

Segs4Vets Program

Segs4Vets, a program which began in 2005, is an unprecedented grass-roots effort sustained and administered by volunteers representing grateful Americans who passionately believe that when those serving our Nation are sent into harm's way and suffer serious injury and permanent disability, they must have every resource and tool available to them which will allow them to continue to live the highest quality of life possible.

The program, which made the first presentation in September 2005 to three recipients who sustained injuries in Operation Iraqi Freedom was conceived and implemented with the assistance of Gen. Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, USAF (Ret), President of the Armed Forces Benefits Association.

Our focus is that when our severely injured return from Iraq and Afghanistan, they rise again, choosing the path of independence rather than dependence, once again becoming productive members of society, productive members of their family and continue to serve our nation

The impact of the program resonates well beyond just the recipients; it extends to their wives, husbands, children, mothers, fathers and other family members whose lives have been turned upside down. For many, the Segway has had such a psychological impact on our recipients that it has brought about a dramatic positive change in family dynamics.

The Segs4Vets program provides successful candidates with a universally designed mobility device which does not draw attention to their disability. The Segway is a tool that is solving many of the mobility issues facing our disabled veterans, in a manner which is psychologically uplifting and physically beneficial and rekindling in our recipients the desire and motivation to continue to serve their families, their nation and their fellow man.

The size of the Segs4Vets program in terms of funding in comparison to other nonprofits serving our nations wounded warriors is very small; however the tangible results achieved by it are among the most dramatic.

The Segs4Vets program in order to satisfy the backlog and continuing demand of those who can benefit dramatically from the program, is seeking funding resources to serve an additional 2500 OEF & OIF recipients through 2015. Depending upon the amount of training and modifications necessary the cost of each award currently ranges from \$7,700 to \$15,000 with the average cost \$9,750.00.

The successful implementation and continuation of the Segs4Vets program will have a generational impact on American society.

Following its first presentation, the Segs4Vets program began the process of seeking a waiver which would allow the presentation of Segway's to active-duty military personnel who had been severely injured and permanently disabled while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In August 2006, the Segs4Vets program became the only recipient of a blanket waiver from the United States military allowing a donation in excess of \$1000 to active-duty military personnel.

In 2006, the program began setting up training and assessment programs at military medical centers which provided rehabilitative care for OEF and OIF severely injured: Walter Reed Army Medical Center in February 2006; National Naval Medical Center in May 2006; Brooke Army Medical Center in November 2006; and the Naval Medical Center San Diego in November 2008.

Segs4Vets was presented the 2010 Spirit of Hope Award by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army's Public Service Award for distinguished public service in providing outstanding support to our Nation's Veterans. A member of Military Family and Veterans Service Organizations of America, Segs4Vets has been certified as one of the best charities in America by the Independent Charities of America, an honor accorded fewer than 2,000 of the more than one million public charities in the United States.