Service members and their families face a number of challenges while undergoing treatment and recovery in military hospitals. They are often reassigned to a Warrior Transition Unit, temporarily losing contact with their network of friends at their home duty station. Many end up transitioning out of the military after treatment. To help prevent social isolation, Cause hosts a number of social activities for service members and their families.

Cause UFC Fight Nights give wounded, ill and injured service members and their families a chance to socialize and enjoy competitive mixed martial arts competitions. The military has incorporated various forms of mixed martial arts in hand-to-hand combat training, “combatives”, since the early 1990’s. The Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) started in 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion and has spread at the combat training, “combatives”, since the early 1990’s. The Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) started in 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion and has spread at the grass roots level around the Army and through the other branches of service.

Cause sponsors UFC Fight Night every month at Ft. Belvoir and Walter Reed USO Centers. We serve refreshments and interact with participants while enjoying the pay-per-view features. If you are interested in Volunteering for our UFC Fight Night events, please contact Kayla for details: programs@cause-usa.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Corinne McCullough
Administrative Volunteer, Bethesda MRR Program

The Bethesda Massage/Reiki/Reflexology (MRR) program is fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers who come each week to help ensure the program runs smoothly. Corinne McCullough has volunteered for two years, making her the longest serving MRR Administrative Volunteer at Walter Reed! Every week she arrives on time ready to help set up, manage appointments and greet everyone with a welcoming smile. Through Corinne’s dedication and warm personality, Walter Reed has a group of “regular” patrons who know they can count on a sympathetic ear as they wait for their massage that evening. Many wounded warriors enjoy visiting, even if they don’t have an appointment. They tell us over and over that “Wednesday is their favorite day of the week” and when they leave they thank us by saying, “We appreciate your service.”

Each time we watch a service member turn their wheelchair around to go home that night, we are truly touched by the generosity of their words. It is through volunteers like Corinne McCullough that the Bethesda program receives such praise.

We want to thank Corinne for helping make the Bethesda MRR program what it is today and for being such an important and integral part of our Cause team!
Volunteers in Action >>>
6th Annual Bridge Game for Cause Raises $11,000

The main ballroom at Congressional Country Club was filled to capacity on Tuesday, September 20th as more than 120 players gathered for the 6th Annual Bridge Game for Cause event. What began as a small gathering of players to raise awareness and funding for Cause programs at Walter Reed has grown to an annual effort to inform and involve the local community.

Cause Board Member and Bridge Event Chair Lesley Lavallée assemble a committee of dedicated volunteers each year who manage every aspect of the event. In 2010 she recruited Professional Bridge teachers Leslie Shafer, Charlie Williams, and Hank Meyer to conduct the tournament and promote the event among their students. It has become an annual tradition for many of their students. Leslie Shafer was recently recognized as “Bridge Teacher of the Year” by the American Bridge Teachers’ Association so her involvement in the annual event makes it very popular with local players.

“We had people waiting at the door to see if they could play,” said Lesley. “Someone who flew in from out of town was waiting on the phone hoping to get a spot!” Lesley and her team are considering expanding the event next year to accommodate all who want to play.

“Some people in the local community forget that we still have wounded, ill, and injured service men and women here in our community undergoing treatment and recovery,” said Lesley. “Bridge for Cause allows us to raise funds for so many very important programs while enjoying fellowship and card play.”

Cause extends a special THANK YOU to following Volunteers for their time and effort: Beth Baker, Alice Burr, Helen Chaikovsky, Donna Duval, Sheila Greco, Robin Hammer, Brenda Holt, Lesley Lavallée, Sheila Katz, Sandra Maddock, Cheryl McGinniss, Sherry Phillips, Moira Schoen, and Leslie Shafer.

Lyon Conklin/Ferguson Hosts Benefit Golf Tournament

For the second year in a row, our friends from the area Lyon, Conklin & Company office in Chantilly hosted a client Golf Tournament at Stonewall Golf Club in Gainesville, VA. This year’s event was held on September 28th. Area Branch Manager Brandon Morgan and his local Team collected direct donations and raffle proceeds generating more than $5,700 to support Cause programs and activities!

“We are honored to be able to support your work with our service members,” remarked Morgan. “We appreciate all that Cause does to help our wounded, ill and injured service men and women.”

Cause Board Chair John Caldwell, Director Ed Sullivan, and longtime Cause supporter George Newman had the chance to participate in this year’s event. Despite the sudden rain shower that forced several teams to suspend play, everyone had fun and looks forward to next year’s event.

Brandon shared the success of the event with fellow managers in the region. Cause received another $4,435 donation from the Ferguson area office in Halethorpe, MD with a note from Area Manager, Brock King: “Merry early Christmas! Sorry for the surprise but this is the first time in many years we’ve held a tournament up here in Maryland and I just piggy backed off of what Brandon was already doing. Glad we could help out such a great cause!”

Cause Receives Grant to Honor Ed and Mary Sullivan

A longtime Cause supporter made a special contribution in October to honor the hard work, dedication, and longstanding service of Ed and Mary Sullivan and their West Point Classmates.

MajGen Arnold Punaro, USMC (Retired) and his wife Jan wanted to publicly thank the Sulivans for their work serving Wounded Warriors and our nation. Their selfless service and dedication to Cause is the reason our organization continues to flourish.

Ed joined the Cause Board of Directors soon after its founding, providing strategic guidance and fiscal oversight. Mary serves on our Gala Committee, Chairs our Auction events, and works tirelessly to support a variety of special events, raising thousands of dollars to support our Cause programs. They are true Ambassadors for our mission!

The donation gave us an opportunity to recognize the behind-the-scenes work and the tremendous impact of their actions. Ed and Mary credit the compassion and dedication of their fellow West Point Class of 1967 Team for establishing Cause to care for the next generation of our Nation’s Hero’s. They exemplify our motto: “...here for those who are there for us!”