

Operation First Response 2021 Annual Report



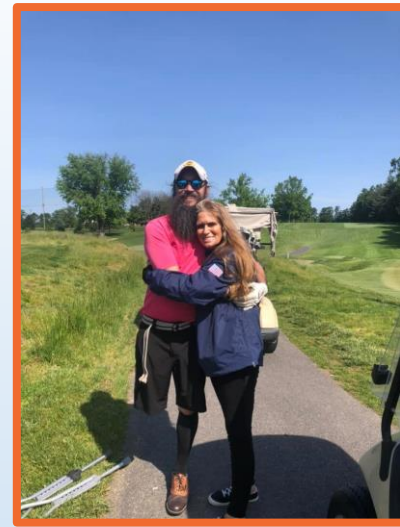
Serving America's Finest with Emergency Financial Aid

Since 2004

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 25,419 families with emergency financial aid. We could not accomplish our mission without the generosity of our Donors and the hard work of our Volunteers.

The past few years have been a challenge for our Heroes and their families. Adding the changes that COVID has brought into their lives while already struggling with their emotional and physical needs, they need us more now than ever before. Loss of wages and the increase to their daily living costs has caused many to spiral out of control with their financial security.

We have also been challenged to find more ways to obtain the funding needed to serve these most deserving families. We are so grateful for the support we have received and look forward to the new opportunities that come our way. The more funding we receive creates the opportunity to give more hope to those we serve. There is no greater gift that you can give someone than hope.

We will not be able to support these families in crisis without your support now!

Together, we are stronger!

Warm regards,

*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, Gold Star Families and First Responders with personal and financial needs.

Services are provided from the onset of injury, throughout their recovery period and along their journey from a life of selfless service 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 and First Responder Families

We are determined to make a difference in the quality of life for injured or critically ill military Service Members, Disabled Veterans and First Responders. We relentlessly seek resources to help fill the gap caused by injury or severe illness during service to our communities and 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 and First Responder 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 Family Assistance Program

OFR provides financial aid to wounded, injured and critically-ill Active-Duty Service Members/Disabled Veterans, First Responders and Gold Star Families with emergency financial aid.

The Last Mission Project

OFR provides financial aid to combat Veterans and First Responders 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 and First Responders must make the decision between their family finances and receiving this needed therapy.

Our Programs



Operation First Response Project Specialized Training

OFR has partnered with Cisco IT Professional Trainers from VITT Inc to offer specialized training courses for our Active Duty Wounded Warriors while they are within the Warrior's Transitional Units, Disabled Veterans, First Responders and their caregivers.

Operation First Response Project Tutor Program

The families of our wounded, injured and critically ill active-duty Service Members and Disabled Veterans face unparalleled challenges in the transition to the civilian community. We understand their unique needs and are committed to assisting them with their successful integration into higher education and career fields. We have partnered with a tutoring service that has provided educational services for over 30 years. This program is also available to our Heroes' family members.

Our Programs



Operation "Final Salute" Project

OFR has had the honor of sponsoring hundreds of portraits of our Fallen Heroes painted by the artist Kaziah Hancock. These portraits are treasured by the families of our Fallen (this is NOT exclusive to Killed in Action) 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.

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 Random Act of Kindness

OFR is offering Random Act of Kindness Initiative Cards to all Gold Star Families. There is no cost for the cards for the Gold Star Families.



Comments from our Heroes and Partners

OFR, on behalf of the family of Michael K. Pleasants, we would like to take a moment and say thank you, as we have received our “Final Salute” portrait and please extend our heartfelt gratitude to the amazing artist Kaziah Hancock. It has only been one year since our lives were suddenly changed and receiving this outstanding portrait will certainly allow us to remember our son, brother, nephew, cousin, uncle who was so endearing to all. Respectfully, Scott Pleasants

Thank you so much for everything. We both appreciate you, and your organization!! We could not have gotten through this tough time without you all. Please pass on our Many Thanks to everyone involved!

As the wife of this Veteran, it is so beautiful to see people like You & everyone involved care about our veterans!

Please keep doing what you’re doing!

M.B.

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for helping me with short term funds required for me to reside in sober living. I want to thank you for your act of kindness. I was in a very grave position financially and the team at Operation First Response came to my aid in such a difficult time. Your support assisted me to continue on my road to recovery from substance abuse. Your financial support helped me stay in sober living where I continue to reside this day at Good Life Recovery-Sober Living Community for Men.

I consider myself blessed to have organizations like OFR who are there to help and support our Military, Veterans, First Responders, and their families in their time of need.

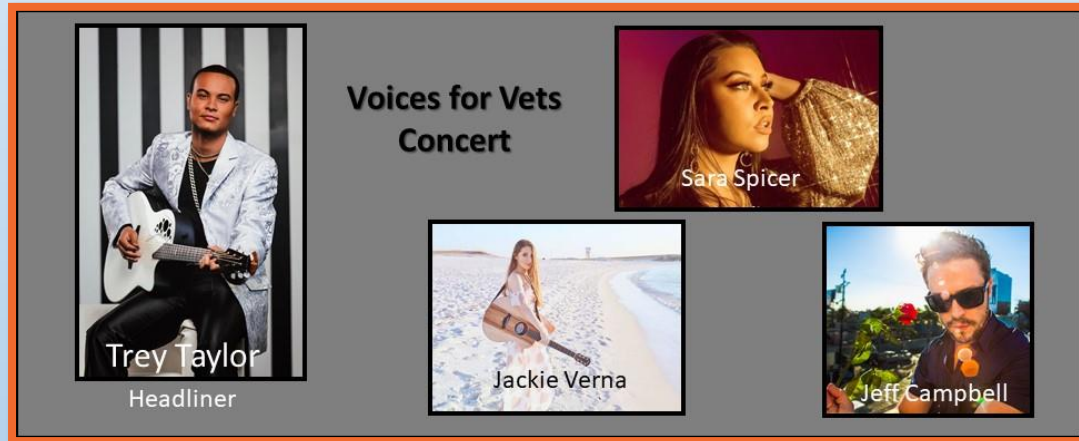
I am indebted to your generosity. The support of OFR makes it possible for those who served feel worry-free and supported by organizations like yours. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

D.H.



2021 Events



VOICES for VETS CONCERT



OPERATION FIRST RESPONSE THANK YOU TOUR



Major Contributors

Blue Origin Management, LLC
For the Benefit of Earth

CSX Transportation

The Kim and Harold Louie Foundation



Gen. Smedley D. Butler
Detachment of the
Marine Corps League

Whitney Jones



Direct Premium Buys

Miriam L Halsey Foundation

Carl Monk

Wawa, Inc

Joseph Pieri

Judith Picarelli

Joseph Drummond





Board of Directors

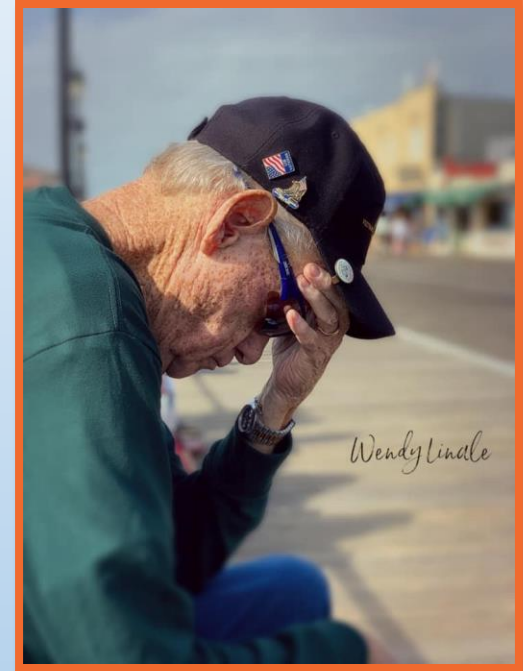
Board Chairman – Phil Irizarry
President – Peggy Baker
Secretary – Lauri Hauser
Treasurer - Danielle Ferguson
Director of Special Projects – Bob O'Donoghue
Board Member – CPL Ronny Porta (RET)

Senior Advisors

Nick Constantino
Carl Monk

Executive Staff

Founder/President – Peggy Baker
COO - Executive Office Manager & Case Manager – Sarah Baker
CFO - Executive Office Assistant & Case Manager – Crystal Krueger



Wendy Linalde



2021 Financials

INCOME

Contributions - \$498,142.00

In-Kind Contributions - \$260,981.00

Interest Income - \$10.00

Total Income - \$759,133.00

Net Assets - \$759,133.00

EXPENSES

Services Provided Directly to Veterans - \$793,093

General Operating Costs - \$21,333.00

Fundraising Costs - \$20,481.00

General Operating Costs for 2021 were 2 %

Fundraising Costs for 2021 were 3 %

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





2021 Accomplishments and Impact

2021 Statistics

1,730 Wounded Heroes and their Families received assistance with:

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

46 Veterans received specialized training.

800 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.

92 Gold Star Families received a portrait of their Fallen Hero.

To Date Statistics (2004-2021)

25,419 Wounded Heroes and their Families received assistance with:

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

40 Requested items sent to Active-Duty Service Members in theatre.

11,407 OFR Backpacks were sent to combat support hospitals in theatre.

3,922 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.

554 Gold Star Families received a portrait of their Fallen Hero.

70 Veterans received specialized training.



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