



# HOMEFRONT

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

2015

## BUILDING A NEW FUTURE

**Rocky** - husband, father, and officer in the US Marine Corps, served honorably for nine years and survived four deployments in Iraq/Afghanistan. While stationed in Chicago in January of 2013, Rocky was leading his recruits on a routine training run when he was struck by a vehicle running a red light. Rocky was severely injured leaving him with a Traumatic Brain Injury. After undergoing 14 surgeries his surgeons said that "his very survival is a miracle".

Hearing about the trials and struggles the family was experiencing, SALUTE, INC. got involved. The situation was complex. The difficulties associated with Rocky's rehabilitation, combined with living in temporary housing for two years, a change of schools for their sons and the strain on Brenda, his wife and full-time caregiver, had taken a toll on everyone. Rocky and Brenda owned a home in California that was not handicapped accessible. Salute started working to find a way to get them back to California and into a home with a bedroom on the first floor that could be modified to meet their needs.

SALUTE, INC. reached out to family, friends, local contractors, businesses and the communities in Chicago and California. Our Builders of Hope team diligently worked to bring Rocky home. Brenda sold their previous house and purchased an adaptable home. This was accomplished in a matter of less than two months.

Salute initiated a collaborative effort with Clune Construction in Los Angeles who graciously offered to donate their expertise and services. Wirtz Beverage Illinois undertook a major fundraising campaign, which in large part financed the project. We are grateful to **Clune, Wirtz and Home Depot Foundation**, along with countless suppliers and workers who made it possible to enlarge and modify the first floor bedroom/bathroom, install hardwood flooring throughout, purchase all appliances and redesign exterior walkways with concrete ramps for their new home.

There's a long road ahead filled with challenges for Rocky and his family but thanks to the generosity, hard work and support of all involved, they are now back home in California starting the next chapter of their lives. Over the course of this 2 ½ year project, Rocky has continued to improve. He is beginning to speak and is in the process of learning to walk again using parallel bars! SALUTE, INC. is proud to have assisted Rocky and his family in their time of need.



BEFORE



AFTER

[www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org)

SALUTE, INC. 14 N. Bothwell, Palatine, IL 60067 Phone: 847-359-8811

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mike Cassidy – Treasurer  
Mary Beth Beiersdorf – Executive Director  
Tom Hoskinson  
Bill Luehrs  
Nancy McIlvaine  
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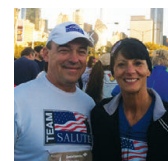
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Kellen Monti - Vice President  
Jay Fabian - Vice President  
Jake Lavin  
Grant Keller  
Matt Nemshick

Joy Adams- Development Director  
Sheilya Swan- Controller

## DEAR FRIENDS

This year, we'd like to share our top 10 Lessons Learned at SALUTE, INC.



10. Bluebird blessings fly in from the most unexpected places. **Keep your window open.**
9. Be creative when presented with a challenge. **Find a way!**
8. Optimism is contagious. **Always keep your glass half full.**
7. As one of our founding members said, **"Always ask, 'What do ya need?'"**
6. **Read your Team Salute emails:** "I swear I thought they said I had to run 2.62 miles!"
5. We all get by with a little help from our friends. **Be a good friend!**
4. SALUTE is a family. **Come join us!**
3. If you don't need help, you can give help. **Give generously.**
2. Integrity is essential. **Be true to your mission.**
1. Every minute of every day, military service members are protecting our freedom. **Honor the Service and Remember the Sacrifice.**

Thank you for the responsibility, privilege and honor of serving military members and their families for the past 13 years.

~Mary Beth & Will Beiersdorf

## BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD



Purple Heart recipient Sgt. Adam W. Taylor, served in the US Army including one tour of duty in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan. During his service in Iraq, Adam was posted near a hazardous nuclear testing facility, exposing him and his fellow soldiers to a dangerous level of radiation. All fourteen

members of Adam's unit suffered serious health problems related to this duty and their exposure to the toxic site. Sadly, Adam lost most of his teeth from the effects of radiation poisoning.

When Adam and his family contacted SALUTE, INC., we were able to find the resources to give Adam his smile back. Our friend, Fr. Matt Foley of Arlington Heights introduced us to two generous doctors who would work their magic to help Adam regain functional dental health. Drs. William Nickel & James McShane, D.D.S. partnered with Nobel Biocare who donated the materials needed for dental implants. Salute facilitated the year long process by providing transportation, housing and meals for Adam and his mother/caregiver when they traveled from

their home in Kentucky for multiple appointments. Everyone involved played a vital role in changing this young man's life forever! Since his surgery Adam has been smiling all day, every day, and has a renewed confidence which will propel him onto his next steps in life. We are grateful to have been a part of this transformation.



**AFTER**



## Filling in the Gaps ...With a Personal Touch

Every day, the SALUTE, INC. office receives applications from veterans with service related injuries including TBI (Traumatic Brain Injuries) and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). These families often wait up to 18 months to receive their VA disability benefits. This causes a financial hardship that can become very stressful to bear. While the majority of our direct assistance goes towards everyday living expenses, occasionally there are unique opportunities to assist with specialized needs.

Here are a few recent examples:

**\$120** was spent on school uniforms for the children of a Chicago veteran.

**\$325** for a new bed and pillows to help a veteran's adult daughter, who is also his caregiver, sleep more comfortably in her father's home.

**\$700** purchased 4 new truck tires to help a sergeant get to his PTSD counseling appointments.

**\$850** paid for a recent army veteran to obtain his training certification. This enabled him to start a new career as a personal trainer.

**\$1400** paid for a day camp program for the child of a veteran who was going through PTSD Therapy at The Road Home Program at Rush.

**\$1500** helped a recovering veteran get the specialized prism glasses needed to overcome headaches and dizziness due to combat related TBI.

## OUR MISSION

SALUTE, INC. passionately pursues meeting the financial, physical and emotional needs of military service members, veterans and their families. We strive to raise awareness of their sacrifices and provide a safety net to ensure every military family is treated with honor and dignity.

SALUTE, INC. makes every effort to meet the specific needs that will have the most impact on a veteran client's life.





## What Is Team Salute?



Team Salute is a group of dedicated individuals who are actively contributing to SALUTE, INC. by participating in Destination Races and purposefully fundraising as they train and race. In 2015 these Destination Races included the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Fleet Feet Soldier Field 10 Mile, SALUTE, INC. 5K/10K, Naperville and Big Foot Triathlons, among others. This year, Team Salute's charity athletes have raised over \$167,000 which helps fund Salute's Emergency Financial Assistance Program.

"Marathon training has given me so much; it has educated me about the sacrifice of service members and motivated me to fundraise over \$3,000 for veterans and their families; it has made me strong, not only physically, but mentally." Nikki L.

"I've found running for a reason makes the miles that much sweeter." Lisa N.

**Team Salute: When they run, our military families thrive.**

## OUR IMPACT

This year, SALUTE, INC. saved **114** military families from homelessness through rent and mortgage payments that prevented eviction or foreclosure.



57 veterans received car payments and repairs allowing them to get to their jobs, the VA office, PTSD therapy and drive their kids to school.

88 utility bills were paid, so the lights were kept on, the water running, the trash collected and the home warm.



8 laptops and tablets were purchased for veterans, enabling them to continue their education and look for employment.



Almost **\$40,000** was spent on grocery gift cards, diapers, clothing, daycare and medical bills.

Of the many families that SALUTE, INC. assisted last year, one veteran expressed his thanks as follows:

**"...I want to thank your organization from the bottom of my heart! We received help with our bills for the month of October and it took away all the stress that was placed on our family. The transition from active duty to civilian life has been a big change but thanks to your organization there has been no worry from this point on! We are forever grateful!"**

SALUTE, INC. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization registered in the State of Illinois, and with [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org). SALUTE, INC. is audited annually by an independent public accounting firm. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable by law.



14 N. Bothwell  
Palatine, IL 60067

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## Annual Newsletter

### SAVE THE DATES!

*Salute Annual Fundraising Party*  
**February 19th**  
**Rosemont Convention Center**

*Salute, Inc. Annual 5K/10K*  
**May 29th**  
**Arlington Heights**

*“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”*

*– John F. Kennedy*

## ABOVE & BEYOND



- Jackie Glueckert and Chris Mahon are “doers”.

Individually, they energetically run with Team Salute logging miles and raising funds all year long. Together as a couple, they act as ambassadors introducing friends and business associates to Salute’s mission. In the community, their family business, Glueckert Funeral Home, sponsors SALUTE, INC. special events and offers veteran families a way to respectfully memorialize their loved one.



- We are so grateful to **Ron White**, a tried and true veteran and volunteer since SALUTE, INC.’s beginnings. His dedication and heart for veterans demonstrates his continued service to our country.

- Two of our founding members, **Deb Volpe & Russ Talbot**, continue to provide leadership within Salute. Russ is a Race Director for our SALUTE, INC. Memorial Weekend 5K/10K. Deb coordinates over 200 volunteers to help make this annual event a success. Their dedication for over 13 years is a blessing to us and the community.

- We are forever grateful to our volunteer advocates, **Angela, Jenn, Lynne, Tina & Eric**. These caseworkers compassionately shoulder the real work of SALUTE, INC.

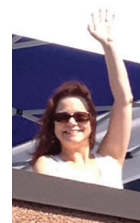


Guidant Wealth Advisors for providing us a “Home Sweet Home” these last seven years.

- Thank you, **Frank Patzke, Susan Carsello and the staff** of



- Kudos to **Royal Die & Stamping and the Freitag family** for always leading the way in community involvement. Your organization’s support helped make our annual 5K/10K a great success.



- Thank you **Bonnie Greene** for being the “Voice of Salute”. How fortunate we are that this popular news and traffic reporter from Chicago Radio’s US99 has adopted us. Bonnie lends her professional expertise to our Annual Pizza Party/Auction, and is Announcer at both the SALUTE, INC. 5K/10K and Homestretch for Heroes 5K.