



HOMEFRONT

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

2014

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6th, 2015

12th Annual Pizza Party

*NEW LOCATION - The Ballroom
at the Donald E. Stephens
Convention Center - Rosemont, IL*

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday, May 23rd, 2015

Fleet Feet Soldier Field 10 Mile

Sunday, May 24th, 2015

got freedom?

5K, 10K, & Tactical Challenge

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NEW BEGINNINGS



Brian is a proud Marine who served our country from 2003 through 2012. During his service time, Brian sustained hearing loss and other, yet to be diagnosed injuries that affected his memory and cognitive skills. Upon his return to civilian life, Brian and his family contacted SALUTE, INC., and we were able to

provide assistance with utility bills and gas cards. SALUTE's client advocate Lynne also recommended that Brian connect with "Give an Hour", a nonprofit program that provides free mental health services to U.S. military personnel and families affected by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Brian followed through with this suggestion and was diagnosed by a private neurologist with mild Traumatic Brain Injury, severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression – conditions not detected by the VA. Brian is now receiving additional therapy and assistance with his injuries, as he works to have his disability compensation re-evaluated by the VA.

Using a laptop provided by SALUTE, INC., Brian has returned to school to study International Relations. Brian is fortunate to have a strong support base at home with his wife Hannah and their two small children. The whole family is eagerly anticipating the addition of a service dog that will aid Brian in his daily activities.

It's been a long journey, but Brian hopes his experiences will encourage other veterans to seek help for their injuries. As a first step, Brian and Hannah have begun the process of forming a nonprofit of their own, which will provide legal assistance and advocacy for veterans.

In a letter written to SALUTE, INC., Brian and Hannah expressed their gratitude:

"These past few years have been the hardest we've ever had to endure. SALUTE, INC.'s help with our household bills has been such a blessing and really makes all the difference when your back is up against the wall. We're thankful for this new season we are coming into and for wonderful people like you!"



Please visit us at www.saluteinc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lisa Moran – Secretary
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DEAR FRIENDS

In this season of gratitude, it is fitting to reflect on the “path” SALUTE, INC. has taken. In thirteen years, this road has definitely seen its twists, turns and even a few potholes, but we have faithfully kept to our mission, and maintained a “never give up” attitude. This past year we have been extremely blessed with wonderful new friendships, possibilities, connections and donations. Our success is truly measured by numbers, with hundreds of people who have volunteered, thousands of utility bills paid and the countless second chances given. Simply, SALUTE, INC. is a family of incredibly generous and compassionate people with a heart for helping others. Will and I are proud and privileged to have all of you in our lives. The need is great, so please continue to help our military families live full and healthy lives. *Honor the Service and Remember the Sacrifice.*

With sincere appreciation,
Mary Beth Beiersdorf



NEW RECRUITS!

After seeing how SALUTE, INC. assisted his sister's family, Mike Terranova was prompted to start a new Associate Board with an emphasis on fundraising and reaching a different demographic. We applaud these men in their efforts to pay it forward. Welcome!

Mike Terranova - President
Kellen Monti - Vice President
Jay Fabian - Vice President
Jake Lavin - Director
Grant Keller - Director

AWARDS - This year, SALUTE, INC. was honored to have received Exelon's "Energy for the Community Award" and AT&T's "Investing in Illinois Award".

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD



Sergeant Brad Schwarz is a 29 year old Army veteran with a young daughter. During his second tour in Iraq, Brad was seriously injured by a roadside bomb. He lost several friends in this tragedy and he himself suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, severe PTSD and partial paralysis in his legs. These injuries isolated Brad and made it difficult for him

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Dan Tsutsumi, a Marine who served eight years and two tours of duty in Iraq was honorably discharged and returned home from the war diagnosed with PTSD. On June 9, 2012, he experienced a freak accident which injured his spine leaving him in a quadriplegic condition.

Since the accident, Dan has been residing with his parents. Their home's kitchen/dining room is not wheelchair accessible. After hearing about this need, SALUTE, INC.'s Builders of Hope team took action by reaching out to family, friends, local contractors, businesses and the community. We started an initiative to remove the physical barriers that for the past two years have prevented Dan from being a part of sharing daily meals and fully interacting with his family.

SALUTE is grateful for the generosity, hard work and support of all involved in this collaborative effort. Without each of you we would not have been able to raise the needed funds, knock out walls, relocate windows/doors and completely renovate and transform the kitchen into “the heart of the home”.



BEFORE



AFTER

to navigate the circumstances of his life. SALUTE, INC. stepped in with assistance on overdue utility bills, advisors to help him with financial and household organization and a new laptop to reconnect with the world around him. To aid in his rehabilitation, SALUTE, INC. also purchased a customized handcycle so that Brad could get out and resume an active lifestyle.

We have had the privilege of watching Brad acquire a new lease on life. His “never give up” attitude is evident as he continually strives to improve his physical capabilities and mental outlook. Brad is now paying

it forward by speaking at various events as an advocate for SALUTE, INC. He recently visited several schools to share his story with students. Brad discussed his recovery journey and even presented one school with the uniform jacket that he wore while on duty in Iraq. We look forward to seeing Brad continue to build a successful new life with his daughter.





TEAM SALUTE shows ACTIVE GRATITUDE

Team SALUTE's charity athletes train and race most of the year to raise funds and awareness for our cause. The "Active Gratitude" begins January – March when we recruit and register our Bank of America Chicago Marathon team. It's a BIG commitment made months in advance of the actual event which takes place in October.

Then in May, we have both the Fleet Feet Soldier Field 10 Mile and SALUTE's got freedom? 5K/10K & Tactical Challenge. SALUTE, INC. is the benefitting charity for

the Soldier Field 10 Mile and supplies 150+ volunteers in the start and finish areas. SALUTE's annual got freedom? 5K/10K typically attracts 1000 runners, some of whom do additional fundraising (beyond the entry fee) by asking the support of family, friends and neighbors.

During the Summer months many Team SALUTE athletes compete in triathlons where they swim, bike and run to raise dollars which fund our Veteran Emergency Assistance Programs. Fall is marathon season. Our marathoners typically train for 18 weeks, often

logging up to 500 miles in the process. This year, Team SALUTE was represented at the Chicago Half Marathon, Twin Cities Marathon, Chicago Marathon, Marine Corps Marathon and Naperville Marathon (Half & Full). The donations from these events, in the form of individual contributions and employer matching, are still coming in. Already, Team SALUTE's 2014 marathoners (13.1mi or 26.2mi) have raised in excess of \$138,000. Now that's what we call "Active Gratitude"!

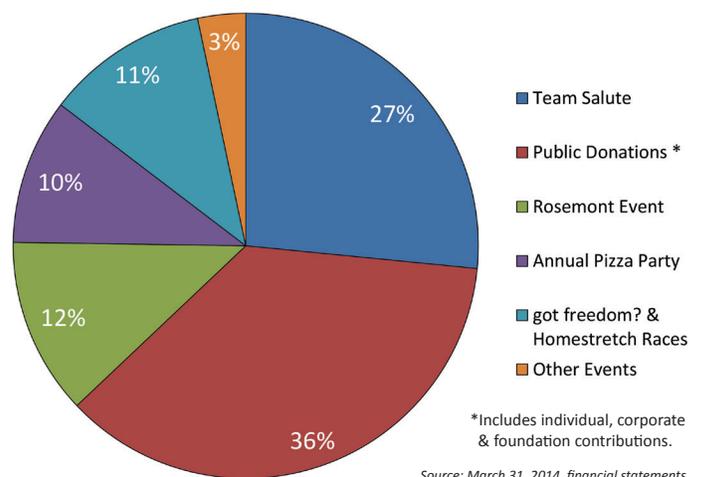
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

SALUTE, INC. has been blessed with many generous and faithful donors. Any funds donated are carefully spent. Our mission to assist military members is always foremost in our minds. Your contributions are deeply appreciated, very much needed and make a real difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Ways to contribute to SALUTE, INC.:

- Mail a check to SALUTE, INC. using the enclosed envelope
- Donations may be made online by going to our website, www.saluteinc.org, and clicking on the "Donate Now" star
- Stock donations are gratefully accepted! Please contact the office at 847-359-8811 for more information.

Generous Sources of Revenue



Last fiscal year, SALUTE, INC. assisted 281 military families. We could not do it without your help. Thank you.

SALUTE, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the state of Illinois, and with 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
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Like us on Facebook 

SAVE THE DATE!

Pizza Party Feb. 6th, 2015
New Location! - Rosemont, IL

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”

– Maya Angelou

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ABOVE & BEYOND



- Our VIP volunteer and mentor, Larry Shelton has brought a long lifetime of experience to SALUTE, INC. Larry, a holocaust survivor, recently retired from ITW after 60 years and now spends time advocating for SALUTE, INC. by speaking at schools about his experiences and how grateful he is to the U.S. Military for bringing him to safety as a small boy.

- Sister Barbara Mass from the Sisters of the Living Word is one of our most innovative givers. She has been collecting cans for recycling and using the funds to purchase



grocery cards to fill immediate needs for our military families. 50 lbs or 1200 cans = one \$25 gift card. Thank you Sister Barbara for your unique and faithful fundraising!

- We are “sew” blessed by Beverly Palmer and her Q-4-0 (Quilt 4 Others) group. This 30 year old quilting club recently sent out 5 quilts to our veteran families. Thank you for your creative dedication.



- Way to go, Alex Knox! Our youngest and fastest runner on SALUTE’s 2014 Marathon Team was one of our top fundraisers. This ambitious 16 year old Eagle Scout raised funds in a variety of ways from organizing a walk through Busse Woods to holding a pancake breakfast at a senior center.

- We are forever indebted to our dedicated client advocates, Angela, Lynne & Tina. They are SALUTE, INC.’s “Boots on the ground”. Each works tirelessly to find the most effective way to meet individual veteran applicants’ needs. This important work requires patience, compassion and a great deal of perseverance.



Nine year old John Krause, chose SALUTE, INC. to be the charity recipient in lieu of his birthday gifts. His thoughtful and generous contribution helped to pay a utility bill for a military family in need. John is an inspiration to us and to his peers proving you are never too young to make a difference.



- We are so thankful for Jackie Beck, our long standing and most versatile volunteer. Since the beginning of SALUTE, INC., Jackie has not only raised funds through running marathons and doing triathlons but she regularly recruits large numbers of volunteers for our biggest events. Jackie also takes time to share her marathon running experience by coaching Team SALUTE athletes. We are proud to have this committed and compassionate friend on our team!