



OHF INTEL

Spring 2017

A Quarterly Report from Operation Healing Forces.

2016 WAS EPIC.

Exceptional generosity has helped us help more operators.

Without a doubt, Operation Healing Forces (OHF) experienced our most phenomenal growth year ever. Numerous donations from civilian patriots across the U.S. have fueled our outstanding growth and expansion during 2016.

We are proud to report that we have received an astounding 872% increase in cash donations from 2015 to 2016 – 872%! Generous donors have increased more than eight-fold from 30 to 263 in that same time frame. One donor couple who are deeply devoted to our cause donated an astounding \$500,000 last

year. The number of homes donated for our retreats more than doubled. And through 2017 a total of 396 SOF and spouses from more than 75 cities and 11 states will have attended OHF retreats.

We are on a roll, as the saying goes, and there's no sign of any let-up. The year 2017 promises to continue our growth enabling us to serve even more wounded SOF and spouses. Despite all that we do, we have only begun to address the full and profound need among SOF active-duty and recent-veteran personnel for our life-changing and life-affirming retreats.

A QUICK RECAP: By any standard, 2016 was a banner year! Thanks to amazing benefactors like you, we can report:

- Cash donations increased from nearly \$175,000 in 2015 to more than \$1,693,000 in 2016
- Donated homes for retreats increased from five in 2015 to 12 in 2016
- Donors increased from 30 in 2015 to 263 in 2016
- Retreats are growing from five in 2015 to 25 in 2017

396

Wounded Special Operations Forces and spouses to be served by year end 2017.

263

Individuals & corporations who have donated so far to Operation Healing Forces.



John Stallings (right), President and CEO of SunTrust Bank, Virginia Division, and Cyndi Massad, Senior VP SunTrust Bank Client Services, present OHF Founder and Chairman Gary Markel with a \$50,000 donation last October in Richmond, VA.



OHF Executive Director Jeff Hudson (left) speaks with United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Commander General Tony Thomas and Care Coalition Director Colonel Cary Harbaugh at USSOCOM's Care Coalition Conference in March. Both officers shared their thanks for OHF's service to Special Operations Forces.

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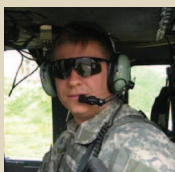
"The care we were given combined with the brotherhood and sisterhood that quickly developed provided a sense of security, so much so that my wife and I were able to completely drop our guard."

■ Green Beret Sergeant First Class, retreat participant recovering from multiple shrapnel wounds and traumatic brain injury



Strategic Planning Guides Our Future

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Jeff Hudson,
Lieutenant Colonel (R), U.S. Army,
OHF Executive Director

SOF is on mission —right now— for US.

Special Operations Forces (SOF) deployed to 146 countries in 2016. In Africa alone, deployments increased 1,600%. The operational pace is unrelenting. This small elite force recently surpassed the rest of the Department of Defense in casualty rates. Suicides, divorces, brain injuries, posttraumatic stress, and cancer rates are still major issues for our nation's most elite forces. Additionally, the SOF cancer rate has surpassed our civilian population.

In 2016, we've had some incredibly patriotic Americans step forward to offer a ray of hope to those bearing the brunt of battle. Our OHF donors are shining a light to help bring struggling couples back together, allowing them to realize their sacrifices were not in vain, and showing them that Americans really do care. OHF peer counseling and sharing of information have created bonds between spouses and among fellow operators. They have revitalized couples to provide hope where hope was lost and to seek treatment instead of facing continued pain.

You, our donors, help make these miraculous stories of recovery, redemption, and salvation possible. Without your support, the Constitution is just piece of paper and an office is just a title. Our society is only sustained by good men and women like you who stand by those who are willing to sacrifice all.

Thank you for daring to make a stand. May God bless you, those on missions as I pen this, and our families. I send you gratitude beyond words for your support.

Both our staff and our board of directors have been actively involved in preparing a three-year strategic plan for the years 2017 through 2019. This plan will guide our efforts in the most time- and cost-efficient ways in the coming years and help ensure that our goals are consistently met. This process is an organizational management tool used to set priorities, focus energies and resources, strengthen operations, align all involved toward a common goal, establish intended outcomes and results, and assess and adjust our response to a changing environment.

Letter from the Chairman

Gary Markel, OHF Founder

We couldn't do it without you.

The United States military, particularly Special Operation Forces (SOF), who has devoted and risked their lives to preserve our freedom as Americans has always had a special place in my heart. It is more than reassuring to know that this feeling is shared by so many who have donated funds, homes, or in-kind items like meals or transportation.

Where would our country be without SOF? The public hears about an occasional SOF mission like the successful assassination of Osama bin Laden in 2011. However, for the most part, the activities of SOF escape the press because they are so highly classified. SOF casualties often go unreported for the same reason. These warriors work quietly, out of the limelight, in secret, and almost always unher-

Toward those ends, we conduct quarterly board meetings between directors and staff to evaluate progress. We construct detailed plans to make sure that our wounded, ill and injured SOF and spouses receive the best possible rehabilitative experiences while we remain careful stewards of every donated dollar.

The current strategic plan for 2017 – 2019 seeks to increase retreats to 35 in 2018 and extend to 50 in 2019. Attaining this goal will have allowed us to serve 450 wounded SOF couples with more than 900 participants in three years.

alded for their astonishing bravery in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Yet still they sacrifice everything, including sometimes their lives and families, to preserve the United States of America.

Our belief has been that special operators are best served in small groups of their peers. In the past, we have been cautious by sponsoring a limited number of retreats to test this theory, which has proven to be 100% correct. As one participating spouse said, "My husband would never openly share things like he has this week if he were not among his brothers. And the retreat was just as healing for me."

In 2016, we conducted 12 retreats. In 2017, we will host 25. In 2018, it will be 35. For 2019 our aim is to sponsor 50 OHF retreats. To achieve these worthwhile and very do-able goals requires your continued help to fund program expenses, 100% of which are spent directly on operator and spousal services. Thank you for your past support. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to OHF in the exciting years ahead.

Check out our website!
operationhealingforces.org



SPOTLIGHT ON COUPLES

Meet the Frankenfields.

Gordon Frankenfield returned from an OHF retreat in late 2016. To which we say, "Mission accomplished!"

In addition to serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Frankenfields have faced one horrific battle after another due to health issues neither they nor their three children could have anticipated. Shelia, a former emergency nurse with Air Force Special Operations Command, was diagnosed with a debilitating systemic disease while serving in Balad, Iraq. She was medically retired then diagnosed with cervical cancer and

later with breast cancer. Husband Gordon, a C-130 J pilot who flew in Iraq in support of Special Operations Forces, was diagnosed with testicular cancer just two weeks after Shelia's cancer diagnosis. Thanks to surgeries, chemotherapy and extensive rehab, the Frankenfields have regained their health. Thanks to Operation Healing Forces, they are regaining their marriage and strengthening their family. We appreciate your thanks, Shelia and Gordon, but it was our honor. And, in fact, it's the only reason we're here.

"This trip has given us the chance to get back to who we as a couple were, and work on getting back to 'us,'" Capt. Shelia Frankenfield, USAF (R) wrote this to us after she and husband Lt. Col.

Our Activities Are Designed To Create Growth and Healing.

Our focus remains the three Rs.

After long and repeated deployment to war-torn regions of the world, Special Operation Forces and their mates suffer untold hardships readjusting to stateside life. **The Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Resiliency** available through Operation Healing Forces retreats do much to benefit not only the operator but the spouse and the entire family as well. It's not a stretch to realize that happier couples can more easily be happier parents.

Starting conversations among participants helps.

There is a stigma in the SOF community associated with counseling and therapy, which is a major obstacle for those needing help. That's why OHF chooses activities that are known to elicit conversation, break barriers, and create comfort between participants. So the therapeutic activities our participants experience during retreats are actually productive. These may include parasailing, horseback riding, ATVs, snowmobiling, skiing,

SCUBA diving, ropes courses and other intensive pastimes. Each is carefully chosen to encourage camaraderie between fellow operators and their life partners. Doing things together that may be familiar to the operator but unfamiliar to the spouse can break the emotional ice and begin conversation. Couples can discover a willingness to explore issues that they face individually, as a couple, and as a group. In essence, these therapeutic activities are central to helping create bonds that cure, which is our mission.



Donations GROW!

One hundred percent of donations to Operation Healing Forces goes directly to program expenses that benefit our wounded operators and their spouses during their retreats. Brothers Gary and Tony Markel personally fund all other expenses – General, Administrative and Fundraising costs – to continue making all other donations from benefactors like you solely for the benefit of wounded SOF and spouses.

And how successful are we as an organization? As a result of their participation in an OHF retreat, 96% of attendees reported that OHF continues to have a positive impact on their relationships, mental health, confidence, and continued recovery. *That* is what we call success.

Dedicate Your Gift To Someone Special.

Many benefactors of Operation Healing Forces choose to make their donation in honor of someone important in their lives. Recently, the following donors have chosen to remember another person through gifts to Operation Healing Forces.

Donor Name

Cherry Grove Foundation
Jerry and Charlotte Dawson
Lt. Colonel (R) and Mrs. Stephen Huebner

Offit Capital
M. Soloman Organization CT
Len Reed
David and Donna Schaar
David and Donna Schaar
Susan Schaar

Donor Name

Ron and Mary Jane Campbell
Hourigan Construction
Judith Cull
Rivero, Gordimer and Company, P.A.

Donations Made In Honor of Gary and/or Tony Markel

Gerard Capone
Stewart Kasen
Owen Maiden
Russell Rabb, Jr

In Honor

Steven Francis Snyder, U.S.M.C.
Claude Dawson, Jr- 82nd Airborne
LCDR Allan Huebner, USN
and LCDR Christopher Huebner
James W. Crystal
James W. Crystal
USMA Class of '54
Susan and Bill Schaar
Bill Schaar birthday
Bill Schaar birthday

In Memory

Ben Davidson
Marshall Weakley's Father
Lindsey Cull
George K. Winton

Clarence and Mary Costa
Bruce and Janet Kay
Pat and Barry Parkhill
Jay Weinberg & Marilyn Simon

2016 Financial Report

Thanks to our generous donors, a total of \$1,767,955.26 was raised in support of Operation Healing Forces during 2016. Below are our expenses during the year:

Program Expenses \$1,015,233.25

General &
Administrative Expenses \$87,864.00

Fundraising Expenses \$130,904.61



Former Marine and current Army Special Operations Forces Green Beret Ricky Hughes treats one of the 250 children, women and men he and his team personally aided over a 24-hour period in Thailand this past year. After being wounded in Afghanistan, Ricky underwent extensive treatment and rehab in the U.S., including an OHF retreat. He is shown wearing a baseball cap received while on retreat with OHF.



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@operationhealingforces.org or by mail to:

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Creating bonds that cure.

www.operationhealingforces.org