# Operation First Response 2022 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 28,599 families with emergency financial aid. We could not accomplish our mission without the generosity of our Donors and the hard work of our Volunteers.

As we continue experiencing challenging times for our Heroes and their families and as they continue 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.

# **Additional Programs**





## Operation First Response Project Specialized Training

OFR has partnered with IT Professional Trainers from VITT Inc to offer the CCNA Course and the Security+ Course free of charge. It is our goal to add more courses to aid our Heroes into specialized training careers for their future.

## 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.

## Additional 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

I greatly appreciate you for allowing me to take this amazing course led by some tremendous instructors. As I'm beginning my journey in the cyber world, this course has truly helped me in so many ways. I plan to read over the information provided some more and successfully pass my certification exam!

Again, thank you so much and I appreciate all of you! M. Grant

I just appreciate you all so much, it has truly been hard the last couple years due to my medical condition and just trying to keep my head above the water especially when I am doing it alone. I really appreciate you and keep doing what you are doing. From a very appreciative Veteran.

A. Roberson

My wife and I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the Walmart gift card and to tell you we were able to get so much done with. It went a long way in this time of need, we are very grateful to have people like you in our lives to help us because not too many people say they can help these days. When someone does it's a real blessing! Thank you for everything that you've done and may God bless you. Michael and Family

Operation First Response was exactly what we needed, when we needed it, and when we thought all hope was lost. We fell behind on our car payment after moving into a new apartment in Los Angeles as they aren't cheap and took all of our savings. It's our only car and we were terrified every day it would be taken. Within two days they made a payment for us and had such good hearts about it.

We don't feel we deserve such kindness but are forever grateful for helping us get back on our feet. Thank you so much! We will never forget this! Micah



2022 Event

Golfing for Wounded Heroes



# **Major Contributors**

Blue Origin Management, LLC For the Benefit of Earth





HOMEFRONT





Callaway Golf Company Foundation

Miriam L Halsey Foundation

Carl Monk

Joseph Pieri

Judith Picarelli

Joseph Drummond



The Kim and Harold Louie Foundation











Veterans United
Foundation

Whitney Jones





# **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





# 2022 Financials

#### **INCOME**

**Contributions - \$\$617,448** 

**In-Kind Contributions - \$330,139** 

Interest Income - \$10.00

Total Income - \$945,044

Net Assets, end of year-\$791,000

#### **EXPENSES**

**Services Provided Directly to Veterans - \$942,666** 

**General Operating Costs - \$24,727** 

**Fundraising Costs - \$23,896** 



**Fundraising Costs for 2022 were 3 %** 

Over 9% of our funds went directly to serve our Heroes and their families with emergency financial aid.





Platinum Transparency **2023** 

Candid.





## 2022 Accomplishments and Impact

### **2022 Statistics**

3,021 Wounded Heroes and their Families received assistance with:

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

66 Veterans received specialized training.

550 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.

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

## To Date Statistics (2004-2022)

28,599 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.

4,472 OFR Hygiene Bags were given to Veteran Homeless Shelters.

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

136 Veterans received specialized training.





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