



HOMEFRONT

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

2018-2019

A VITAL RESPONSE

Retired **Sgt. Bradley Thomas** spent 7½ years in the Army. After receiving his infantry training at Fort Benning, Georgia, Bradley was assigned to the 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds", 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Just a month after Bradley's unit was deployed to Iraq in December of 2007, his armored vehicle was hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). He sustained major injuries with the most serious being a traumatic brain injury. After many months of recovery and rehabilitation overseas, Bradley's condition improved enough for him to return home but he was changed forever.

Bradley is now in a minimally conscious state. He is nonverbal and requires 24 hour around-the-clock care. His parents have had to make the difficult adjustment of becoming their son's primary caregivers in their home. This responsibility carries the weight of many challenges, most importantly the concern of having reliable working equipment to accurately monitor Bradley's vitals. The Vital Sign Monitor they were using was aging and a new machine was not available through the VA. With nowhere else to turn, they contacted **SALUTE, INC.** Through faithful donors like you, the necessary funds were raised at SALUTE, INC. events, and we were able to purchase a new **\$6,000 Vital Sign Monitor** for the Thomas family. This essential piece of equipment is giving Bradley and his parents the security and RELIEF they need to continue to give their son the best care possible for many years to come.



www.saluteinc.org

DEAR FRIENDS

“You never know what can happen when you help someone.”



We would like to thank you for setting the example of what HOPE and Compassion look like. The foundation and the mission of SALUTE, INC has been strengthened by collaborative efforts, generous donations and so many new friendships. Over the past 15 plus years, we have seen challenges turn into victories, and barriers become opportunities. We have witnessed these things through the actions of many people helping others that they do not know or may never meet. This encourages us to continue the important work of SALUTE, INC. We are proud and privileged to have been given the responsibility to serve and care for our military and their families.

With sincere gratitude,

Mary Beth & Will Beiersdorf

Committed to “Honoring the Service and Remembering the Sacrifice”

Every day, young military servicemen and women return home with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) & Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). The transition home presents unique physical and mental challenges which can easily turn into financial challenges. In addition, the wait for benefits can be long. SALUTE, INC. answers this call by filling in the gaps for the daily needs of these families as well as providing assistance to improve their quality of life in a variety of ways! THE DONATIONS WE RECEIVE FROM GENEROUS SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU HELP US...

REHABILITATE

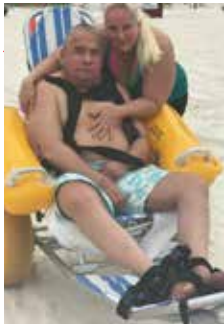


Chief Warrant Officer, Stephen is a husband, father of 4 and served several tours in the Middle East as a Blackhawk pilot. During his last deployment, he was seriously injured in a helicopter accident and lost the use of his legs. SALUTE, INC. provided the much needed **rehabilitation equipment** to give him greater independence to navigate in his life.

REPAIR

Staff Sergeant Claudio's **furnace** went out while he was away in a mental health treatment facility for PTS. SALUTE, INC. covered the repair, making his family's circumstances more manageable.

“This generous support allowed us to survive the winter. My husband had the peace of mind to focus on his recovery. I have the peace of mind to care for the family and help us heal. I'm not sure what we would have done without you.” – Claudio's wife, Desiree



REVIVE

Navy Staff Sergeant Nelson returned home from his deployment with a TBI. Living only one mile from the beach and having a heart for the ocean, he longed for a way to get back into the water but his injuries prevented it. SALUTE, INC. purchased a **water wheel chair** which now helps this Seaman continue to enjoy the pastime he loves.

RECOVER



Army Staff Sergeant John, had been receiving disability pay, however his government benefits account was hacked and his monthly pay was not received. In the midst of this discrepancy, John had been attending a mental health program to assist with his PTS symptoms. SALUTE, INC. provided **mortgage and car payments** for a month – bridging this financial crunch for his family of six until his appropriate pay was resumed.

“There is no better feeling to have than being secure knowing the home is taken care of...my family was able to be worry free of this financial hardship.”

RELIEVE

Airforce Major Gloria struggled with mobility in the morning due to her combat related injuries. SALUTE, INC. purchased an **adjustable bed** which would help diminish these complications. *“Thank you SO much for helping me finally get the amazing bed that I have needed for years. No more crashing and burning in the morning for this wounded veteran.”*

Army veteran Michael, was shot in the face by a sniper in 2008 and had incurred many other war injuries. He was scheduled for yet another surgery but could not cover the cost of the hotel for his wife to be near him. SALUTE, INC. paid for the **extended hotel stay** so Michael could have the support he needed.

“It was completely unexpected and you helped make an overwhelming situation easier to handle” –Michael's wife, Emily

REMEDY

Lieutenant Homer had complications on the job due to his service related TBI. SALUTE, INC. purchased a **laptop and an assistive technology device** which helps Homer utilize the dictation software needed to keep him working effectively on his job.

RESPONDING to Real Needs

TEAMING UP for SALUTE

It truly takes a team to keep SALUTE, INC. running. Whether it's local high school cross country teams, a local Mayor's Challenge, Corporate Teams that form to join our Homestretch for Heroes 5K, a professional women's softball team that sponsors us, or a team of charity marathon runners, they ALL fund our Veteran Direct Assistance Programs. Here are just a few of our impressive team achievements this year:



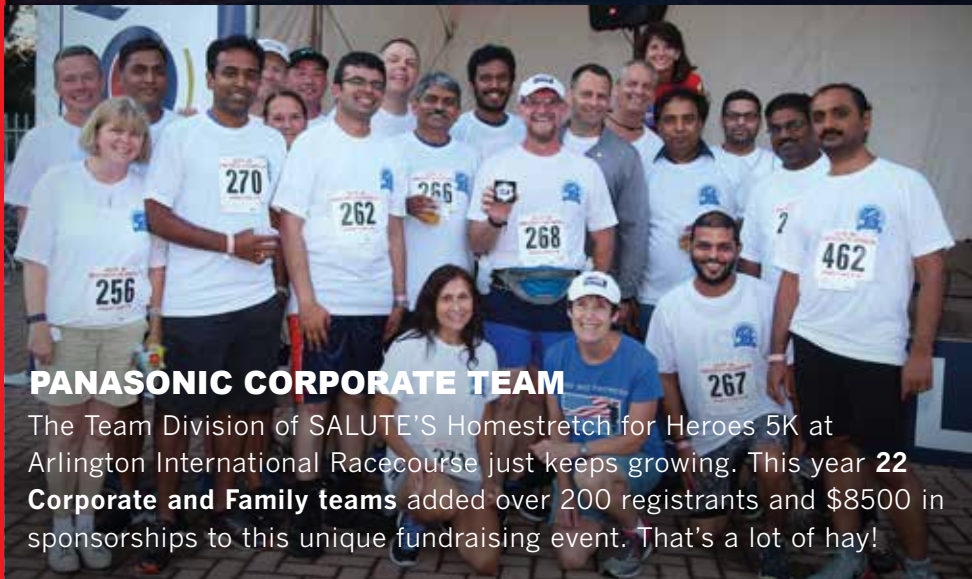
MAYOR'S CHALLENGE

Arlington Heights Mayor Tom Hayes pledged \$5 to SALUTE for every runner who beat his time in our annual **Memorial Day Weekend 5K**. Knowing the generosity of the local business community, **Sue and Paul Duchek, owners of Picket Fence Realty** came up with the idea of the Mayor's Challenge. They matched the Mayor's donation and inspired 27 other businesses to do the same. This teamwork resulted in an additional \$6,000 in funds raised. *Everyone involved went Above and Beyond!*

TEAM SALUTE AT THE BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON - 146 charity athletes raised a record \$215,000 by training for 18 weeks and running 26.2 miles through the streets of Chicago. Join our 2019 team now at saluteinc.org



CHICAGO BANDITS - The Rosemont, IL professional women's softball team designated their July 6th game as "SALUTE Night". Donating through ticket sales, a silent auction of players' jerseys and passing the hat through the stands generated a contribution of \$4300 which was used to buy specialized equipment to assist veterans in need.



PANASONIC CORPORATE TEAM

The Team Division of SALUTE'S Homestretch for Heroes 5K at Arlington International Racecourse just keeps growing. This year **22 Corporate and Family teams** added over 200 registrants and \$8500 in sponsorships to this unique fundraising event. That's a lot of hay!



2018 CHICAGO MARATHON TEAM

Veterans GIVING BACK

TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT = JOBS FOR VETERANS



Russ Kovar, served four years in the Navy on several ships during the Vietnam era but was never called to serve directly in Vietnam. He considers himself to be one of the fortunate ones who never saw action. Recognizing that so many served and did not return home prompted Russ to seek out ways to volunteer and give back to his fellow veterans.

For the past two years, Russ has been volunteering his time and talent with SALUTE, INC. Using his experience in Information Technology and executive recruiting, Russ launched a **program to help veterans develop tools and strategies that would assist them in finding civilian jobs**. This is a great resource to our military families, providing assistance not just for a month, but for a lifetime!

Wanting to do more, Russ expanded his volunteer services to become SALUTE, INC's newest client advocate, working to distribute the financial assistance directly to military families in need. Volunteers like Russ take ownership of welcoming servicemen and women back to our community by removing the personal, financial, and health care obstacles that can arise while deployed or in the transition home. We welcome any time you have to share as well.

A SPECIALIST AND A GENTLEMAN

Ron White, U.S. Army Specialist 4th class, proudly served our country from 1960 to 1966 both in the states and overseas in Korea. SALUTE met Ron at an American Legion meeting in 2002 where he asked, "How can I help?" For 17 years and counting, Ron has dedicated himself to volunteering for SALUTE, INC. starting with managing our laptop program and now spearheading our **Walking Tall Cane Program**. Ron and his wife, Lorraine are valued members of the veteran community and recently experienced a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nations' capitol with Honor Flight. We SALUTE you, Ron!



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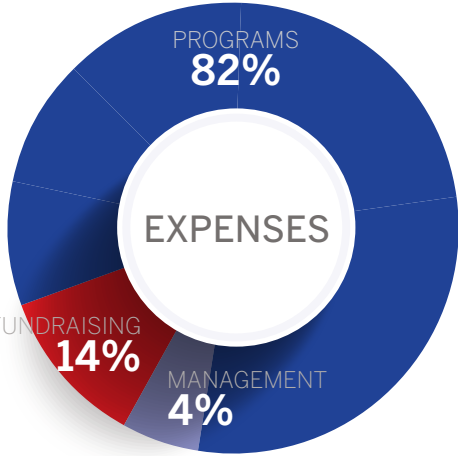
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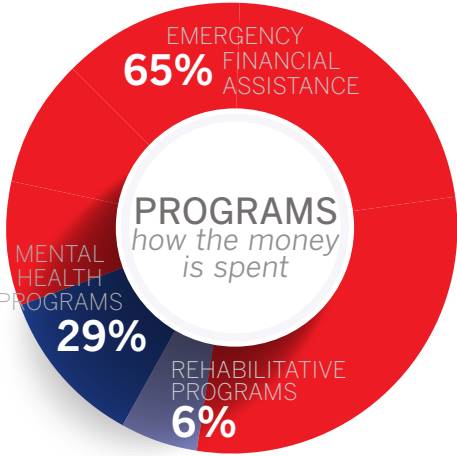
Military veterans are proud men and women who are reluctant to ask for help, even when the need is overwhelming. Erik knows how difficult it is to reach out for assistance. Serving seven years in the Army as a Black Hawk pilot and paratrooper, Erik was deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning home, he faced many of the difficulties veterans often encounter, and found himself in need of mental health treatment. He was able to find treatment at a veterans' program, but was still under stress due to mounting bills resulting from his young son's illness. Because of our generous donors, SALUTE assisted the family of four with rent payments until their situation was stabilized, **allowing Erik to get the mental health treatment** he was urgently seeking.

YOU have given my family HOPE and PEACE OF MIND



SALUTE believes in **transparency, ethical accounting and donor stewardship**. For 2018, we are proud to report that 82% of every dollar was applied directly to support injured veterans and their loved ones.

Source: 3/31/18 federal tax return 990



SALUTE is honored to support veterans and their families seeking treatment through the **mental health and rehabilitative programs** located at the following leading medical centers: Rush University Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Emory University Hospital, UCLA Health, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Shepherd Center and Neuro Community Care, LLC.



Thanks to you, SALUTE provided over 500 veterans and their families with \$540,000 in direct assistance this year.

With your continued support, we look forward to achieving more together in 2019.

Stock donations are gratefully accepted: Please contact the office at 847-359-8811 for more information.

Make your donation go further: Check with your company to see if it offers a matching gift program that will match your contribution.

The option to donate monthly is available by clicking on DONATE tab at www.saluteinc.org. It's affordable, convenient and provides sustained support for our programs.

SALUTE, INC. is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Complete financial statements and tax returns are available at www.saluteinc.org.



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SAVE THE DATES

FEB. 23	SALUTE, INC. Annual Fundraiser Party
MAR. 7	Associate Board Fundraising Event
MAY 25	SALUTE, INC Memorial Weekend 5K/10K
JULY 15	SALUTE, INC./PHGA Golf Fundraiser
AUG. 6	Homestretch for Heroes 5K
OCT. 13	Bank of America Chicago Marathon

www.saluteinc.org

EMAIL: info@saluteinc.org

2018-2019 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Panasonic

