

Operation First Response 2018 Annual Report



Over a Decade of
Serving Disabled Veterans and Their Families with Emergency Financial Aid
www.OperationFirstResponse.org



Letter from our Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Senior Advisors and Staff of Operation First Response, we thank you for your support.

Together we have served over 19,800 families with emergency financial aid. We could not accomplish our mission without the generosity of our Donors and the hard work of our Volunteers.

There is no doubt that our Veterans have paved the way for our military's reputation as the finest fighting force in the world both in strength and in character. We must stand up for the men and women who fought for us and for those who returned home with the scars and wounds of war. We are their friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors. We are their boots on the ground on the home front. It is up to us to ensure that every Veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans.

We are proud to be Americans, citizens of the greatest country in the world. It is our freedoms that make it so and those freedoms were won and defended by our Veterans, the men and women who put the ideals of our country before themselves.

Our gratitude for the sacrifices made is immense, however gratitude isn't enough. We must do more to protect our Men and Women in Uniform who devote their lives to the service of our country.

Thank you for being part of the team that puts words into actions and makes a difference in their lives.

God bless America and God bless our Heroes past and present!

*Peggy Baker
Founder/Executive Director*



Our Mission

Operation First Response serves our nation's wounded, injured and critically ill active duty Service Members/Disabled Veterans and Gold Star Families with personal and financial needs.

Services are provided from the onset of injury, throughout their recovery period and along their journey from military life into the civilian world. Financial aid varies as each case is based on individual needs ranging from rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses.





Our Core Values

Assisting our Military Families

- We are determined to make a difference in the quality of life for injured or critically ill military service members and their families. We relentlessly seek resources, both inside the military and outside, to help fill the gap caused by injury or severe illness during service to our country.

Respecting Privacy and Dignity

- We value, respect and protect the privacy and dignity of the families we serve.

Personal Accountability and Respect for Others

- We accept that we are part of a larger team dedicated to the same goals and objectives. We understand that as a team member we are accountable for our actions and the reflection of those actions upon the organization. We work with others in a way that demonstrates that we value them and their contributions and have high expectations of what they will contribute. We value the perspectives and experiences that others bring to the team.

Integrity

- We are honest and trustworthy and do what is right when no one is watching. We understand the pain that violating the public trust will cause to our organization, our teammates and ultimately to the families we serve.

Goal Oriented

We have two main goals:

- To honor the service and sacrifice of every military family.
- To build a network of support and funding with a sense of urgency that supports our mission and meets our high ethical standards.



Our Programs

Operation First Response Military Family Assistance Program

OFR provides financial aid to wounded, injured and critically-ill Active Duty Service Members/Disabled Veterans and their families during the recovery period of the service member. We also provide financial aid to those who are making the transition of military life to civilian life after being medically retired. There is a significant lapse of time, from six months to one year, between the retirement and the onset of VA benefits causing many families to lose homes and not be able to provide for the basic needs of their families.

The Last Mission Project

OFR provides financial aid to combat Veterans suffering with PTSD that attend in- house counseling and therapy treatment to gain the skills needed to cope with the symptoms they experience. Many Veterans must make the decision between their family finances and receiving this needed therapy.

Operation First Response Backpack Program

OFR sends backpacks to wounded Service Members located at combat support hospitals in theatre. These backpacks are filled with a set of clothing, hygiene products, a handmade blanket, and a phone card and sent to a POC to be given to our wounded upon arrival. These items enable our wounded to have some personal items considering many have their uniforms cut off in the battlefield and it may take weeks for personal items to be returned.

Operation First Response Travel Program

OFR provides air transportation for family members of wounded, injured and critically- ill Service Members.

OFR provides train transportation for family members of wounded, injured and critically- ill Service Members.

OFR provides car service transportation to and from DC area airports to major military medical facilities for family members of wounded, injured and critically-ill Service Members.

Operation First Response Project Tutor Program

OFR has partnered with Professional Tutors of America to offer tutor services to our wounded, injured and critically ill Active Duty Service Members/Disabled Veterans and their families.

Operation First Response Project Specialized Training Program

OFR has partnered with Veterans Institute of Training & Tech to offer specialized training courses for our Active Duty Wounded Warriors while they are within the Warrior's Transitional Units.

Operation "Final Salute" Project

Operation First Response has had the honor of sponsoring many portraits of our Fallen Heroes painted by the artist Kaziah Hancock. These portraits are treasured by the families of our Fallen and allow all of us to be part of the "Final Salute" to these amazing Heroes that gave all for each of us. It reminds the families that our grateful nation will never forget their sacrifices.



Comments from our Heroes

OFR truly sacrifices to catch those veterans, who should be helped by federal agencies and large charities but who are not because those organizations are so narrow-minded in their scope and frankly so bureaucratic, they cannot see the desperation of veterans. OFR supports veterans in taking the risks necessary to meet the basic needs of these people who are just trying to stay alive after serving their country, by trying new and holistic treatments and means to overcome age-old responses to trauma. Semper fidelis.

MS. Meriwether Ball

For any organization like this helping vets, it is so important to consider the emotional well-being of the vet during this time. If a vet is asking for assistance, it's because he/she feels like they have failed. Other organizations I approached for help had financial web-based training I had to take to even apply for funds. It felt like a slap to the face and I shut off all communications with that organization. Operation First Response helps the vet to feel coming to your organization was a good option, there is no judgment and they want to help.

I was amazed by this organization and how they helped me. They could not offer enough to fully cover my mortgage but the help they provided made a huge difference in the quality of life for my family that month. The person I worked with made me feel appreciated, as if she was there to help me and not to figure out where I mess up in my finances. For this help, I will be forever grateful. Please contact me if you ever need testimonials.

The Conley Family



Walk for the Wounded 2018 Events

SAT., MAY 19th
 Pennsylvania's 11th Annual
WALK FOR THE WOUNDED
 & Warriors 5K Run
 Rose Tree Park - Media, PA
 9am - 3pm

Join
CBS 3 Anchor Nicole Brewer
 and the
Philly Phanatic

Every contribution, large and small, will literally change another family's future. Be their hero on May 19th
 At Rose Tree Park
 Bring your entire family to Walk or Run.
 97% of all donations go directly to wounded veterans.

With MC Nicole Brewer from CBS 3 TV
 Military Guest Speaker Chief Warrant Officer Trevor Jenni, (Retired)
 Music by the band OFFLINE & DJ Partytime and Food by Nifty Fifties

Plus a Tribute to Fallen Hero, Army Sgt. Allen J. Dunckley of Yardley, PA
 With Rock Climbing - Zip-Lining - Free Felling - Military Vehicles & more

MEDAL OF HONOR SPONSORS: Exelon Power/PECO and General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741 Marine Corps League
MAJOR SPONSORS: Qyt Te & Automotive FREEDOM SPONSORS: American Airlines, The Boeing Company UAW 1585, Debra Post Age Foundation, Harris Family, John & Bernadette Heinen, Kales Senior Foundation (KSF), LAUREL STATE SPONSORS: American Legion Family Post #607, Atlantic City Trailer Sales, Inc., Cranwood Family, Exco Pharmaceuticals, Rights of Columbus (ROCS) BRONZE STAR SPONSORS: American Legion Post #328, Bayada Hospice, Bedford Mills 1st Water Heaters, Campus Corner Villanova, Giant Food Stores, Harris White Care, Maly Pflanz, PHILAMC, Dancergirls, Revere Home, The Spa, Shop Rite of Brookhaven & Deshaies, Springfield Country Club, Steyerbridge Sales, Wawa. **PURPLE HEART SPONSORS:** Ancient Order of Hibernians, Blandford Village, Boring Helicopter Creek Unions, Canyon Outpost Community Lodge #744, Cramer-Dewinter Medical Center, Delaware River Steiner Treatment, Hermit's Philadelphia Casino and Race Track, Liberty Oil, Media VFW Post #3460, M&T Bank, PFC Johnny John Memorial Fund, Rehab 2 Wellness, Thornbury Township General Fund, Making Nurses Association of Philadelphia (MNA) SPONSORS: B & E Sportswear, Billows Electric Supply Co., Corral Office PC, Dr. Curt Miller MD, (ICIM) Insurance Brokers, Esquire Deposition Solutions, Fiedly's, Margie Memorial Post #605, MCL, Upper Darby Detachment #804, Michael P.C. Gilks & Associates, PA Agency of Nurses IN KIND SPONSORS: Canine Campy, Columbia Club of Chien Hsieh, Delaware County Chapter of Commerce, Delaware County Parks & Recreation, Distribution Delta Services, CUPharm, Finger Creek Press.

www.OperationFirstResponse.org



**Sponsorship Opportunities
 Still Available!**
operationfirstresponse.org

OPERATION FIRST RESPONSE
WALK for the WOUNDED
 PRESENTED BY OCEANFIRST BANK

Saturday, September 22, 2018
 Music Pier, Ocean City, NJ

Registration: 8:30am
Ceremony Honoring Soldiers: 9:30am | Walk: 10am

Raise \$50 for Operation First Response and receive a **FREE long-sleeve tee.**

For sponsorship opportunities please visit operationfirstresponse.org

OCEANFIRST BANK

Major Contributors



PNC Charitable Trust





Board of Directors

Board Chairman – Phil Irizarry
President/Treasurer – Peggy Baker
Secretary – Lauri Hauser
Director of Special Projects – Bob O'Donoghue
Board Member – CPL Ronny Porta (RET)
Board Member – Danielle Ferguson

Senior Advisors

Nick Constantino
Carl Monk

Executive Staff

Founder/President – Peggy Baker
Executive Office Manager & Case Manager – Sarah Baker
Executive Office Assistant & Case Manager – Crystal Howard





2018 Financials

INCOME

Contributions - \$826,005.00

In-Kind Contributions - \$229,082.00

Total Income - \$1,055,322.00

Net Assets - \$723,154.00

EXPENSES

Services Provided Directly to Veterans - \$867,184.00

General Operating Costs - \$18,428.0

Fundraising Costs - \$19,297.00

General Operating Costs for 2018 were 1.8%

Fundraising Costs for 2018 were 1.9%

Over 95% of our funds went directly to serve our Heroes and their families with emergency financial aid.





2018 Accomplishments and Impact

2018 Statistics

2,039 Wounded Heroes and their Families received assistance with:

- Mortgage and Rent
 - Utilities
 - Vehicle Payments
 - Groceries
 - Air Transportation
 - Ground Transportation
 - Lodging
- 304 OFR Backpacks were sent to combat support hospitals in theatre.
 - 826 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.

To Date Statistics (2004-2018)

19,813 Wounded Heroes and their Families received assistance with:

- Mortgage and Rent
- Utilities
- Vehicle Payments
- Groceries
- Air Transportation
- Ground Transportation
- Lodging

11,053 OFR Backpacks were sent to combat support hospitals in theatre.

826 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.



Operation First Response
20037 Dove Hill Rd
Culpeper, Virginia 22701

Office# 888-289-0280
Fax# 888-505-2795

www.OperationFirstResponse.org
info@OperationFirstResponse.org

EIN#20-1622436



CFC#15385

