To Our Willing Warrior Family, Friends, and Supporters:

This message is to let you know how the COVID-19 virus is affecting our "home-away-from-home" Warrior Retreat in Haymarket, Virginia. We also want you to know that we are praying for your families to come through this crisis healthier and stronger than ever. On the turn of a dime, our daily routines and lifestyles have been disrupted in ways we never anticipated. Many people around the world are suffering as our medical and financial systems scramble for solutions to put down this pandemic as soon as possible.

As of today, we are continuing operations at the Retreat including all scheduled family visits, while taking all recommended precautions and following all procedures to help ease the spread of the virus. Over the past few weeks, all of our guests have expressed how blessed they were that we have continued to provide our services in light of the crisis. Our Retreat is actually a very safe place to be at this time since each family has an entire house to themselves. Our houses are not only cleaned after each guest stay; they are also thoroughly sanitized. And, interactions between our staff and the Warrior guests are kept at an absolute minimum. Thankfully, there have been no reports of anyone testing positive for the virus from either side. Therefore, we will continue to operate with a core group of staff workers and volunteers. Our Warrior families need a break away from their hospital environment now more than ever.

Some of you may ask why we don’t suspend operations at the Retreat until COVID-19 subsides. The best way to answer this is to share the words of a Warrior who spent a week at the Retreat with his family just last week. On March 18, Major L. included in his departing review, the following statement that says it all: …“every time these doors open, know for sure that at least you have reduced the “22 a day” loss to suicide of Veterans by 1”.

Testimonies such as this are not only common but are the norm, and they reflect the impact our services are having on the lives of our Nation’s true heroes and their families.

Unfortunately, we did have to cancel two of our planned fundraising events for March, and we may have to reschedule our Warrior Ride fundraiser scheduled for June 13. This would result in a serious cash flow problem since the only other planned fundraiser for the year is our annual Gala, which is not scheduled until November.

This is indeed a time to keep or doors open more than ever, and we need your help now more than ever. We are very sensitive to the fact that a good number of people are becoming unemployed. However, if you are in a position to make a donation to Willing Warriors, please visit our website www.willingwarriors.org for a number of ways you can help. This is a great time to invest in the win-win-win outcome we all love at a time when victory in this battle is an absolute necessity. Together we will prevail!

Thank you, and God Bless you!

Shirley Dominick
President, Co-Founder
Willing Warriors
703-785-8990