



OHF INTEL

3rd Quarter 2021

A Quarterly Report from Operation Healing Forces

New Programs Offer Resources To SOF Families

Dear Friends and Supporters of Operation Healing Forces,

Over the past decade, Operation Healing Forces has built a reputation for thoughtfully curated, incredibly restorative retreats for Special Operators and their spouses. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences allow Operation Healing Forces to fulfill its mission of Creating Bonds That Cure. We're proud to give Special Operations couples the rare opportunity to connect with one another, build relationships with other SOF couples, and make indelible memories together. Some participants even leave with a new shared pastime, from horseback riding to fishing to surfing, like one of the couples in this newsletter.

But these wonderful experiences are only one aspect of Operation Healing Forces. While our retreat experiences offer couples a brief, restful escape from the pressures of military life, our Special Operations Additional Resource (SOAR) Program helps SOF families cope with challenges that threaten family stability, financial health, or physical wellbeing.

Our fast-growing Immediate Needs Program is transforming SOF lives on a regular basis, offering swift crisis support for needs most of us would consider essential—like hospital stays, funeral expenses, groceries, and car repairs, for example. Enabling SOF families to not only survive, but thrive, through challenging times is another way that Operation Healing Forces continues to deliver on its mission. With the help of generous supporters like you, we look forward to advancing this important work in 2021 and beyond. Thank you for helping these humble, resilient, deserving families thrive.

Very Respectfully,
Jeff Hudson
Lieutenant Colonel (R), U.S. Army
Operation Healing Forces, Executive Director



In a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held in July 2021, Army Gen. Richard D. Clarke, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, reported that the SOF community has borne over half of all military combat casualties over the last two years.

Clarke also reported that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the SOF community has maintained a high level of operational readiness. SOF continues to invest in capabilities to meet the challenges of strategic competition with China and Russia while strengthening vital alliances and partnerships.

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RESTORING CONNECTIONS

Darren and Jalessa Patrick

For Darren and Jalessa Patrick of Raeford, North Carolina, a recent Operation Healing Forces retreat in paradise was a reunion of sorts. Darren left military service in 2019 after four years of Special Operations service as an Army Special Forces Engineer. Now a college student, Darren misses being surrounded by other driven, dedicated special operators. Meeting the other retreat attendees in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, was the first time Darren had spent time with Special Forces personnel in nearly two years.

“When I left the service, I immediately started college. I went from hanging in the team room with some of the nation’s most elite soldiers to sitting in class with students who are OK with just barely getting by,” says Darren. “These retreats bring the most elite people together once again and allows us to hang like we did in the team rooms.”

During their week on the Dominican Republic’s famed “Coconut Coast,” the pair explored turquoise waters, took up snorkeling, and learned to surf. “Our favorite memory was how exhausted everyone was after surf camp,” says Darren.

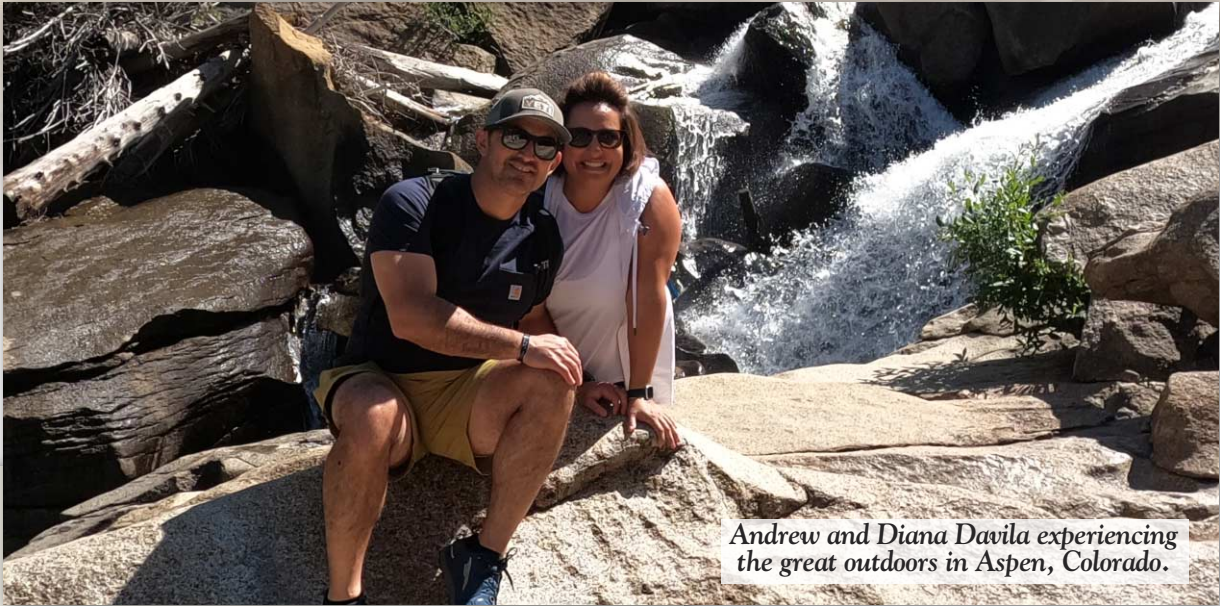


They’d like others to know that Operation Healing Forces retreat experiences are not reserved for active-duty couples. For operators like Darren, who still experiences the effects of an injury sustained during military service, a retreat offers the chance to reconnect with the SOF community and rediscover a vital source of support and camaraderie. As Darren notes, “We have an understanding for one another that others cannot attain.”



Darren and Jalessa Patrick enjoying the eastern coastal waters of the Dominican Republic.

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Andrew and Diana Davila experiencing the great outdoors in Aspen, Colorado.

For Andrew and Diana Davila of North Carolina, daily life is an adventure. As parents of three school-age girls, the longtime military family manages a full schedule alongside Andrew's duties as a Company Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army. Over Andrew's 15 years in Special Operations Forces, planning and carrying out daily routines and tight schedules has become second nature.

When the couple arrived in Aspen, Colorado for a 2021 Operation Healing Forces retreat and found that everything was already planned, they knew they were in for a different kind of adventure. "The biggest surprise was how well everything was planned and executed—there were no worries or needs on our end," says Diana.

Throughout the retreat, the couple enjoyed white-water rafting, hiking, and spending quality time together. "Our favorite memory from the trip was the peace and tranquility on our hike to Maroon Bells," says Diana. "The trip is an amazing opportunity to spend quality time with your spouse, away from the daily stressors that come with military life."



WHITEWATER THRILLS

Andrew and Diana Davila

"We would like to extend our gratitude to the generous donors who made our trip possible," she continues. "Being in SOF for the better half of nearly two decades takes a tremendous toll on not only the Soldier, but their families. The trip provided us a blessed opportunity to reconnect as a married couple and meet other couples with similar experiences."

MOVING FORWARD

Jeff and Trish Dawson



Jeff and Trish Dawson at The Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia.

Photos from Jeff and Trish Dawson's recent Operation Healing Forces retreat at The Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia show an able-bodied, active couple enjoying the outdoors. What the photos don't show is that only two years earlier, Jeff was paralyzed by a bullet during a deployment to Afghanistan.

As a military explosives expert, Jeff supports Army Rangers on specialized missions. After his injury, his focus shifted to intense physical therapy to regain motor skills, including the ability to walk. "I was paralyzed from the chest down, but my spinal cord wasn't completely severed, so through physical therapy and a lot of work and determination, I've regained my ability to walk."

Jeff's recovery is far from complete. He continues to work on regaining strength, stamina, and mobility and still experiences chronic pain. "To many people I may look OK, but I really have this injury that will last my entire life," says Jeff. "Physically, I just want to get in the best condition I can to help benefit me for the rest of my life."

cost of a specialized therapy unit to help Jeff meet his goals. Through a form of physical therapy called Kaatsu, the unit restricts blood flow during workouts to enhance rehabilitation and recovery. "I've been trying to get a Kaatsu unit for a year and a half, and when I found out this was actually happening, I was extremely thankful," says Jeff. "I had a lot of weakness in my legs, so this will help build those muscles up a lot more quickly. To have these modalities to help me get back to the life I used to have is just absolutely incredible."

After the retreat, Operation Healing Forces covered the

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Jeff completed months of physical therapy to regain the ability to walk after a 2019 injury in Afghanistan.

WITH US FOR LIFE

The Deadmond Family

Military life entails sacrifice that few civilians can imagine. When military families become entangled in an ongoing health crisis, like the one experienced by the Deadmond family in Puyallup, Washington, the stakes are especially high. For the past four years, the now-13-year-old daughter of Andrew and Danielle Deadmond has struggled with mental health, suicide, and self-harm.

"Ayliana was nine the first time I got a call from the school that she had tried to kill herself," says Danielle. During several short stints of inpatient care at Seattle Children's Hospital, Andrew and Danielle tried to visit daily. Danielle and Andrew, a vehicle maintenance technician supporting Air Force SOF, juggled the daily commute to Seattle while caring for their younger daughter Kaylee.

In February of this year, Ayliana was referred for extended inpatient treatment in a special youth treatment facility in Billings, Montana. For months, the Deadmonds footed the bills for her care along with travel expenses for regular visits to Montana.

Then a military colleague connected the Deadmonds to Operation Healing Forces Immediate Needs Program. "Stephanie [DeZern] called me on the day we were

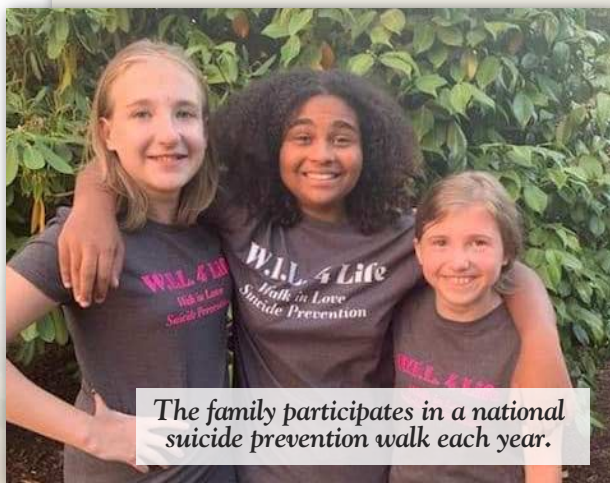


The Deadmond family

leaving to pick up our daughter from Montana, and asked me 'How much do you need to make this trip?' And she wired us the money that day," says Danielle. "She knew how stressful this was for our family and the financial toll it's taken. To have this kind of help was an incredible relief."

Readjusting to life at home in Washington has been bumpy, but Ayliana recently hit a milestone: five months without self-harm. "That's huge for her," says Danielle. "She hasn't hit that any time over the past four years."

Connecting with Operation Healing Forces feels like being welcomed into a supportive new family, says Danielle. "I feel like I finally found the help I've wanted for so long. Stephanie helped me through a really hard time. She told me, 'You're with us for life.'"



The family participates in a national suicide prevention walk each year.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

David T. Maccagnone, CEO Multi-Bank Securities Inc., Southfield, Michigan

As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart medal recipient, David T. Maccagnone knows more than most about the sacrifices made by military families. "I served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War and was in Special Operations myself, so I can identify with the challenges these men and women face when they come home," he says.

Now the CEO of Multi-Bank Securities Inc. in Southfield, Michigan, David learned about Operation Healing Forces from an online article and felt compelled to contribute. After donating the use of his Boca Raton home for an OHF retreat in 2019, he established a \$25,000 grant to support the organization's continued work. "We are honored to give back to these brave men and women who risked their lives for our country every day in the line of duty," he notes. "There are so many ways to get involved, and it is great to know that our contribution is making the biggest impact possible because 100 percent of donations go directly to supporting Special Operators and their families."



*OHF Supporter and U.S. Marine Corps
Veteran David T. Maccagnone*

"We are a veteran-focused company, and it is very important for us to give back to the servicemen and servicewomen who put their lives on the line for our country," he continues. "Our Special Operations Forces have been the tip of the spear in the War on Terror. They make incredible sacrifices and do not always receive the support they need when they come home. Operation Healing Forces is doing a tremendous amount of meaningful work for an underserved community."

CONNECT WITH OHF

Help expand OHF's impact – Please share this newsletter.

Help spread the word about Operation Healing Forces and the battles faced by our nation's Special Operations Forces. Forward this newsletter to a friend, relative, or colleague today. You may end up connecting OHF with its next donor, supporter, or recipient family.

"I read an article online about Operation Healing Forces a couple of years ago and as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran myself, I felt compelled to get involved."

— OHF Supporter David T. Maccagnone, CEO Multi-Bank Securities Inc.

Helping SOF SOAR

Now more than ever, SOF couples need your support. In 2021, OHF is expanding its support for immediate needs, crisis needs, career transitions, employment, caregivers and spouses, and financial planning. To contribute or learn more these programs, please contact SOAR Program Manager *Stephanie DeZern* at stephanie.dezern@ophf.org or (619) 316-7043.

SOAR (Special Operations Additional Resources) Programs

- **Immediate Needs Program**
- **SOF Caregiver & Spouse Retreats**
- **Ambassador Dinners**
- **Legal Assistance Program**
- **OHF Employment Services**
- **Alumni Support**
- **Financial Planning**

A Home for Healing:

The phenomenal growth in our retreat numbers means more couples can participate. This growth also means that Operation Healing Forces needs homes to house our heroes and their spouses.

Providing a home for an OHF retreat is an unforgettable gift and an extremely rewarding way to support SOF couples.



OUR NEED:
5-bedroom, 5-bathroom
destination locales
throughout
North America.

TIMING: Retreats take
place over 5 days. We
have immediate needs for
retreat locations in 2021
and beyond.

LEARN MORE: Contact *Jim Zuba* at
jim.zuba@ophf.org to learn more about
opening your home or how else you can
aid our nation's Special Operators and
their families.

Four Ways You Can Help!



1 **Cash Contributions**
(100% to program costs)



2 **Donate a 5 bedroom/
5 bath Home for a Week**



3 **Donate your Airline Miles**
It's easy. Call or email Desiree Holley
to find out how. (813) 480-6078
desiree.holley@ophf.org



4 **Donate through Amazon Smile**
Search for Operation Healing Forces at
smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will
donate a portion of sales to OHF.

A major reason OHF retreats, Immediate Needs, and other programs OHF offers to support the Special Operations community mean so much and are so healing is because they are offered at no cost to the participants. This provides deserving elite warriors and their families much needed respite to fully relax, focus on one another, alleviate financial stress and burden, and greatly aids in their healing process.

Offering these restorative, life-changing programs takes the support of dedicated donors like you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to OHF to support the special operations community. Please note, all donations go 100% to program costs to support our special operators and their families as Gary & Tony Markel personally cover 100% of OHF's overhead expenses. *Every dollar you give will go directly towards benefiting Special Operators and their families.*



OHF has achieved Charity Navigator's top ranking of Four Stars. Described as "Exceptional" - Exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause.



OHF has achieved the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating, the top 0.1% of the nation's non-profit organizations in terms of transparency.



OHF received the "Top Rated" rating by Great Nonprofits. Rated highly by people who experience their work first hand - clients served, volunteers and donors.

Thank you for your support of Operation Healing Forces

Comments? Questions?

Please tell us what you think about our quarterly newsletter. Direct questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, e-mail us at: info@ophf.org or by mail to:

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Creating bonds that cure.
www.operationhealingforces.org