

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CREATING BONDS THAT CURE

**TONY
MARKEL**
Vice-Chairman



**GARY
MARKEL**
Founder & Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

KERRY IRVIN
Chief Executive Officer



To Our Partners in Purpose,

In 2024, Operation Healing Forces (OHF) remained unwavering in our mission to serve America's Special Operations Forces (SOF) community—responding swiftly and compassionately to the complex and evolving needs of those who carry the weight of our freedom.

Fueled by the generosity of our donors and partners, we expanded every core program—delivering more therapeutic retreats and critical crisis support than ever before. We also launched a virtual wellness program in partnership with HatchPath, providing SOF warriors, veterans, and caregivers with on-demand access to expert-led coaching and resources focused on mental health, emotional well-being, physical fitness, and personal growth. This holistic program removes traditional barriers to care and ensures tailored support is available anytime, anywhere—meeting individuals exactly where they are in their healing journey.

Over the course of the year, OHF hosted 50 Therapeutic Retreats, bringing the total to 332 since our founding in 2011, and serving nearly 2,700 SOF couples and caregivers. These retreats offered the opportunity to rest, reconnect, and rebuild—a lifeline for many navigating visible and invisible wounds.

Through our Special Operations Additional Resources (SOAR) Program, OHF fulfilled 1,150 grants for urgent support—including mental health care and medical treatments, emergency travel, adaptive and recovery equipment, housing, food, transition assistance, and other essential living needs. Since SOAR's launch in 2019, OHF has delivered critical assistance to more than 10,500 individuals facing hardship and crisis within the SOF community.

The true impact of our work is measured not just in numbers, but in lives changed: A caregiver takes part in a respite retreat and finds the emotional space to breathe again after years of tending to a catastrophically wounded warrior. A veteran reconnects with their partner during a retreat and takes the first steps toward healing from post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury. A young SOF family receives urgent aid for housing and food, along with free financial guidance after a medical crisis. A recovering warrior regains mobility—and hope—through nerve-stimulation therapy.

This is the impact your generosity makes possible. You are not just funding programs—you are restoring lives, strengthening families, and reminding these quiet professionals and their loved ones that they are never alone.

At OHF, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of financial stewardship. **100% of every dollar donated directly supports our programs**, thanks to the continued commitment of our Board of Directors, who underwrite all administrative and operational costs. This ensures that your investment goes exactly where it's needed most—into the hands and hearts of those we serve.

As we look ahead to 2025, our resolve to meet the rising needs of SOF families is stronger than ever. Together, we are not just **Creating Bonds That Cure™**—we're restoring lives, honoring sacrifice, and standing shoulder to shoulder with the warriors and families who have given so much, ensuring they never face the journey of healing, recovery, and reintegration alone.

With gratitude,

Gary Markel
Founder & Chairman

Tony Markel
Vice-Chairman

Kerry Irvin
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT US

Operation Healing Forces (OHF) provides a suite of programs to aid the Special Operations Forces (SOF) community which has endured decades of perpetual combat operations, extensive training, and extreme hardships as a result of their service. Although SOF account for approximately three percent of the Department of Defense, SOF are the U.S. military's most highly trained units and account for some of the highest casualty, divorce, cancer, and suicide rates of all the military.



THEIR LIVES ARE OUR MISSION.

We remain committed to aiding and promoting the wellbeing of those we serve throughout their lives. Once an individual or family has received services from OHF, they become a member of our wide-spread OHF Alumni Family and are networked into valuable resources and life-enhancing opportunities.

Operation Healing Forces has proudly served more than **10,500** Special Operations Forces service members, their families, and caregivers. To date, we have invested more than **\$25 million** in the creation and delivery of life-changing programs that effectively address and reduce key risk factors impacting the SOF community.

OUR MISSION

Operation Healing Forces' mission is to serve the needs of America's wounded, ill, injured, and Fallen Special Operations Forces service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors through a suite of programs that promote long-term mental, physical, emotional, and fiscal well-being.



While Special Operations Forces comprise only 3% of the Department of Defense's fighting force, they are our nation's most elite and highly trained warriors.



WHO WE SERVE

America's Quiet Professionals: The Tip of the Spear

America's Special Operations Forces (SOF) are the "**Tip of the Spear**" in addressing our nation's most complex security challenges. Known as "**Quiet Professionals**," these elite warriors execute high-risk, strategic missions requiring extraordinary skill and precision. On any given day, SOF personnel may be deployed in over 70 countries, engaging in operations, training, and joint exercises alongside allied forces.

This relentless pace places immense strain not only on the warriors themselves but also on their families. Today, the SOF community includes more than 70,000 active-duty personnel and approximately 40,000 veterans—among the most highly trained and frequently deployed in the military.

Operation Healing Forces (OHF) was founded to support these warriors and their families through programs focused on **Reintegration, Rehabilitation, and Resilience**. From therapeutic retreats that restore connection and well-being, to emergency support during times of crisis, OHF creates space for healing and fosters a strong, supportive community. Guiding every aspect of OHF's mission is our commitment to **Creating Bonds That Cure™**—ensuring that those who sacrifice so much are never left to navigate their journey alone.

OUR FOCUS

RESILIENCE

SOF couples and family members experience positive emotions, a sense of control over critical aspects of life, and strengthened relationships.



- Positive Emotions
- Strengthened Relationships
- Hope & Purpose
- Pride in Service

REHABILITATION

SOF couples and families receive support for healing the body, mind, and family unit.



- Connect to Care & Resources
- Promote Wellness
- Restorative Recreation
- Respite

REINTEGRATION

SOF couples and families connect with the community, critical wellness information, and each other.



- Couple & Peer Connection
- Communication
- Share Information & Resources
- Meaningful Support



CONNECT

OHF's programs Create Bonds That Cure by providing SOF service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers connections to a network of others who can relate to the unique challenges associated with the Special Operations community. OHF case coordinators also provide priority connection to vital resources – helping participants reintegrate, rehabilitate, and bolster resilience while decreasing feelings of isolation, depression, stress, and anxiety-potential risk factors of suicide.

SERVE

OHF serves America's SOF community through the Immediate Needs Program by providing vital financial assistance for critical needs in times of hardships and crisis - most often within 24 to 48 hours of request.

EMPOWER

OHF empowers SOF warriors and their families by helping alleviate burdens from the family - allowing the veteran to focus on the mission ahead, whether it be recovery and a return to the fight, bolstering vital relationships, or the new direction of their career.



“Operation Healing Forces moved quickly and thoroughly into the gap that kept my family feeling lost, forgotten, and discounted. While it’s not been an easy journey, it has been a tremendous boost knowing that we have the caring individuals at OHF walking alongside us and helping us make sure we have the tools we need to heal.”

- OHF Immediate Needs Alumni

THERAPEUTIC RETREATS: HEALING THROUGH CONNECTION

Operation Healing Forces conducts therapeutic retreats for Special Operations Forces (SOF) couples and caregivers at locations across the United States – and in select global regions near where SOF personnel are stationed—completely free of charge to participants. Each retreat is led by a SOF veteran or caregiver, trusted peers who deeply understand the unique challenges of life within the SOF community. OHF's life-changing retreats are intentionally designed to foster healing through the power of peer-to-

peer connection. Participants share experiences, process trauma, and build meaningful bonds with others who truly understand the visible and invisible wounds of war, multiple deployments, and the unrelenting demands of SOF life. At the conclusion of each retreat, participants join the OHF Alumni Network, gaining access to ongoing opportunities, support, and resources that help extend and deepen the healing and growth initiated during the retreat experience.

SOF COUPLES RETREATS: HEALING THE HOMEFRONT

Grounded in resilience and reconnection, OHF's couples retreats offer participants a chance to rest, renew, and rebuild - together.

They provide a space to:

- Recharge a weary heart
- Reconnect with a life partner
- Form lasting relationships with those who share similar struggles
- Address the emotional weight of service—including isolation, anxiety, and depression
- Take meaningful steps toward healing, growth, and a stronger future as a united team



CAREGIVER RETREATS: HONORING HIDDEN HEROES

Operation Healing Forces developed Therapeutic Caregiver Retreats to offer a lifeline of rest, renewal, and recognition for SOF caregivers—the often-unseen heroes who serve behind the scenes, yet make extraordinary sacrifices of their own. These individuals frequently carry the immense responsibility of providing daily care for a catastrophically wounded, ill, or injured service member, all while managing family life, maintaining a household, and trying to balance their own personal and professional commitments.



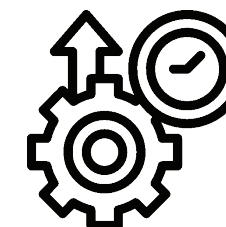
COUPLES & CAREGIVERS RETREATS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total # of Retreats Since Inception | 389 |
| Total # of Retreats in 2024 | 50 |
| Total Individuals Served | 2,681 |

RETREAT IMPACT



Over **99%** of respondents reported improved communication with their spouse following the OHF retreat

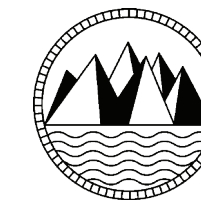


96% of respondents reported continued improvements following the OHF retreat, six months to one year past retreat

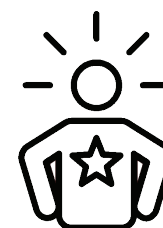
100% of respondents would recommend OHF to other SOF couples



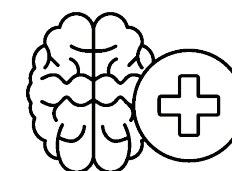
95% of respondents believe that the peer-to-peer exchange during the retreat aided in their personal recovery



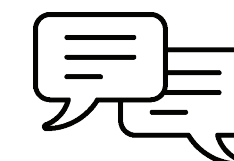
97% of respondents believe that outdoor recreational activities aided in their personal recovery



Over **96%** of respondents reported increased confidence participating in recreational activities following the OHF retreat



97% of respondents reported improvements in multiple mental health symptoms following their retreat



96% of respondents learned of new benefits or resources available to their families on the retreat

SOAR PROGRAM: A LIFELINE WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

OHF's Special Operations Additional Resource (SOAR) Program serves as a vital safety net for the SOF community, offering critical support during times of hardship, crisis, and beyond. At its core is the Immediate Needs Program (INP), which delivers rapid, compassionate assistance to wounded, ill, injured, and Fallen SOF service members and their families.

INP provides emergency financial relief for urgent needs—including medical care, adaptive equipment, emergency travel, funeral and memorial expenses, and respite care for full-time caregivers. It also helps cover essential living costs like housing, food, and utilities during times of acute hardship.

Beyond crisis response, SOAR invests in long-term well-being. It offers career transition assistance, skill certification support, and access to expert financial planning. Participants also benefit from OHF's innovative virtual wellness program which connects SOF families with certified health coaches for personalized, holistic care—empowering them to build healthier, more resilient lives.

SOAR is a trusted partner of the U.S. Special Operations Command's Warrior Care Program, fulfilling 30 to 40 urgent requests each month—often within 24 hours. In 2024, thanks to expanded capacity and growing need, SOAR supported more SOF families than ever before, ensuring those who have sacrificed in service to our nation receive the help they deserve – when they need it most.

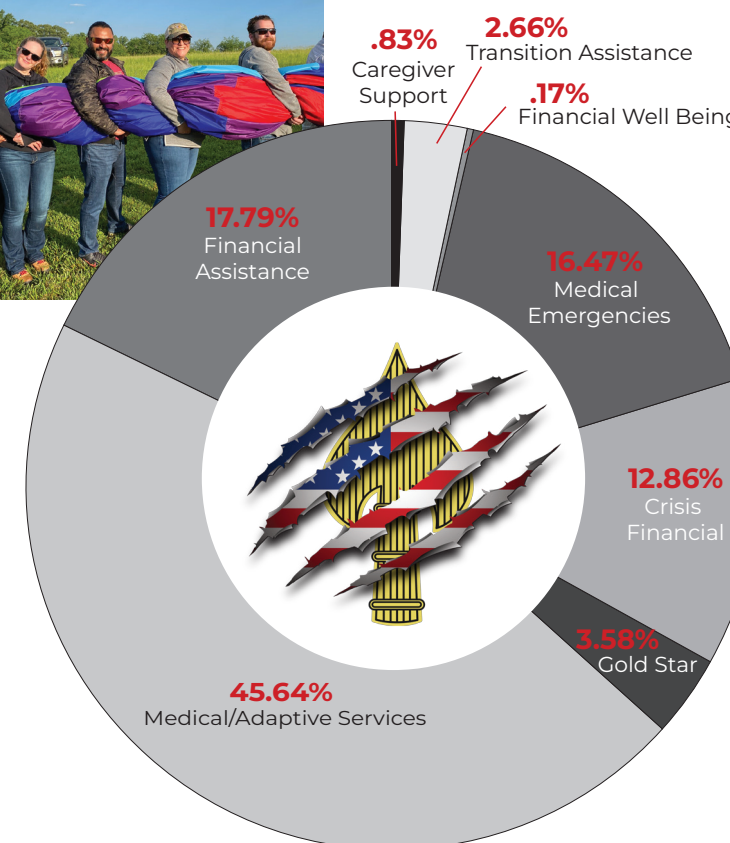


OHF's Immediate Needs Program provides assistance to the SOF community in crisis, often within **24 hours** of the request.



CREATING BONDS THAT CURE

2024 REQUEST BY TYPE



"I wouldn't be alive today without OHF. Their volunteers and staff were truly a godsend to my life."

- OHF Alumnus

SINCE INCEPTION

3,243 Requests Received
9,752 Individuals Assisted
\$4,575,780 Total Spent

2024 SUPPORT

1,150 Requests Received
2,274 Individuals Assisted
\$1,514,781 Total Spent



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Operation Healing Forces is committed to supporting America's active-duty and retired Special Operations Forces (SOF) warriors and their families as they heal, reintegrate into civilian life, or prepare to return to duty. As our programs expand to meet the evolving needs of the SOF community, maintaining public

awareness and support remains critical. Through strategic community outreach, OHF staff, Alumni, Board Members, and National Advisory Council representatives cultivate meaningful relationships and resources that strengthen our network and expand our ability to serve those at the Tip of the Spear.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

Our commitment to those we serve comes with a responsibility OHF does not take lightly. Each year, Operation Healing Forces is independently audited by a highly respected external accounting firm. Key financial documents including the audit report are available by request or by visiting our website: www.operationhealingforces.org/documents.

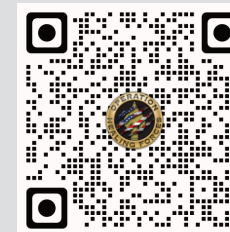
Additionally, OHF is proud of our 4 out of 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and other awards and distinctions that recognize our dedication to financial efficiency and administrative accountability.

2024 AUDITED FINANCIALS

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Program Retreat | \$2,844,567 |
| Program SOAR | \$1,514,781 |
| General & Administrative Expenses | \$390,930 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$673,143 |
| Total Net Assets | \$2,429,511 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE | \$5,884,077 |

Stand alongside us as together we pay tribute to the sacrifices of our nation's wounded, ill, injured, and Fallen Special Operations Forces warriors and their families.

DONATE TODAY!



OHF's Board of Directors has committed to covering all overhead costs associated with the operation of OHF. **100% of every dollar donated funds our vital and life-changing programs.**



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.

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OUR VISION

Our vision is that all members of the Special Operations Forces community are able to enhance their resilience, empower their rehabilitation, embrace their reintegration, and lead fulfilling and productive lives.

DONATE





OPERATION HEALING FORCES

Creating Bonds That Cure



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