



Ministering to Returning Soldiers and Veterans

Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses Spirit Warrior, Central Maine — \$95,000

Prayer for the spiritual and emotional healing of the military men and women through the Spirit Warrior program.

Prayer #1

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise Your holy name. In praise to You, we lift up this mission grant and ask that it be a means of providing for the spiritual and emotional healing of the military men and women in the Bangor, Maine, area. We pray they will receive expert therapeutic care and hear Your Word. We commend all who participate in the Spirit Warrior program into Your care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer #2

Blessed Lord, we pray for Deaconess Kim and all the Spirit Warrior staff members. We pray Your Word will always be proclaimed to all within the program, to those both inside and outside the family of faith. You lovingly gave up Your life to be our Savior. We pray Your name will be glorified through this grant and Your people will be served with Christ's love. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #3

Heavenly Father, look with tenderness on Your servants as they seek to serve You by sharing a life-giving message with those who need to hear it. Guide the workers of the Spirit Warrior program as they teach the veterans/service members how to care for the horses which You so generously provided for this program. Bless and strengthen these mighty animals in their service, and provide healing for the program participants. May You be glorified. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer #4

Merciful Lord, sharing Your love and helping others in need is a great joy, and we thank You for this opportunity to serve You. We ask Your blessing on the recipients of this grant that they may, by the power of the Holy Spirit, come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. We ask that Your healing hands be upon them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #5

Gracious heavenly Father, all we have is Yours. In thanksgiving and praise, we give You our mite donations to assist in spreading the Gospel and providing Your comfort and joy. We pray these offerings would help supply the tools, equipment, and feed for the horses, so equine therapy can be offered for those service members who are in need of hearing Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.



lwml.org/mission-grants

CUT OR FOLD THIS LWML PRAYER GUIDE ON THE DASHED LINE AND KEEP IN YOUR BIBLES FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

Maine is among the list of “least churched” states in the nation. It has only three Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations in the entire state and only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry. Through the Veteran's Administration, Deaconess Kim pursued her master's degree in Diaconal Studies from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. She continued her education in Clinical Pastoral Education while volunteering as a chaplain intern at Eastern Maine Medical Center. She has also finished her Palliative Care certification.

Many veterans/service members want to connect with God. Theological discussion — as well as hearing of the love of Christ — take place while caring for the horses. Deaconess Kim became aware of the challenges our service members face every day as they return from the war theaters because of her own undiagnosed PTSD and her experiences as a chaplain intern. Often the veterans and service members identified a conflict between their moral standards and the orders they needed to carry out while in uniform. This moral struggle led Deaconess Kim to research equine health and its impact on well-being. She recognized the benefits of this type of therapy with military personnel and saw the need for this therapy with the veterans in Maine. “Equine Experiential Learning” is now a recognized therapy for those suffering from mental health issues. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses with those who have endured the hardships of war and have returned. Current traditional therapy does not address the care of the spirit. Out of this need, the Spirit Warrior, L3C program was born.

The core principles of Spirit Warrior are:

1. Offering the grace of God to all who are suffering;
2. Proclaiming the name of Christ in our work and our actions; and
3. Being good stewards of all that is entrusted to us.

This grant will provide funding for 58 veterans to benefit from the program.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants

