



# HOMEFRONT

2016

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE



## RESILIENCY

Columbus Day weekend, Major James Pradke and his wife were driving to their Indiana home with their two children, ages 4 years and 6 months. He had just completed a volunteer military assignment in Illinois. In an instant, their lives were forever changed when they were struck head-on by a drunk driver going 100 mph on the wrong side of the interstate. This tragic accident sent all four of them to three different hospitals with life-altering injuries. As they began their recovery, they were moved to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) where SALUTE, INC. became aware of their situation. We were able to jump into action for this family to fulfill their immediate needs of food, clothing and other basic necessities which allowed them to stay focused on their rehabilitation at RIC. Ege, their four year old son who lost his arm in the accident, was beginning his journey of transitioning back into life with a missing limb. We were able to provide the tuition for a local school which helped Ege acclimate physically and socially to his new reality. Major Pradke, who served four tours in Iraq, planned to continue his military career but due to this accident and his injuries, he is currently stationed at Fort Campbell awaiting orders to be medically retired from the Army. SALUTE, INC. also connected the family to other organizations and resources for additional assistance during a difficult transitional time. Major Pradke expressed his gratitude in a letter to SALUTE, INC. Here is a portion of his message:



*"Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the kindness you have demonstrated to my family and specifically to Ege. I pray that this picture demonstrates just how important a role you have played in saving the life of a son of the U.S. Army, our pride and joy, our son Ege"*



## DEAR FRIENDS

It truly only takes ONE; one idea, one donor, one volunteer to make a significant difference in a community. It has been an honor and privilege to work with so many generous and passionate individuals. Together with one goal and one mission; to assist military families in crisis, SALUTE, INC. has thrived and grown into an amazing organization doing incredible things and it all revolves around each of you. Please continue to spread the news about SALUTE, INC. and encourage others to get involved and participate in honoring our military members, veterans and their families.

God bless our ONE nation under God!

Mary Beth & Will Beiersdorf



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20% of recent veterans. SALUTE, INC. partners with The Road Home Program at RUSH University Medical Center and other organizations to treat veterans who suffer from PTS, but SALUTE, INC. doesn't stop there. We seek to meet the financial needs of our military servicemen and women suffering from PTS in practical ways. For example:

- An Air Force veteran, in dire need of treatment for PTS, made arrangements to attend a treatment center near her home. A major obstacle was what to do with her dogs while she was away. She reached out to SALUTE, INC. and we paid the boarding expenses for the two weeks she

was in treatment. She was so grateful stating “I was able to receive my treatment without worrying about my babies.”

- A young Army serviceman transitioning back into civilian life was making plans for the future of his family when his life was derailed by an episode of his PTS. He sought immediate treatment but this left him unable to work and used up all his savings to provide for his family. Once recovered, he needed a place to stay in Boston until his rental house was ready. SALUTE, INC. came to his aid by assisting him with the payment for a 3- week stay at a Boston KOA campground.

## BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), is a potentially debilitating condition that occurs in people who have experienced a life-threatening event. Research has shown that PTS occurs among approximately

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

Our client advocates speak to veterans daily and hear the hardships they face as they attempt to successfully return to civilian life. The difficulties that arise while waiting to receive their disability benefits are frequent and never easy. SALUTE, INC. talks through each veteran family's circumstance to assess what assistance will make the biggest impact on their life. Here are a few typical examples of how we have helped to improve their lives:

**\$2,300** - covered a mortgage, car payment and utility bill for a veteran who faced a financial set-back after a lengthy recovery from a combat related back surgery.

**\$2,000** - repaired the transmission on an Army veteran's truck to keep his family mobile.

**\$1,600** - provided extensive dental work including extractions and a partial bridge to help a veteran regain the confidence to smile again.

**\$2,000** - paid the veterinary bill for a soldier's service dog. This specially trained dog has the ability to detect when this veteran will have a flashback and calm him to bring him back to cognizance.

**\$2,000** - covered a month's rent and security deposit to move a family to a safer neighborhood for their children.

**\$650** - reconciled past due car payments to prevent a sergeant from losing transportation to his job and medical treatments.



## TEAM SALUTE – ONE GOAL...ONE TEAM

Team Salute is growing! So many caring individuals and organizations are actively supporting SALUTE, INC.'s mission. Team Salute members participate in a wide range of activities throughout the year and contribute in a variety of ways. That can mean anything from hosting a garage sale, to volunteering at an aid station, to running a marathon. Fortunately, we are often invited to be the designated charity beneficiary of running events. This year we even had the distinction of being the first official charity of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon to be sponsored by a professional sports team – The Chicago Blackhawks. In fact, our team of 129 endurance runners who recently completed the Chicago Marathon raised a record \$196,000.

Thus far in 2016 our charity athletes and Team Salute associated events have generated an astounding \$238,000. These donations will fund Salute's Emergency Financial Assistance Program, positively impacting over 125 military families.



### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

**HUNDREDS**  
OF DONORS SUPPORT  
OUR PROGRAMS AND  
**\$632,000**  
WAS PROVIDED TO  
INJURED VETERANS  
LAST YEAR

**OUR SIX**  
VOLUNTEER CLIENT  
ADVOCATES  
ASSISTED OVER  
**300**  
VETERANS IN 2016

**500+**  
VOLUNTEERS  
GIVE THEIR  
TIME AND ENERGY  
TO OUR EVENTS

**2077**  
VETERANS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES  
ASSISTED  
SINCE SALUTE'S  
INCEPTION

**450+**  
PEOPLE ATTEND  
OUR ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING  
PARTY

**1500**  
PARTICIPANTS  
RUN OR WALK  
OUR LOCAL RACES  
EACH YEAR

SINCE SALUTE  
BEGAN, OVER  
**\$2.6 MILLION**  
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO  
VETERANS

**COUNTLESS**  
LIVES CHANGED  
FOR THE  
BETTER

See all the opportunities to **Get Involved:** [www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org)

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.

# Annual Newsletter



Like us on Facebook 

## SAVE THE DATE!

SALUTE, INC.

Annual Fundraising Party

NEW DAY - NEW LOCATION

Saturday, February 18th

Meridian Banquet &  
Conference Center  
in Rolling Meadows, IL

Check out our NEW website!! [WWW.SALUTEINC.ORG](http://WWW.SALUTEINC.ORG)

### 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.

## ABOVE & BEYOND



**Sheet Metal Union Workers** were **riveting** in making things happen for others! **Local 73** invited us to be the designated charity for the 2016 International SMART Conference which generated in excess of **\$200,000**.

**The Plumbers Union** was able to **flush out** donations of **\$35,000** over the past 4 years with their annual golf outing.

**Roofers Local 11** sheltered us from the storm with an unexpected **\$10,000** gift.

**Carl King**, retired businessman and Air Force veteran organized a very tasty fundraiser for SALUTE, INC. this year. Capitalizing on his expertise in home cooking, Carl wrote and published **Carl's Cookbook**, a collection of 150 recipes. He then, set up displays at neighborhood businesses, offering the cookbook in exchange for donations. Carl worked tirelessly selling the cookbook and spreading the word about SALUTE, INC. This energetic initiative raised **\$2,500** for SALUTE, INC! We are truly grateful to Carl for his heartfelt dedication to veterans and his help "cooking up" donations.



Many thanks to the **Home Depot Foundation** for their generous grant. Also, we are grateful to the **Mt. Prospect Team Depot Volunteers** for donating labor and materials for significant veteran related projects including improvements in our new home office.



**CIACO**

A big shout out to **CIACO-the Chicago Italian American Charity Organization!** These faithful friends have adopted many of our veteran families and blessed them with financial scholarships to help them continue to build a better future.

**Ti Amo!**