



# | 2021 Annual Report

The basic idea that drives our efforts is simple. These heroes and military families have sacrificed so much and they deserve the best care and support available in their hour of need. Injuries are often severe, and the road to recovery or rehabilitation can be long and difficult.

TODAY, TOMORROW, TOGETHER



**SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S®**  
FUND

# A Message From Our Chairman



Since The Fund began seventeen years ago, we have served over 27,000 critically wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, and military families from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Year after year, we consistently maintain the highest ratings possible from leading nonprofit watchdog groups: Charity Watch (A+ rating, one of only three veteran nonprofits to receive their highest rating), Charity Navigator (4-Star rating for 10 consecutive years, an achievement only attained by 2% of charities), and GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency. Since our inception in 2004, we have provided \$263 million in invaluable assistance to thousands of service members, veterans, and military families. **Additionally, 95% of those in our Fund family report an improvement** in well-being due to services provided by The Fund.

This past year, we sustained that record of excellence while expanding support to those who have sacrificed so much. The COVID 19 pandemic created unique challenges to The Fund family, and we witnessed a 24% increase in the numbers of those needing our assistance. We were able to meet the increased demand due to the extraordinary support of our donors. We are very fortunate to have such loyal and generous members of The Fund family.

We were also able to meet the challenges of the past year because of the talent, commitment, and compassion of our staff, case managers, and visiting nurses. I am incredibly proud of what they do every day to deliver on our promise to be there when and where we are needed.

With the continued support of our donors and the commitment of the entire Fund Team, those we serve will achieve the very best quality of life and independence possible in the context of their physical and mental challenges. Together, we will ensure that our service members, veterans, and military families in need are never alone or forgotten.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Dunford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.  
Chairman

Meeting  
Pandemic  
Challenges



Scan for Video

# Dear SF & AF Family & Friends,

Dear SF&AF Family & Friends,

I look over this last past year with bursting pride in our team, in our mission, and in our treasured relationships with our partners and supporters. We have been able to expand our reach and evolve our programming with your help. At The Fund, we will look back over this pandemic to see the pain and uncertainty it caused, balanced by an increase in care, love, generosity, and compassion. This last year we have undertaken a robust outcome measurement effort to ensure our operations remain relevant, efficient, and effective. We are proud of the results and our ratings. **Our service members, veterans, and military families continue to be at the center and heartbeat of all that we do!**

What remains constant:

- The Fund delivers direct and needs-based financial assistance and tailored support. Our heroes become part of our family—and we become part of theirs—for life.
- The suicide rate of service members is 30% lower in The Fund than the overall combat-wounded population.
- The Fund supported 750 crisis calls last year from veterans at risk of home eviction, car repossession, or experiencing personal crisis.
- We believe it is a moral responsibility to care for our military families.
- We provide hope and healing with a one-to-one, heart-to-heart, model.

The silver lining this last year has been a deeper appreciation for our connections, our relationships, and the power of reaching out. We continue to be as dedicated and passionate as we were back in 2003 when The Fund was just a dream and vision to care for our nation's heroes and their families.

Thank you for walking alongside us on this journey as we take this mission forward to cast an even wider net of support and refine our programming to those we serve. We cannot wait to see what 2022 has in store for us.

Bless you all with an abundance of health, hope, happiness, and joy!



Karen Guenther



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USMC (1998–2002)

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USA (1999–2003)

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Captain, CHC, USN (Retired)

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CEO, Destiny Alliance Consulting, LLC.  
Colonel, USMC (Retired)

MELISSA STOCKWELL  
First Lieutenant, USA (Retired)  
Three-Time Paralympian (2008, 2016, 2020)

GARY ZEGLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Retired)



# Double Down for Veterans Campaign!



A record year for the Double Down for Veterans campaign! This is the 10th year The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation matched dollar-for-dollar donations made to Semper Fi & America's Fund up to \$10 million.

**You helped us raise \$23.6 million** during the 2021 campaign—and we made the match nine days early! Your support means so much to so many. The funding from the campaign is vital for the life-changing assistance Semper Fi & America's Fund is able to provide our service members, military family members, and veterans throughout the year, and none of this would be possible without our faithful and generous donors like you.



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FUND**

# Who We Are

**Mission Statement:** Semper Fi & America's Fund walks alongside our combat wounded, critically ill and injured service members, military family members, and veterans, from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Our Case Managers, Visiting Nurses, and entire team support those we serve by helping navigate complex medical and emotional recovery—Today, Tomorrow, Together!



**SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S<sup>®</sup>**  
FUND

## FY21 At-a-Glance

**\$26.1M**

In Assistance Provided

**9,175**

Service Members  
Impacted

**35,900**

Grants Delivered—1,800 of  
which were first-time grant  
recipients

# Our Impact



## ▶ Adaptive Housing Assistance

- FY2021: \$2,248,000
- Since inception: \$20,792,000

## ▶ Adaptive Transportation Assistance

- FY2021: \$2,076,000
- Since inception: \$14,248,000

## ▶ Specialized & Adaptive Equipment

- FY2021: \$1,767,000
- Since inception: \$14,685,000

## ▶ LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund

- FY2021: \$1,960,000
- Since inception: \$4,670,000

## ▶ Disaster Relief Program

- FY2021: \$2,156,000
- Since inception: \$6,141,000

## ▶ Apprenticeship Program

- FY2021: \$829,000
- Since inception: \$4,932,000

## ▶ Canine Companions

- FY2021: \$500,000
- Since inception: \$4,249,000

# What Makes Us Different

The suicide rate of service members assisted by The Fund since 2004 is **30%** lower than the rate for the overall combat-wounded population

**138** grants issued per day

On average, **360** volunteers donate **3,485** hours annually

**11,000** of the veterans we have assisted are catastrophically injured and will require lifetime support



**85%** of our staff members have a military affiliation

**40** new service members assisted each week

**95%** indicated an improvement in their overall well-being due to services provided by The Fund

**\$0.92** of every dollar spent since inception has gone toward financial assistance and programs for our veterans and their families



# In His Own Words

**Below is a testimonial** The Fund received from one of the thousands of veterans helped each year. His words mirror the experiences and sentiments expressed by so many veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. If one thing is taken from the story he shares, it is that there is always opportunity for a fresh start and having the right people in your “fireteam” can make all the difference in the world to achieving every goal.

Let me begin by first wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

For many the last couple of years have been anything but exciting. A fresh start is something we could all use. Although 2021 was anything but normal, it was a very productive year for myself with the help of my team appointed to me on behalf of the Semper Fi & America’s Fund. My case manager was extremely helpful as always, and I was introduced to my Veteran Lead who gave me suggestions that paid off tremendously, as I am now gainfully employed, back in school and receiving the help I need from the VA.

When I was first introduced to The Fund, this was not the case. I lived alone, no children, no job and I slept in my car. I was homeless and I was an alcoholic. I found my rock bottom. Generally speaking, not a lot of people have hope for an addict that lives in a car in California, but The Fund did. They gave me resources, some monetary, but what helped me the most was the follow ups, and the efforts they made to hold me accountable, requiring current proof of treatment as a prerequisite in order to receive a grant.

That was 2015, I ended up getting out of the rut and finishing my bachelor’s in psychology from California State with high honors. In 2018, I had my son and became a father, which brought many financial challenges. Once again, I had the help I needed to get through the tough times. At this point, I’m working and sober but still continued to struggle with my trauma from combat. The team introduced me to NeuroFitness a class that helped

me practice mindfulness and provided me with tools such as meditation and breathing exercises. This along with my regular therapy, kept me from acting erratically towards my son and kept me centered mentally.

In 2019, I was introduced to my Veteran Lead who became a lifeline and permanent part of my fireteam. In combat we trust the members of our fireteam to get us through the

worst situations. That was my Veteran Lead, who not only helped me get the rating I deserved but became my go to shoulder to cry on when I just needed to vent.

Currently, I am a VA volunteer. I help vets and I do it for free. It makes me feel good. I’m going back to school for my master’s in social work starting this month, and I work. I practice meditation daily, tai chi and yoga occasionally. I just got back from the Semper Fi Odyssey, which utilizes these activities as coping mechanisms and now I’m completely obsessed. I’m a great father, and a sober father to my son. My life is balanced, and it’s never been better. I couldn’t have done it without my team. I’m forever grateful for what The Fund has provided.

“ I’M A GREAT FATHER, AND A SOBER FATHER TO MY SON. MY LIFE IS BALANCED, AND IT’S NEVER BEEN BETTER. I COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT MY TEAM. I’M FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR WHAT THE FUND HAS PROVIDED. ”



**SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S<sup>®</sup>**  
**FUND**



# Innovative Solutions



**SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S®**  
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## Service Member & Family Support

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ASSISTING THE FAMILY UNIT  
FROM INJURY THROUGH  
RECOVERY

- Bedside Financial Support
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Specialized & Adaptive Equipment
- Visiting Nurse Program
- Caregiver Support & Retreats
- Skip's Kids Program
- LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Program
- Disaster Relief Program

## Transition

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INTEGRATING SERVICE  
MEMBERS BACK INTO THEIR  
COMMUNITIES

- Veteran to Veteran Support
- Apprenticeship Program
- Education & Career Assistance
- Veteran Reunions & Unit Reunions
- Semper Fi & America's Fund Odyssey Retreat

## Integrative Wellness

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PROVIDING WELLNESS TOOLS  
TO IMPROVE BODY, MIND,  
AND SPIRIT

- PTSD & TBI Support
- NeuroFitness
- High-Tech Wellness Devices
- Post-Traumatic Growth Video Resources
- Counseling
- Peter Murphy Sports Program
- Arts & Music Program
- Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program
- Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program



“Semper Fi and America’s Fund was a life saver”, said a Cpl in the Marines.

# | Integrative Wellness

Combat experiences spanning a 22-year career in the Marine Corps infantry took an emotional toll on a First Sergeant. When these experiences began to affect his everyday life, his Case Manager recommended the Marine enroll in our NeuroFitness program to manage his post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) symptoms. The grants provided through our Integrative Wellness Program equipped the Marine with the tools needed to participate in neurofeedback, which has helped him engage in mindfulness practices to

manage his anxiety, reduce the stress in his daily life, and make beneficial changes to his diet.

Our Integrative Wellness Program employs a holistic approach that empowers service members to improve their mind, body, and spirit using a myriad of health and wellness tools. This comprehensive outlook on recovery fosters healing in a powerful and sustainable way, through innovative technologies and high-tech wellness devices; counseling support; and sports, art, and animal therapy.

Our donors made it possible to support 2,250 service members with \$2,997,000 through our Integrative Wellness Program in Fiscal Year 2021. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have made Semper Fi and America’s Fund a philanthropic priority.



“The Fund stepped in really early on, and they have kept up with us since,” said a Navy Petty Officer. ”

# Transition

A career as a combat medic included the loss of numerous peers and constant stress, resulting in a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for an Army Sergeant. Following his military service, the Soldier began participating in our Veteran to Veteran (V2V) program, but his symptoms made him hesitant to leave his home. The V2V program fostered a connection between this veteran and the local Veteran Lead and, together, they worked to identify what would best help the Soldier manage his severe social anxiety and depression. The

essential tool they identified was a service dog, and the Veteran Lead helped the Soldier arrange for the acquisition of his newest care team member, a German Shepherd named Sarge.

Our V2V program provides service members with connections based on location and the common veteran experience. Additional assistance available through our Transition Program includes the resources, training, and support needed to find employment, pursue an education, or start a small business, as well as participate

in one-on-one mentorship and engage with local veterans—all of which help service members thrive beyond their injuries and contribute to their communities.

Generous donors make all that we do possible. In Fiscal Year 2021, 1,475 service members received the personalized support they needed—totaling \$1,536,000—to return home after their military service.

“

When asked what The Fund means to one of our Army Soldiers, he said, “The Fund feels like God’s work.”

”



# Service Member & Family Support

While deployed to Afghanistan, the blast from an improvised explosive device cost an Army Sergeant both legs. After lengthy hospitalizations for treatment and rehabilitation, the Soldier returned home and began his life post-injury. His Case Manager arranged for an Adaptive Transportation grant through our Service Member and Family Support program that provided for the installation of hand controls in the Soldier’s vehicle, ensuring that he had comfortable and reliable transportation as he regained his independence.

In addition to transportation assistance, our Service Member and Family Support Program assists with housing costs, provides support from Visiting Nurses and respite care for caregivers, and much more. This ensures that service members, military families, and veterans have what they need when they need it, beginning at the time of injury and continuing throughout their recovery journey.

From everyone at The Fund, we would like to extend a special thank you to the amazing donors who support our wounded and

critically ill service members and military families. Every donation helps Semper Fi & America’s Fund fulfill our critical mission. In Fiscal Year 2021, thousands of generous donors provided \$21,574,000 to assist 8,350 service members through our Service Member & Family Support Program.



# Legacy Society

Recently, The Fund was blessed with a bequest from Sue Poyntz Williams. Sue, an amazing woman, active in supporting military charities that train guide dogs, became a champion of Semper Fi & America's Fund in her later years. She recognized that our Nation's heroes have needs that will last decades beyond the conflicts that inflicted their injuries and she set aside part of her estate to help these brave men and women. Sue is not alone. Her generous bequest is one of several gifts that The Fund receives every year from hardworking, dedicated patriots

who have chosen to include The Fund in their estate plans to ensure that those who have given so much for our freedom are taken care of for as long as they need our help. These gifts allow us to meet the lifetime needs of our service members—replacing worn-out vehicles and equipment, making repairs and modifications to aging homes, and providing support for additional therapies and treatments for service members as they age with their injuries—helping their families every step of the way. In 2014, Semper Fi & America's Fund established our Legacy Society to

recognize donors who choose to include The Fund in their estate plans. We have received 104 gifts, totaling just under \$12 million. Some cannot give during their lifetime; others wish for their gifts to be included in their estate as a continuation and remembrance of their generosity and service. The goal of our Legacy Society is to help build The Fund's endowment and fulfill our mission of supporting our wounded and critically ill service members, military family members, and veterans, in perpetuity.

# Scan To Hear The Stories



“One Moment That Stands Out?” Vincent Lynch:





# Hero Story

## USMC Sergeant Jordan Maynard: A Promise to Come Home

*prom·ise: a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.*

As USMC Sergeant Jordan Maynard lay on the ground in Afghanistan in 2011 after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED), he didn't question if he'd live or die. Jordan's first thoughts were of six-year-old Jae ... and the promise Jordan now made to himself to do everything in his power to return home to his young son.

Having known from a young age that he wanted to join the military, Jordan became a Marine in 2007 and deployed multiple times to Afghanistan, serving as a mortar squad leader and conducting over 100 patrols with multiple joint task forces. It was in his second deployment to Afghanistan, during an assignment with his team to provide security to a patrol base and clear the compound of explosives, that Jordan stepped on the IED.

Though Jordan had lost both legs and suffered a compound fracture of his elbow, thoughts of his son inspired him to stay calm as he remained conscious to direct the Marines who'd come to his aid. While Jordan was medevaced off the scene, his heart stopped multiple times, forcing the medics to manually pump his heart by hand until they landed at medical facilities in Afghanistan.

Jordan was sent to Germany for further treatment, and his family arrived to stay by his side in the earliest days of recovery, though Jordan had made a special request: for his son not to come, which served as all the motivation Jordan needed to keep his sights on returning home throughout the long and painful days at the hospital.

One week later, Jordan's greatest wish came true—he and Jae were reunited at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where Jordan underwent further treatment in the ICU before being transferred to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego to be closer to family. It was at Balboa that he met June, who became his Case Manager at Semper Fi & America's Fund.

"I just remember waking up and seeing June," Jordan said. "She's been there ever since."

June and The Fund provided Jordan with specialized equipment and innovative devices to help him live a more independent life alongside his family, who all love the outdoors. As Jordan had grown up going camping and fishing with his family, nature proved to be a great source of solace throughout his recovery and beyond.

"It became my therapy, and given the choice, I would always choose to be outside," said Jordan. "We love to go on adventures as a family. We're not stagnant—that's for sure."

The Maynard family can often be found exploring the outdoors or camping in their wheelchair accessible camper, which they purchased with help from The Fund.

And now, it's been ten years since The Fund first met the Maynard family.

"THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE AT THE FUND TO REACH OUT TO AND THERE HAS BEEN FOR TEN YEARS NOW," JORDAN SAID. "THAT COUNTS FOR MORE THAN ANYTHING."

Inspired by Jordan's incredible bravery, love for his family, and endless tenacity, The Fund is honored to be a part of Jordan's courageous adventures, always remembering the promise that he made to come home and all the ways he fulfilled that since, living each day to the fullest alongside his wonderful family.

# Financial Stewardship



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## Revenues:

Donations.....	46,468,000
Investment & Other Income.....	<u>3,825,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	<u>50,293,000</u>

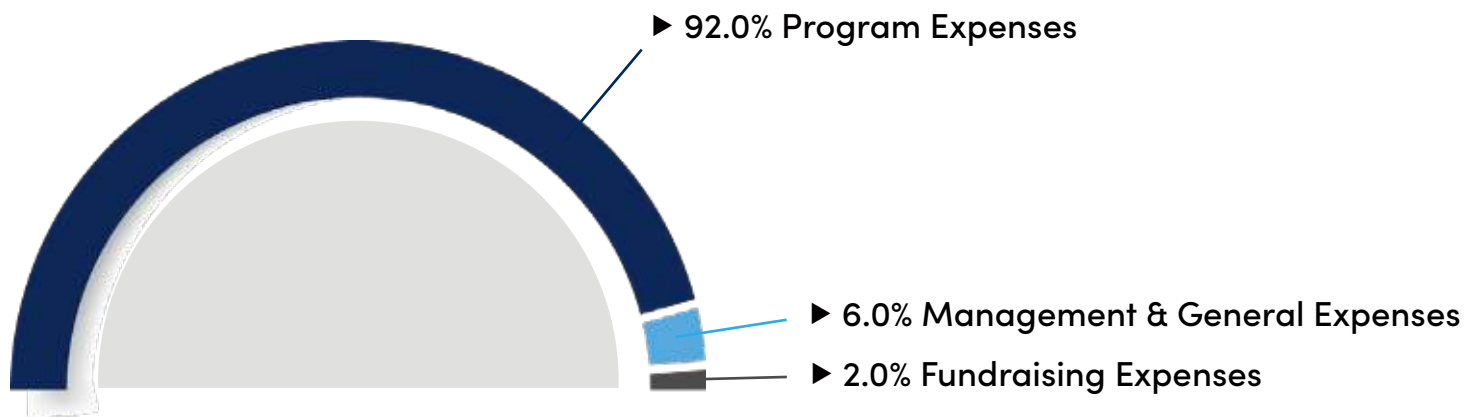
## Expenses:

Programs .....	38,229,000
Fundraising & Administration.....	<u>3,465,000</u>
Total Expenses .....	<u>41,694,000</u>

**Change in Net Assets..... 8,599,000**

Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....	<u>32,874,000</u>
Net Assets, End of Year.....	<u>41,473,000</u>

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION



"Once again, it is with deep gratitude for the men and women who give so unselfishly of themselves in defense of our country that we enclose our donation."

"We are so proud to be a part of such a strong effort in bringing a better quality of life to our service members. Job well done!"

"Your efforts are extremely needed and so important in this trying time, and your assistance has helped so many families in greater need because of COVID-19."

# Thank You! Our Promise Continues...

For many of our service members, a split second changed their lives. Semper Fi & America's Fund will be there to support all service members and their loved ones during illness or lifetime of recovery. The faithful support of our donors has made it possible to sustain and grow the mission we began 17 years ago. As we move forward, we continue to expand our assistance and enhance our programs to meet the needs of those we serve. With your help, we are fulfilling a solemn promise to the men and women who volunteered to serve our country; we will never forget their sacrifices, and we will always be by their side.



A+ from CharityWatch, one of only three Veteran nonprofits to receive their highest rating



4-Star Charity Navigator rating for ten consecutive years; an achievement attained by only 2% of charities



Awarded the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency



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TO STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR SERVICE MEMBERS AND READ MORE OF THEIR STORIES, PLEASE VISIT [THEFUND.ORG](http://THEFUND.ORG)

