



March 2011

THE WATERFRONT WARRIORS WAVE

Volume 1, Issue 1

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

During the past two summers and with the assistance and generosity of many people, over fifty wounded soldiers and their families have had the chance to visit Long Beach for a week of sun, surf and R&R. After visiting Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington DC and observing the needs of these young heroes, a group from our community decided to do something to supplement the excellent medical care our wounded Armed Forces members were receiving. Financed solely by donations, we provided transportation, lodging and meals, as well as special beach and ocean activities, in many cases bringing families together who had been unable to spend any time with their wounded loved ones. We also arranged visits to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero. Our generous Long Beach community opened their hearts and houses to provide homes away from home for these deserving families. Additionally, the Allegria Hotel donated a number of rooms that were handicapped accessible.

With the continued help and generosity of our Long Beach community, we look forward to offering these wonderful experiences with at least 25 more soldiers and their families during the Summer of 2011!

Fall/Winter 2010

The Long Beach Waterfront Warriors in cooperation with the Allegria Hotel hosted Holiday for Heroes in December. We, as a community, gathered together and collected and packaged 350 boxes of items that were shipped to our troops serving overseas during the holidays. Santa made an appearance transported on top of a LBNY fire truck. In addition, we had holiday carolers, FDNY FireRiders, and visiting soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center- all of whom were on hand to take part in the lighting of our first LBWW Christmas tree. It was a festive occasion and the true holiday spirit was evident all around.

Summer 2011

On July 23rd we intend to welcome 25 more soldiers and marines who were wounded in the War Against Terrorism. We have no doubt that the Long Beach community will step up once again to insure the success of our mission.



Summer 2010 Guests

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Saturday, April 2 (3:00-6:00 pm) The Hub** (Austin Blvd/Island Park) and LBWW will host Family Fun and Fundraising, our first fundraiser of the 2011 season and we welcome and thank the Hub for their participation this year. Donation of \$20 for adults, kids are **FREE!** Complimentary activities will include pool, ping pong, air hockey, Kids Karaoke courtesy of The Big Kahuna and video games donated by Michael's Amusements. Cash bar offering half price drinks during the event. www.thehubbc.com
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 13 (6:30-9:30 pm) Latitudes NYC** (47th Street/8th Avenue) along with Kevin McAdams will host a fundraiser on behalf of the LBWW: \$100 donation/\$500 Chairperson Donation. Raffles. www.latitudebarnyc.com
- ◆ **Monday, May 2nd (6:00-9:00 pm) Lola's** (LB, NY) will graciously host their 3rd Annual Fundraiser for the LBWW. The McCarthys ensure that ALL donations go directly to the Waterfront Warriors.
- ◆ **Saturday, June 25 (4:00-7:00 pm) The Inn** will open their doors for their 3rd Annual Grand Finale fundraiser. Eamon, PJ, Pete and the generous staff at The Inn, along with DJ Sparky will host another fantastic event with raffle prizes, auction items and 50/50 drawing. www.thelongbeachinn.com

More details on each of these events to follow .

Additional Dates to Remember

Look for Long Beach Waterfront Warriors selling t-shirts and accepting donations at the Arts & Crafts Festival on the Boardwalk:

Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 and again

Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21.

Meetings

Will be held for volunteers at City Hall and our local VFW, schedules to be determined.

News from... Walter Reed Medical Center

Members of The Long Beach Waterfront Warriors have been averaging two visits per month since the July event. There is a lot going on down there. The stream of wounded seems to be never ending. Some of the injuries are absolutely devastating and it makes one take stock of how fortunate we are to have our health and use of our limbs.

A typical visit involves stopping at the office in the hospital to check in on new admissions and for any news on present patients who might need a visit or family help. Then, it's off to the USMC liaison office for more of the same information and news.

We try to schedule at least six patients for an extended visit on the first day and then a few shorter visits for the second day before the trip back to Long Beach.

On the early February trip we were able to bring assorted Play Station and X-Box consoles and games to go with each to the hospital. These consoles are used in the individual rooms by the patients. During the year we've also been sending remote controls for the boxes and extra games to be distributed by hospital staff.

For the early March trip we brought down a Play Station 3 and a Wii for the Marine Rec Room on the 6th floor of WRAMC. This room has been set up by USMC staff as a respite for their wounded personnel to spend time with other Marines. **All of the gifts we bring down were made possible by the generosity of the Long Beach residents and community.**

We also try to connect with different soldiers on each trip to D.C. by hosting dinner at a restaurant in the city for a bit of time away from the hospital. These get-togethers are some of the most enjoyable moments, the soldiers seem to relax a bit more when off base.

LBWW Alumni - Summer 2010 Where are they now?

LCPL. Corey Uhrig, USMC - transferred back to Camp Lejeune.

SPL. John Doherty - transferred to Fort Bragg.

SGT. Adam Laman, USMC - a Martial Arts Instructor at Quantico.

CPL. Jose Gasca, USMC - intern at the DEA.

CPL. Tom Mooney - awaiting transfer to Quantico.

GYSGT. Marcus Wilson - USMC Liaison at Bethesda Naval Hospital and awaiting the arrival of his fifth child due this week.

Captain Thomas Garner, SGT. Andrew Peden and LCPL. Chris Bowers, USMC - all still patients at WRAMC.

SGT. Albert Castillo - anxiously awaiting return to duty.

Schedule of Events for July 2011 visit

Saturday, July 23rd

5K Run

Soldiers and families arrival at VFW

Sunday, July 24

Welcome Parade/BBQ

Monday-Thursday—July 25-28

Beach activities

Trip to the City

Dinners

Local Entertainment

Special Thanks

Thank you to Long Beach Catholic Regional School for their continued efforts and ongoing support, and particularly the students, who raised more than \$7,000 for the Long Beach Waterfront Warriors during their Catholic

Board of Directors

John McLaughlin

Jerry Snell

Mary Giambalvo

Robin Lynch

Julie Halfon

Ed Grant

Randy Dodd

Contact /Inquiries

Any comments or inquiries for volunteering, hosting soldiers, donations, events, etc. should be sent to info@lbwaterfrontwarriors.org.

Visit the website at www.lbwaterfrontwarriors.org

Facebook at Long Beach Waterfront Warriors

Editors: Kerry Ennis/Ed Grant

