



HOMEFRONT

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE



2021-2022

CORE VALUES + DEDICATION = COMMITMENT

www.saluteinc.org

Dear Friends,



When you combine strong core values, great work ethic with purpose driven dedication you end up with TRUE Commitment. That defines the SALUTE staff and volunteers. Will and I are incredibly thankful and proud of the SALUTE staff and volunteers as SALUTE celebrates our 19th year of service. Over the years more than 17,000 service members and their families have been assisted and countless lives changed forever.

SALUTE's approach has always been unique and special. Case managers and staff not only share their professional skills but give the most precious gift and that is the gift of TIME. Each individual is like a puzzle piece. Each is necessary and important to complete the picture. Their commitment is a true witness and inspiration to others.

We would like to acknowledge past Board members, staff and volunteers, as they laid the foundation for a strong and sustainable organization. Over the past 19 years we have had the good fortune of building a team of incredibly passionate supporters that share in our mission and vision.

It is an honor to be a part of this dynamic team as we look forward to future opportunities where TOGETHER we can make an impact.

We SALUTE you!

MB and Will

A SAFE RIDE FOR THE FAMILY



Sgt. Charles served almost 11 years in the U S Army, first as a chaplain assistant and then a cavalry scout. During his time in the Army, Charles was deployed three times (including tours in Iraq and Kuwait), where he was severely injured in an IED explosion. Upon his return home, he also suffered a small stroke. Permanently disabled, Charles worked hard to recover his strength and help his wife raise their four young children.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, the family suffered increased financial stress, so Charles reached out to SALUTE, INC. for assistance. Fortunately, SALUTE was able to provide the family with **payments on their car loans**. This assistance secured transportation for the family, easing their financial worries and ensuring a safe ride to therapy, school and the grocery store.



RENEWED

Army Specialist Noah proudly served for four years during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning home, he married and settled down as a family man, working for the US Postal Service. Eight years after leaving the service, Noah realized that his lingering PTSD was greatly impacting his daily life. Despite his responsibilities as a husband, father and breadwinner, Noah and his wife knew he had to seek mental health treatment. He located a VA program that targeted PTSD, and enrolled, taking time off from his job and leaving his wife and five kids at home without his paycheck. The intensive inpatient program provided great relief to Noah, but the family fell behind on utilities and rent. Referred by the VA, SALUTE was able to help Noah's family with **rent and utility payments**. Noah is now looking forward to returning to his family and job, renewed by the mental health therapy he received.

"Thank you so much for all of the support you provided for my family! It was such a relief for my wife and I, especially with me being in treatment at the VA. God bless you all."

- SPC Noah

together
we make a complete picture
ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER CASE MANAGERS
(not pictured in cover photo):
Frank, Angela, Char and Russ



Connecting a **COMMUNITY**



The **PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY** on **September 11**. It was a day we will never forget. The ceremony included a stirring prelude by the 484th Army Quintet to open the event, presentation of Colors by the 2/24 Marines Color Guard, a welcome from Arlington Heights Mayor and U.S. Army veteran Tom Hayes, student essays by Kelsey Neary and RJ Gamble, reading of the names of Illinois Fallen Heroes, and the playing of Taps. After the ceremony we enjoyed the opening of the Portrait of a Soldier display at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. The display, championed early on by former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, is centered on a moving collection of portraits of over 300 U.S. service men and women from Illinois who died in service to their country since 9/11.

LETTERS TO MILITARY FAMILIES

Tracy Drost and her family learned how much a simple act of kindness can grow when they generously hosted a gift card and letter writing campaign to assist military families. "Our friends, family and neighbors came out in full force and we were incredibly overwhelmed by their contributions of over \$1800 and 80 thoughtful letters written to military service members, veterans and their families," Drost said. Tracy was especially pleased that so many of the letters were written by classmates of her three children. "We chose SALUTE to help those who provide us with the very freedom we are thankful for every day. Our family feels so fortunate to be a part of it, help spread their message and contribute to their mission. It was our honor." Events like this show us all how good it feels to help those who need a little boost. We hope the Drost family will inspire others to feel the same joy in 2022.



WiGiv AND GIVE, AND GIVE AND GIVE!

In 2013, the Williams children founded WiGiv as a way to honor their parents for their lifetime of giving and generosity. Recently, WiGiv took time to assist U.S. Army veteran Colton with much needed projects in his yard. Colton served in the Army for almost 6 years with the 10th Mountain Division Infantry 222 before receiving an Honorable Medical Discharge due to injuries sustained in Afghanistan. The WiGiv team cut grass, applied weed killer, weeded all planting areas, removed rotted landscape timbers, trimmed decorative trees and overgrown bushes, and cleared brush. This is another example of connecting a community to welcome Colton to his new home.

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SALUTE STILL RUNNING STRONG

Sue Hussey, Team Salute Coordinator

Throughout 2021, TEAM SALUTE's Charity Athletes and Volunteers eagerly made the transition from "virtual" to "hybrid" to "in-person" fundraising events. Pictured below are a few of the highlights.

In early spring, SALUTE was the beneficiary of donated funds through the Wisconsin Marathon in Kenosha. Though we were not yet able to gather for our annual Memorial Weekend 5K, many SALUTE supporters **Carried on the Tradition** by entering the virtual run/walk, donating household necessities for the Lovell VA Health Care Center, and purchasing hand painted patriotic planters.

By summer, over 100 charity runners had registered with TEAM SALUTE for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, many of whom had maintained their commitment from the cancelled 2020 race. After 18 weeks of training, the long awaited emergence from shutdown was celebrated over 26.2 miles of city streets. SALUTE's biggest fundraiser of the year was BACK!



SALUTE's **Chicago Marathon team** persevered raising over \$150,000 for Veteran Assistance Programs.



Five members of the **Korab Family** joined forces to run the Chicago Marathon. Mary (mother of 7 boys) ran her first marathon accompanied by four of her sons. Together they supported each other every step of the way, raised \$7,000 for SALUTE and made a lasting family memory.

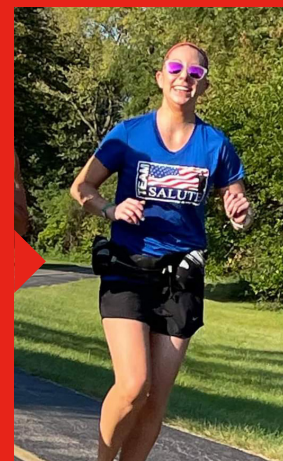


Javier Romero and Chris Beiersdorf complete their first marathon for TEAM SALUTE in Chicago.

TEAM SALUTE VOLUNTEERS staff an Aid Station at the Wisconsin Marathon in Kenosha.



Long time team member and prolific fundraiser **Allison Titre** completes her 20 mile training run. Over the last few years Allison has raised in excess of \$5,000 for SALUTE by competing in triathlons and marathons.



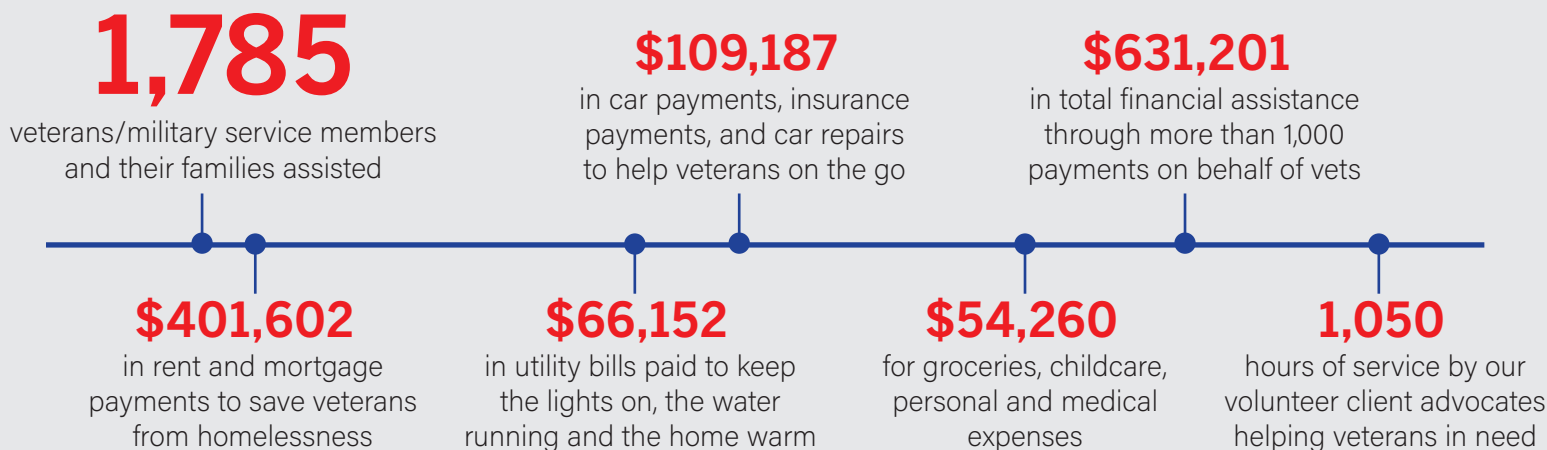


FINANCIALS



SALUTE, INC. is committed to outstanding stewardship and complete transparency regarding our finances. Through diligent management of the donations and grants we receive, we direct every possible dollar toward achieving our mission of providing financial assistance to bridge the temporary income gaps and meet the basic needs of post 9/11 veterans. Since our inception, we have provided over \$5.7 Million in direct aid to veterans and their families in their time of need. We welcome your assistance in helping us further our mission.

OUR IMPACT How SALUTE, INC. made a difference in the past 12 months



Other ways to SUPPORT SALUTE



Double the Donation
matching gifts made easy

amazonsmile

ROUNDUP APP

All donation options are available at www.saluteinc.org/donate/

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.

OUR MISSION

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



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2022 SAVE THE DATES

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| FEB. 26 | SALUTE, INC. Fundraising Party |
| MAY | SALUTE, INC. 5K TBD |
| JULY 11 | SALUTE, INC./PHGA GOLF FUNDRAISER |
| OCT. 9 | Bank of America Chicago Marathon |

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2021-2022 NEWSLETTER

GRATEFUL FOR OUR **VETERAN RESOURCE GROUPS**

SALUTE, INC. is proud to partner with a network of corporate veteran resource groups. These companies are implementing initiatives to hire veterans. Visit www.saluteinc.org/job-resources for more details.



Allstate
You're in good hands.

DISCOVER

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Controls**



ZURICH