission and values.”

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About Wounded Warrior Project

The mission of Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. WWP’s purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. WWP is a national, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. To get involved and learn more, visit woundedwarriorproject.org.

About Augusta Warrior Project

Augusta Warrior Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, local to the greater Augusta, GA area, that connects Warriors (past and present military) with existing resources to meet critical needs such as housing, education and health care. Its mission is to provide Warriors and their families a model advocacy program in order to enhance their quality of life and capitalize on the Augusta region’s ability to contribute to their success. For more information see www.augustawarriorproject.org.