

Wounded Veterans, Families Meet Santa at Wounded Warrior Project Gathering

Participants Get Comfortable in Pajamas for Holiday Connection Event

SUFFOLK, Va., Dec. 22, 2016 [/PRNewswire-USNewswire/](#) -- The lyric goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Gingerbread cookies, candy canes, telling Santa your wishlist, and ... adult onesies?

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) recently hosted a group of injured veterans and their families to experience all the trappings of the holiday season. Pajamas of all kinds were welcome at a gathering with Santa that included breakfast for dinner and a visit with some furry friends from Therapy Dogs International®. The holiday outreach activity gave wounded warriors and their families the chance to connect with one another and learn about WWP programs.

"For me, Wounded Warrior Project means that even if my service for the military has ended due to being injured, I am still considered part of the family and will be able to enjoy these gatherings and the camaraderie that is felt being on active duty," said Army veteran Paola Santiago.

Navy veteran Kimberly Hague said she and her family had a lot of fun at the connection event. "My kids played with the dogs, made arts and crafts, and listened to Santa's story. I loved the look on my son's face when the service dogs came in, and I even learned more about service dogs, like how they are trained and what they do."

Paola agreed. "The event was amazing. My daughter had a ton of fun just walking around and dancing. She is just 13 months old. She loved the dogs that came, too."

As a twist to the gathering, warriors contributed some joyful labor as elves in Santa's Workshop by making arts and crafts for the kids and volunteering in other ways. Kimberly, for example, happily took on a role as event photographer. There was a fun way for every guest to participate, no matter the age.