



**He PERSEVERED  
... through hardship  
to hope and SUCCESS.**





Dear Friends,

Seasonal changes always seem to bring about feelings of tremendous **gratitude**. As we enter our **21st season** we want you to know we are forever **GRATEFUL**. Your support enables us to continue our meaningful work responding to critical needs of military service members and their families. During these changing times, we ask that you continue your commitment to SALUTE, INC. whether it be as a volunteer or donor. Your involvement is essential.

We are honored to have been given the responsibility to assist families across our great country. It is our duty to give back!

*MB and Will*

**In 2005, I joined the Illinois Army National Guard 1st Battalion 178th Infantry Regiment. The 178th traces its history back to the formation of the 16th Battalion, Illinois State Militia in 1878.**

We were deployed to several provinces across Afghanistan to perform SECFOR missions during Operation Enduring Freedom. I served as a Gunner on Humvees and MRAPs. We conducted over 300 missions including mounted and dismounted patrols, and I was part of a Quick Reactionary Force, a platoon Concept of Operations, a Personal Security Detail for the Battalion Commander, and security for the Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Humanitarian Assistance Missions. I earned my Combat Infantry Badge that is awarded to those who fought in active ground combat. My tour ended in 2009 and I separated from the 178th in 2011.

After being away from home it was very difficult to pick up where my wife, kids, and I left off. There were many struggles both mentally and physically, and my wife and daughters suffered along with me. I, like many other veterans, struggled getting acclimated back into society.

Although I was employed, we were living from paycheck to paycheck. We had to make some repairs at home due to flooding which caused us to fall behind on our utility bills and mortgage. Already feeling like a burden to my family due to my health issues, not being able to provide financially was just killing me inside. I reached out to SALUTE INC, and they were there to lend a hand. We were able to catch up on our bills. I felt like I was able to catch my breath and continue the good fight.

Since then, I have been able to turn things around and begin to help others. As Veterans even after taking off our uniform, some of us continue to serve.

I am currently working as a Veteran Caseworker and Outreach Coordinator for U.S Senator Tammy Duckworth's Chicago Office. My responsibilities include representing the Senator at events and meetings

throughout the greater Chicago metro area, tracking and providing analysis on key issues, building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders and elected officials.

I also volunteer at The Mission Continues Organization where I help empower veterans to continue their service, and empower communities with veteran talent, skills, and preparedness to generate visible impact. I have been able to serve in the Englewood, Auburn Gresham, South Shore and Little Village communities. Since 2018, I have led more than 100 service projects, engaging over 1,000 volunteers, providing meaningful impact to communities by engaging veterans locally and helping them rediscover their sense of purpose after serving in the military.



I am also currently serving as the President of a Community Market (Mercado de Colores / The Market of Colors) in the Little Village Community. I have been helping run this community market where we support local vendors as well as veterans and provide cultural programming.

***Thanks to SALUTE I was able to continue my journey of recovery and help others.***

## Mortgage payments plus an adaptive treadmill keep Justin's family looking and moving forward



While serving his country with the 101st Airborne, Justin was a resilient and determined soldier. During a pre-deployment training session, Justin was hit by a vehicle moving at high speed and incurred a traumatic brain injury (TBI). In the days that followed, he suffered a stroke, dealt with multiple open fractures, needed to be resuscitated several times, and ultimately spent 2 months in ICU. After another 2 months of acute rehab at the Polytrauma Center in Tampa, Justin was moved home to continue exhaustive therapy and rehab.

While he continues to make progress in his recovery, his family has encountered additional challenges as the financial impact of his treatment and their time commitment to his health became more than they could handle. Within days of reaching out to SALUTE, Justin's family received support to cover mortgage payments for 3 months so they could pay down the debt they had accumulated on credit cards as well as an adaptive treadmill to aid in his therapy. Facing all that they do, Justin and his family should have the ability to focus on his recovery, not a series of incoming expenses. Let's keep Justin and family looking, and moving, forward.



## Just try and keep up with Dustin and Lyndsey's incredible energy and commitment to living a full life!

Dustin and Lyndsey met while working at Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital, he as a nurse, and she as a behavioral health technician. They were married in 2018 and later welcomed their son Jessie while stationed at Fort Polk. In April 2019, they went out to take the Army Physical Fitness Test with their unit, when suddenly, life changed forever as Justin collapsed and experienced an anoxic brain injury.

While Dustin's prognosis was dire, doctors knew little about the determination of this couple. Through a tireless commitment to therapy and recovery, Dustin continues to improve. After setting a goal of completing a 5K a month in 2022, the couple upped the goal, targeting a 10K each month for 2023. With the assistance of an adaptive running chair donated by SALUTE they continue to pursue new goals, which now includes Lyndsey participating in the 2024 Chicago Marathon. Our goal? Try and keep up with their incredible energy and commitment to living a full life.





## Has Really **STEPPED IT UP!**

2023 was a year in which records were set, milestones were reached and meaningful friendships were forged. Not only was it SALUTE, INC.'s 20th anniversary year but our Chicago Marathon charity guaranteed entries filled in record time resulting in record fundraising on behalf of our Veteran Assistance Programs!



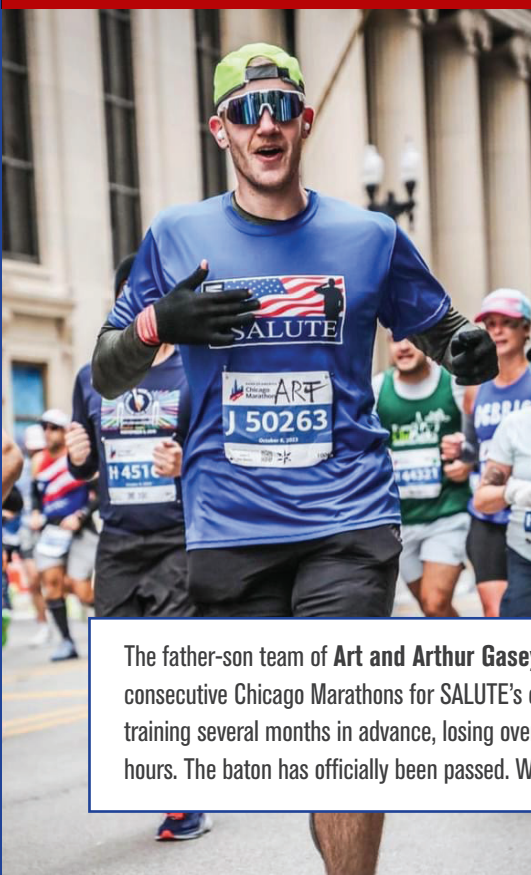
This year **140 volunteer charity athletes** joined Team Salute for the **Bank of America Chicago Marathon**. The weather was beautiful on Oct. 8th and many of Team Salute's runners set Personal Records. As a group, the team raised over **\$276,000!** Thank you to each of our runners for your individual efforts and to our sponsor Allstate for their generous support which provided team shirts, group training opportunities and race day hospitality for our marathoners.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY  
GRATEFUL TO OUR **LEGACY**  
**RUNNERS** WHO HAVE  
RETURNED TO RUN WITH  
US FOR **5 YEARS** OR MORE.

Jackie Beck  
Beiersdorf Family (3)  
Joe Christophe  
Katie DeSwardt  
Jack Deichl  
Ramon Dela Cruz  
Br. John Eustice

Art Gasey  
Ed Goewey  
Hogaboom Family (3)  
Korab Family (5)  
Thomas Ngo  
Lisa Norris  
Roy Pura

Javier Romero  
Kevin Schreiber  
Val Skinner  
Adam Thomas  
Allison Titre  
Williams Family (6)



In early 2022 **Matt Ryan** joined Team Salute and requested that the funds he raised be directed toward a special need. **Connor Nash** was that Veteran with a special need. He had suffered a stroke and his family applied to SALUTE for assistance. The funds Matt raised helped Connor's parents be close during his treatment at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. As Connor progressed in his recovery, those funds helped defray the cost of speech therapy. In May of 2023 Matt and Connor finally met in person and ran SALUTE's 5K together furthering their special bond.

The father-son team of **Art and Arthur Gasey** had a special experience this year. Art a Navy Veteran, had run 12 consecutive Chicago Marathons for SALUTE's charity team inspiring his son to take on the challenge. So Arthur began training several months in advance, losing over 100 lbs. along the way and completed his 1st marathon in just over 4 hours. The baton has officially been passed. Way to go Gaseys!





# FINANCIALS

## Assistance Provided

**2023**  
822 Vets Assisted  
\$916,687

**2005**  
15 Vets Assisted  
\$20,000

## Programs

FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE  
**63%**

MENTAL HEALTH  
PROGRAMS  
**34%**

REHABILITATIVE  
PROGRAMS  
**3%**

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 and the Shepherd Center.

## Expenses

PROGRAMS  
**87%**

FUNDRAISING  
**10%**

MANAGEMENT  
**3%**

For 2023, we are proud to report that **87% of every dollar** donated funded our programs to support injured veterans and their families.

Source:  
3/31/23 federal tax return



Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

Through the darkness, I was lost  
Almost paid with my life as the cost

I sought some help and it was given  
Thank you SALUTE, no more  
darkness, just clear vision

That old life I won't be missin'  
To spread your kindness will  
be my life's mission

**I SALUTE You!**

*U.S. Army (Retired)*



## OUR MISSION

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

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](http://www.saluteinc.org).



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**Follow us!**



**Donate!**



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## 2024 SAVE THE DATES

<b>FEB. 24</b>	SALUTE, INC. Annual Fundraising Party
<b>MAY 25</b>	SALUTE, INC. Honor and Remember Walk
<b>JULY 17</b>	SALUTE, INC./PHGA GOLF FUNDRAISER
<b>OCT. 13</b>	Bank of America Chicago Marathon
<b>NOV. TBD</b>	Associate Board Fundraiser

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**2023-2024 NEWSLETTER**

### OUR PARTNERS

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



Shepherd Center

**Neuro**  
Community Care



**EMORY**  
HEALTHCARE

"Although we can never know the full extent of what you have gone through to protect our freedom, please know we can never thank you enough"

**UCLA** Health



Shirley Ryan  
**Abilitylab**

