



HOMEFRONT

2017

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE



PROPELLED TO INDEPENDENCE



Every once in a while we receive a call that touches our hearts and propels us to a higher level of action. USAF Colonel Shawn "Norm" Pedersen (Ret) was a distinguished Command Pilot with extensive awards and achievements in his 24 years of service to our country, including flying with the Thunderbirds. Soon after he retired in 2014, his life took a dramatic turn. Shawn suffered a traumatic cerebral aneurysm. Since that life altering moment, he has been fighting to regain his independence. Immediately following the incident, his parents flew to John Hopkins Medical Center to be by his side and advocate for him. Shawn spent 8 weeks in ICU fighting off pneumonia and other infections, moved to Walter Reed for another 8 weeks to recover and then to RIC for therapy before being moved to a long term care rehabilitation facility in Prophetstown, IL. It was imperative that his parents be present regardless of the cost. Being far from their home in Tennessee and with nowhere else to turn, they reached out to SALUTE, INC. for support.

SALUTE, INC. was honored to have this opportunity to cover the cost of 9 month's rent. Allowing the Pedersen's to be actively involved as Shawn continued his arduous recovery.

SALUTE, INC.'s commitment on this lengthy journey is to see the Pederson's through their healing process. We have walked beside them through the passing of Shawn's father and the move from their temporary home in Illinois back to Tennessee. They have truly become a part of the SALUTE, INC. family. Recently, we got word from Shawn's mom and now sole caregiver, Karen, about the difficulty she was having transporting him from bed to chair. Shawn's recovery would be compromised without the purchase of a tram that could aid him in this transition. Simultaneously, SALUTE, INC. was approached by the Palatine Hills Golf Association (PHGA). They organized a charity golf tournament which raised \$26,000 for SALUTE, INC. A portion of those proceeds paid for the Rifton Tram propelling him into his next phase of recovery. This tram provides Shawn with assistance daily in sit to stand transfers, seated transfers and gait training. In a heartfelt letter to PHGA and SALUTE, INC. Karen says, "We appreciate your support in the journey to encourage Shawn to overcome adversities. Your generosity bolsters our hope just when we were searching for new means of therapy." Karen and Shawn face many trials but these contributions have helped ease some of that burden, giving them a greater quality of life and hope for the future.

DEAR FRIENDS

Truly seems like yesterday!! See this timeline of giving that YOU helped create.

2003 – A community responded immediately with care and compassion to our family which turned into a 5K race creating a TRADITION OF GIVING. SALUTE, INC. is born. 2005 – Our first Chicago Marathon Team was formed with 5 charity athletes, raising funds for SALUTE, INC. programs. This is our largest fundraiser to date with 133 runners. 2007 – Formed partnerships with major medical centers caring for critically injured veterans. 2009 – Palatine becomes our headquarters with donated office space and our volunteer base strengthens in numbers. 2014 – Associate board is created which brings in large donations and invaluable corporate connections expanding our outreach. 2015 – Continue to collaborate with hospitals and VA's specializing in mental health treatment. 2016 – Became an official Chicago Blackhawks Charity. To date – nearly 3,000 families assisted and countless lives changed.

Thank you for your trust and support over the past 15 years TOGETHER we have made SALUTE INC. STRONG!

Mary Beth & Will Beiersdorf



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SALUTE HEADQUARTERS ...With a Personal Touch



We have 7 VOLUNTEER Client Advocates who handle our veteran applications for assistance. Lynne, Tina, Angela, Matt, Jen, Eric and Char are dedicated people who listen to the stories of hardship that injured veterans face. They find the most effective way to fill in the gaps and get them on a forward trajectory, lifting their spirits and renewing their hope. We could not have the impact we do without these front line heroes. (picture of soldier hugging kids...maybe larger)

SALUTE, INC. partners with leading healthcare and rehabilitation centers, offering timely financial assistance to help reduce their patient's barriers to care. Working with Rush University MC (Chicago), the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (Chicago), Mass General Hospital (Boston), James A Lovell FHCC (North Chicago), and the Shepherd Center (Atlanta), helps military patients focus on their recovery and transition better into civilian life.

Opening the Files

"Just as I answered the call to fight for my country, SALUTE, INC. answered the call to help me and my family." - Army Veteran Thompson

Army Specialist Geoffrey, recovering from a brain injury, needed immediate with a trailer to transport his belongings to a location closer to family and a facility that was better equipped to help in his recovery. \$250 moved him forward!



Michael, a U.S. Navy veteran, did not have transportation to get him to job interviews. \$500 was all it took to provide transit cards which helped him land a great position. "I can't thank you and your donors enough for the kind support you showed me. I carry both cards in my wallet to this day as a reminder of my journey. - Michael

\$850 for a car payment and insurance prompted this letter "SALUTE, INC. is an absolutely amazing organization that allows families who normally would not be able to make it, have hope. Thank you to all the people who donate and make this possible." - The Jones Family

"SALUTE, INC. did not just pay for one night at a hotel and leave us there. Until this day they still call to check in and just say hi." - The Robinson Family





IT TAKES A TEAM

It takes the combined effort of our charity athletes, volunteers, donors and sponsors to fund SALUTE, INC.'s veteran financial assistance program. This year Team Salute had 137 runners enlisted to fundraise and race the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. That team, proudly sponsored by Chicago Blackhawks Charities has raised over \$193,000!

Other Team Salute running events throughout 2017 have generated an additional \$51,000 in contributions. One determined participant turned the occasion of a milestone birthday into a fundraising campaign. Greg Zyck set a goal to run 50 – 5K's in 12 months' time. He is closing in on that finish line after having individually raised over \$1600 which purchased an adaptive bike for one of our veteran clients.

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." – John F. Kennedy



MAKE A GREATER IMPACT

The option to donate Monthly is always available on the SALUTE, INC. donation page.

Why give monthly?

It's Affordable - You choose the amount to donate each month according to what makes sense for your budget.

It's Convenient - Once you sign up for a recurring donations, you are done! The donation amount you choose will be charged to your credit card and a tax receipt emailed automatically until you decide to end your donation.

It's Sustained Support for SALUTE, INC. - A regular donation provides a greater impact on our programs and affords SALUTE with a predictable cash flow.



\$10/ month

**Pay a
utility
bill**



\$20/ month

**Give a
month of
groceries to
a family**



\$50/ month

**Keep a
veteran's
baby in
diapers**



\$75/ month

**Provide new
tires for a
family's car**



\$100/ month

**Cover a
month's
rent**

See all the opportunities to **Get Involved:** www.saluteinc.org

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.



Annual Newsletter

Like us on Facebook 

SAVE THE DATE!

SALUTE, INC.
Annual Fundraising Party
Saturday, February 24th

**Meridian Banquet &
Conference Center
in Rolling Meadows, IL**

Check out our NEW website!! WWW.SALUTEINC.ORG

OUR MISSION

SALUTE, INC. is dedicated to meeting the financial, physical and emotional needs of injured military service members and their families.

ABOVE & BEYOND

Devoted Couples!



Dan & Patrice Philbin- This family always jumps in to help "As a family, SALUTE, INC. has taught us more about sacrifice and fellowship than we could ever give back. It's an amazing organization and we are honored to be a small part of it."

A couple of "sweethearts" Larry & Ali Shissler have committed themselves to SALUTE, INC. volunteering for years and even donating proceeds from their wedding.



Don & Toni Calmeyn, as a couple and individually, are dedicated, committed and unassumingly generous.

Marty & Jeannie Van Hoesen have BIG HEARTS, volunteering for 12 years at our events, gathering raffle gifts and spreading the GOOD word about SALUTE, INC.



Ron & Colleen LeSaar use their knowledge and creativity to develop resources for our day to day operations and to decorate our fundraising events. These friends are always there when we need them.