

Wounded Warrior Project, CFC #11425



Sad to say, Wounded Warrior Project is bled dry by a top heavy, greedy executive structure and the remaining funds are disbursed to multi-tier distribution organizations with similar management structures. By the time the money actually goes to direct benefits for veterans, there is probably less than 10% that reaches them. Below are results of an investigation by a retired USMC Colonel.

At a recent meeting of a veterans association with which I am involved, a suggestion was made that we contribute to "The Wounded Warriors Project" (WWP). As an officer of the association, I was asked to do some research and make a recommendation regarding contributing to WWP. As one who fervently believes that our wounded warriors and their care giving families deserve our unqualified support, I also believe that the public should be informed of the appropriateness and effectiveness of charitable organizations that support veterans.

The results of my research are disappointing, to say the least. To summarize, the WWP collects a fee in the form of generous compensation paid to WWP executives who outsource fund raising, collection and distribution of funds to other 501.c.3 organizations which provide services that directly benefit veterans. The WWP would make Bernie Madoff proud!

My actual report follows for your information.

From: T.M.B.

Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 8:01 PM

Subject: Wounded Warrior Project

Pursuant to your request, I have reviewed the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) FY 2011 Form 990 (copy attached). In addition, I have surveyed other available information pertaining to WWP.

I did note the pie chart percentages which you mention (Administrative Expense: 4.4%, Fundraising Exp.: 12.8%). Based on the WWP Form 990, these figures are misleading. Total 2011 revenues were \$154.9 MM with total fundraising expenses of \$20.5MM and total administrative expenses, including outsourced services, of \$95.5MM. Note that the total administrative expense includes fund raising. Therefore, as a percentage of total revenue, administrative expenses amount to 61.63%, including fundraising expenses of 13.2%. This equates to 38.36% of revenues available to benefit wounded warriors.

As far as I can determine, WWP outsources all major functions, including fundraising, legal, donation processing, donation distribution, etc.

Compensation for the top ten WWP employees runs from \$150K to \$333K annually.

As far as I can determine, WWP does little, if any, direct support of wounded warriors and wounded warrior programs. Rather, WWP makes grants and contributions to other 501.c.3 organizations which operate wounded warrior programs and/or serve veterans directly. Examples of 501.c.3 organizations receiving WWP funds include Fisher House, The American Red Cross, The VFW, Easter Seals, and numerous little known and unheard of local and national organizations. While many of these organizations provide valuable services to wounded warriors, many more are suspect. As an example, I question an expenditure of \$300K for a parade. Some organizations are known to be inefficient and not the favorite of veterans (e.g. The American Red Cross). I also question the use of funds for lobbying activities. It would appear that HMM-265 Veterans Association would be eligible to receive WWP funds.

It is true that WWP was the center of controversy involving their anti-Second Amendment position, as mentioned during our general meeting.

There is no question that WWP does contribute substantial funds for the benefit of wounded warriors. Notwithstanding, it appears that a more effective use of Association funds would be to contribute directly to The Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief, The Salvation Army, and others.

As you remember, there was some concern at the Membership meeting about the Wounded Warrior Project and how they spent funds donated to them. We promised to get back to the membership after we had found out some more about them.

Today I received a thank you for money I had sent them and of course literature on how I could become an even more generous supporter. In this literature they published a pie chart of their FY2011 Total Expenses.

On this they show 4.4 % listed for Administrative, 82.8% going to the programs and 12.8 spent on fundraising. It might be a good idea to confirm these numbers but I can't imagine publishing numbers that are not correct.

I will be writing a letter for distribution and website about the reunion in a few days. Would you mind following up and checking these numbers and then writing something for email distribution as well as the website on the Wounded Warrior Project?