



Season of Giving





SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S®
FUND

DEAR FUND FAMILY AND FRIENDS:



This year marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the official end of the war in Afghanistan. I often reflect on the men and women who answered the call to serve during what has been described as the "War on Terrorism." I have been privileged to watch them in action and I have been awestruck by their extraordinary commitment, courage, and selfless service. I have been equally impressed by the support and sacrifice of their families. We can say with absolute confidence that this generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coastguardsmen has competently performed their duty, taken care of each other, and kept their honor clean. They have done all we have asked of them ... and so much more. They don't ask for anything in return, but they deserve our enduring admiration and appreciation.

When we chose our theme for this year's fundraising campaign, "Today, Tomorrow, Together," we felt it perfectly captured the essence of who we are — a service organization that makes

a lifelong commitment to care for our service members, veterans, and their families. Today, many of our catastrophically wounded and injured service members and veterans require assistance to achieve the very best quality of life and independence possible in the context of their wounds and injuries. The Fund family is there to help meet those challenges. Our case managers, visiting nurses, programs, and grants are our way of demonstrating the admiration, appreciation, and commitment we have for this special group of veterans and their families.

What The Fund has done for almost twenty years inspires and humbles me. But as I used to say when I was on active duty — we get no credit today or tomorrow for what we did yesterday. And of course, The Fund's accomplishments are only possible with the support of our donors. Right now, we have an exceptional opportunity to meet the needs of The Fund family today and tomorrow. Due to the generosity of The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, we are in the midst of our 10th Annual Double Down for Veterans campaign. For nine consecutive

years, The Fund has successfully reached its goal, and this year we want to raise \$20 million or more — including a \$10 million match from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. Together, we can extend our "double-down" streak to ten years and make an enormous difference in the lives of our service members, veterans, and their families. Thank you in advance for making support for The Fund a part of your holiday giving.

I wish you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and meaningful holiday season.

Happy New Year and Semper Fidelis.

19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
36th Commandant of the Marine Corps

TODAY, TOMORROW, TOGETHER:

Let's "Double Down for Veterans" Once More!

The Fund promises every service member, veteran, and military family member entrusted to our care, **"You are part of our family forever."** And now, you have the chance to make a huge difference in the lives of our heroes.

Every year, Semper Fi & America's Fund and The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation hold an amazing, all-important event – the "Double Down for Veterans" Campaign, a fundraiser running now until December 31st that helps ensure The Fund fulfills its mission to assist our combat wounded, critically ill, and catastrophically injured service members from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

To date, Double Down for Veterans has raised \$145 million, and this year marks an incredible anniversary – our 10th annual "Double Down for Veterans" Campaign. We invite you once again to help us reach – and even surpass! – our annual goal of raising over \$20 million, including a very generous \$10 million match from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation.

From now until December 31, 2021, every donation to Semper Fi & America's Fund will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$10 million.

Your donations not only provide critical financial aid and vital support, but you also give our military heroes something

priceless – hope. Because even when facing uphill challenges, these warriors continue to fight and inspire us. So we vow to proudly honor those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country and offer our endless gratitude for their service when they return home.

Once again, thank you all for your unwavering support over the years. We're unbelievably grateful to Bob and Renee for being such faithful partners of our Fund family, and by "Doubling Down" again this year, we'll show our service members, veterans, and their families that their journeys will never be walked alone. Because The Fund is beside them every step of the way ... Today, Tomorrow, Together.



THE BOB & RENEE
PARSONS
FOUNDATION





SGT VALLE, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

*Your Donations
At Work*



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The Fund's suicide rate since 2004 is 30% lower than the rate for the overall combat-wounded population

- The Fund's suicide rate since 2004 is 30% lower than the rate for the overall combat-wounded population
- 95% of service members and their family experience improved well-being due to services provided by The Fund
- 98% state the assistance provided by The Fund was timely
- 82% say their quality of life has increased since working with The Fund
- 82% of participants in the Apprenticeship Program have PTSD, and the work they do provides a mental outlet and a sense of purpose, both of which beneficially address PTSD
- 75% of those we serve state they are better able to reach their goals in life

THE CALL TO BATTLE:

One Family's Story of Resilience

High schooler Vincent, who would later become Master at Arms First Class Petty Officer Vincent Curci, felt called to one day join the military. He answered that calling soon after his eighteenth birthday, serving in the Navy as an Aviation Ordnanceman in Japan on the USS Independence and the USS Kitty Hawk before becoming a Navy Master-at-Arms, responsible for providing security on Naval ships and installations.

While stationed in Japan, Vincent met the love of his life, Laura, and together, they had three children – Kim, Alicia, and Enzo. But in 2013, the Curci family was called to another kind of service, a battle which would test everything they were made of.

Their youngest, Enzo, was only 23 months old when he was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma, an extremely rare and aggressive eye cancer. What started as Vincent and Laura finding an unusual spot in Enzo's eye would soon cause their toddler to fight for his life.

Knowing the Los Angeles Children's Hospital offered the best care for this form of cancer, the Curci family relocated from Japan to California in a matter of days, and over the next several months, Enzo endured eighteen days of radiation therapy, four cycles of chemotherapy, laser and cryotherapy – treatments that proved to be incredibly difficult not only for little Enzo but for Vincent and Laura, who wanted nothing more than to lift this burden off their son.

It was in the midst of this hardship that Vincent's niece told them about Semper Fi & America's Fund. Immediately, The

Fund and Christie, their assigned case manager, stepped in to help.

As Vincent was stationed in San Diego, a five-hour drive from the hospital, The Fund provided gas cards for the family to make this trip multiple times a week and assisted in purchasing a vehicle to transport Enzo to and from appointments. The Fund also helped with a housing grant for home updates, purchasing a washer and dryer and other essential items to give Enzo the safest, most comfortable living environment.

"You don't want to have to choose between caring for your son and paying your bills," Vincent said, as **The Fund now allowed them to focus solely on Enzo's battle with cancer**, easing any financial strain that came with it. "Semper Fi & America's Fund was there every time we needed something."

But for Vincent and Laura, the greatest gift they received was Christie, her unwavering support and lasting friendship proving to be invaluable. From putting a smile on Enzo's face by sending a veteran's group dressed as dinosaurs to the Curci's home to providing Target gift cards for the family's after-treatment tradition of allowing Enzo to pick out a "surprise", Christie has now become an honorary member of the Curci family.

"Christie is just amazing," Vincent said. "She finds small ways to brighten up Enzo's day."

And now, eight years later, Enzo has beaten all the odds. An active ten-year-old, he loves hiking with his family, and plays the drums and the piano. Although the Curci family once weathered a storm unlike anything they ever anticipated, Vincent said, "We've reached a point where it's not constantly on our minds."

As Vincent, Laura, and their three brave children embrace the future, The Fund and Christie will always be a part of their journey, their relationship only made stronger as Enzo once battled for his life and as the Curci family now lives it to the fullest.



SGT EDDIE RYAN — MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE ... POSSIBLE

Meet Sgt. Eddie Ryan. His story is one of strength, bravery, and resilience, traits which perfectly describe not only this Marine, but his parents and caregivers Chris and Angela, as well. Because together, they overcame hardships. Together, they witnessed miracles. Together, they made the impossible ... possible.

At 12, Eddie knew he wanted to be a Marine, a desire solidified by the terrorist attack on 9/11. He bravely answered the call to service in 2002, joining the Marine Corps and serving as a Machine Gunner during his first two deployments, and as a sniper on the third. In 2005, Eddie's life changed forever. Six weeks into his tour in Husaybah, Iraq, he sustained two gunshots to his head during a mission.

At Balad Air Base in Iraq, a neurosurgeon removed one bullet from Eddie's head, the other bullet having gone straight through his skull, and his parents received devastating news: their son was not expected to survive. Once Chris and Angela arrived at Eddie's bedside at a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, they prepared to say goodbye.

But Eddie wasn't done fighting yet.

Defying the odds, he soon stabilized enough to be transferred to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where Eddie's family first met Semper Fi & America's Fund staff and volunteers. Right away, The Fund stepped in to help, first supporting Chris and Angela at Eddie's bedside. For 6 weeks, Eddie remained in a medically induced coma, but after the doctors performed a cranioplasty and reconstructed his skull out of acrylic, he woke up.

Back home in Rockland County, NY, Eddie recovered at the Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Center while Chris and Angela learned the skills to care for their son — Eddie had severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), cognitive and mobility issues, and because of the high risk of removing it, shrapnel remained in both Eddie's forehead and his left eye, causing permanent blindness in that eye.

But Eddie, strengthened by the support from his family and resources of The Fund, faced these challenges head on.

As Eddie had limited speech abilities and was in a wheelchair with only the use of his left arm, The Fund assisted him with weekly therapy sessions and provided Eddie's parents with family support grants, an adaptive van for transportation, respite care, and most recently a housing grant, which allowed them to adapt their home to provide the best care for Eddie.

... with unconditional love
and support, the impossible
becomes possible.

"The Fund always checked on my well-being and helped a lot financially," Eddie said, grateful for the love he feels. "That's great medicine in itself."

Throughout his entire recovery, Eddie's biggest motivators have been his family, fellow Marines, friends, and community. In 2010, Eddie competed in the Marine Corps Marathon with another Marine pushing him — a very proud moment not only for Eddie's family but for all who were watching and cheering him on from the sidelines!

Ever since, Eddie continues to defy the odds, both physically and mentally. The doctors once told his parents that it was unlikely Eddie would recognize them, if and when he woke from his coma. But now Eddie's memory is incredible, one of many miracles in his life, and he doesn't have any plans to slow down but rather work hard in therapy and someday, be able to walk again.

And The Fund will be there for Eddie and his family every step of the way, standing firm in our promise to support our combat wounded, critically ill, and catastrophically injured service members and their caregivers, **from the first moment we meet through a lifetime.** Inspired by their endless strength, incredible bravery, and unyielding resilience, Eddie, Chris, and Angela serve as our example of what it means to be a family — that with unconditional love and support, the impossible becomes possible.





CAPT RYAN VOLTIN, USMC (RET.)

Impact



Veteran & Unit Reunions
FY 2021: 123
Since Inception: 506



Cancer Support
FY 2021: \$1,739,000
Since Inception: \$10,449,000



Adaptive Housing
FY 2021: \$2,190,000
Since Inception: \$20,887,000



Service Dogs
FY 2021: \$500,000
Since Inception: \$4,259,000



Apprenticeship
FY 2021: \$828,000
Since Inception: \$4,952,000



Mobility & Adaptive Equipment
FY 2021: \$1,780,000
Since Inception: \$20,500,000



Caregiver Retreats
FY 2021: 33
Since Inception: 123



Disaster Relief
FY 2021: \$2,255,000
Since Inception: \$8,482,000



Our Leadership

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First Lieutenant, USA (Retired)
Three-Time Paralympian (2008, 2016, 2020)

Gary Zegley
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Retired)

DON'T DELAY ... JOIN OUR FUND FAMILY TODAY!

- Are you an athlete, business owner, artist, performer, blogger, or influencer?
- Looking for a fun and creative way to show your appreciation for our military heroes?
- Want to become a part of an incredible mission to support our service members and their families?
 - If you answered yes, then join our Fund family today!

LOVE HOSTING EVENTS?

Hosting an event is a perfect way to show a unified front for our service members and their families. Throughout the year, passionate supporters – along with their family, friends, and co-workers – host hundreds of creative events across the country. Not only do our hosts give everyday Americans the chance to express their respect for our service members, veterans, and their families, but they show our military heroes that we're here for them every step of the way. In light of their many sacrifices for our country, it is our privilege to rally around our service members when they return home.

CALLING ALL ATHLETES!

From competing in marathons, triathlons, cycling races, and many other athletic events throughout the year, our growing community of athletes raises essential funds and spreads awareness of our cause. Inspired by the sheer determination and grit of our military warriors, these athletes test the limits of their mind, body, and spirit by serving as incredible ambassadors of The Fund.

Become a community athlete today!

ARE YOU A BUSINESS OWNER?

We're tremendously grateful for the large and small businesses, many of which are veteran-owned, who've chosen to donate a portion of their profits to aid in our mission. If you'd like to do the same, we'd love to hear from you!

Another crucial way to help is by shopping with these patriotic businesses.

Please visit TheFund.org for more information.

SPREAD THE WORD!

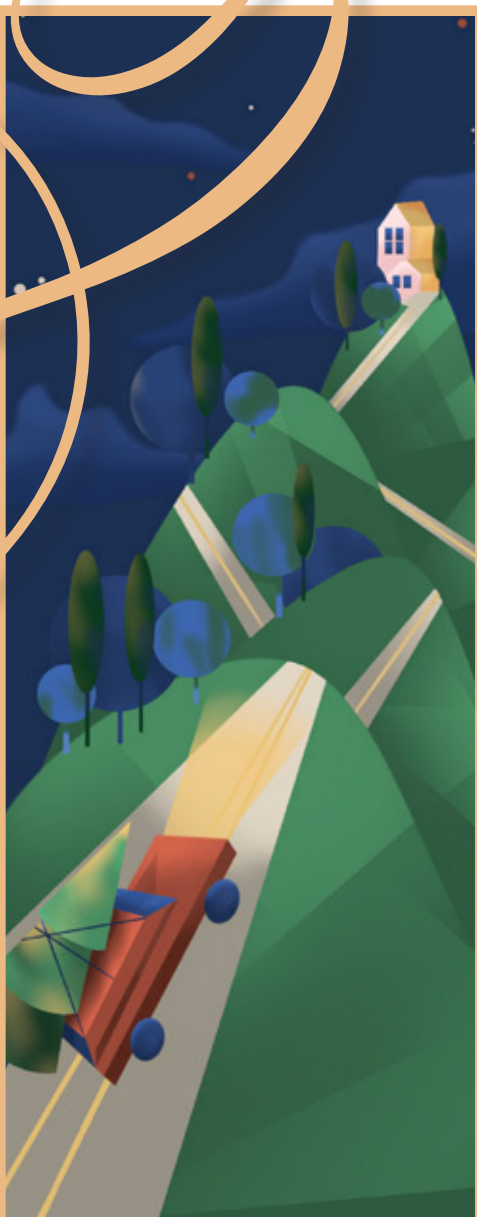
Do you have a website? A blog? Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn?

Spreading the word about The Fund is an incredible way to show that you stand with our military heroes – displaying a support logo, providing a link to our website TheFund.org, and encouraging friends and family to sign up for our biannual newsletter make a **huge** difference in the lives of our service members and their families!

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE FUND FAMILY:

With all our hearts, thank you for your support – day-by-day and hand-in-hand, we'll show our military families that we're here for them ... Today, Tomorrow, Together.

Because at The Fund, we are more than a charity. We are a family. Join ours today!



SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY SUPPORT

Assisting the Family Unit From
Injury Through Recovery

- Bedside Financial Support
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Specialized & Adaptive Equipment
- Visiting Nurse Program
- Caregiver Support & Retreats
- Skip's Kids Program
- LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Program
- Disaster Relief Program



TRANSITION

Integrating Service Members Back
Into Their Communities

- Veteran to Veteran Support
- Apprenticeship Program
- Education & Career Assistance
- Veteran Reunions & Unit Reunions
- Semper Fi & America's Fund Odyssey Retreat

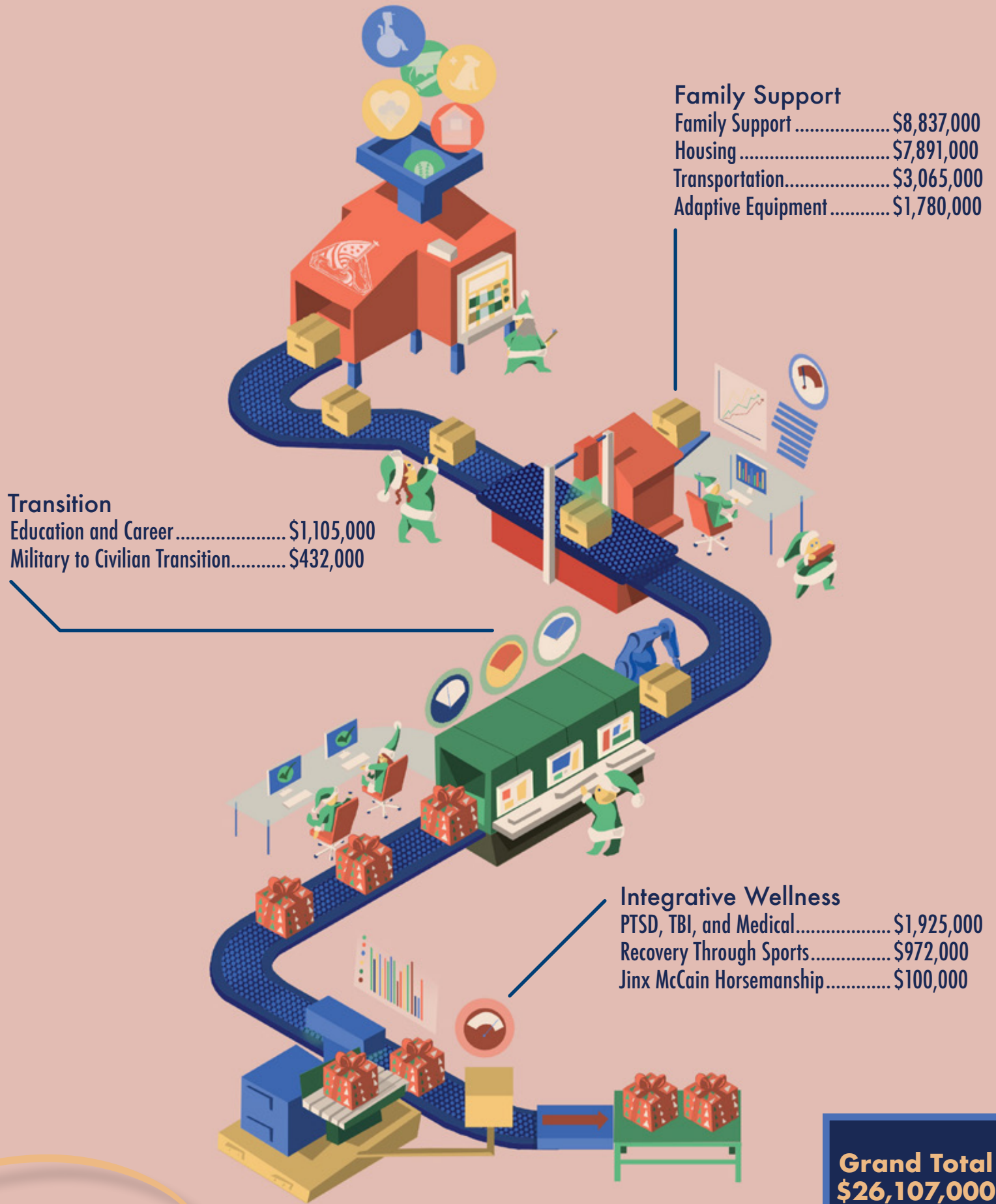


INTEGRATIVE WELLNESS

Providing Wellness Tools to
Improve Body, Mind, and Spirit

- PTSD & TBI Support
- NeuroFitness
- High-Tech Wellness Devices
- Post-Traumatic Growth Video Resources
- Counseling
- Peter Murphy Sports Program
- Arts & Music Program
- Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program
- Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program

Semper Fi & America's Fund Fiscal Year 2021 — Grants by Program



WISHING YOU
THE HAPPIEST OF
HOLIDAYS





SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S[®]
FUND

For Our Combat Wounded, Ill, and Injured



Dear Fund Family and Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter and updates! Since The Fund began 17 years ago, I've been continually humbled by the outpouring of support to honor our Nation's heroes. The time, talents, love, and resources gifted by our Fund family ensure that our service members and their families achieve the highest possible quality of life and independence – *today, tomorrow, together.*

In this "Season of Giving," my mind fills with images of more than 27,000 service members under our care – their deep humility, endless resilience, and tireless dedication to our country have shown me what it looks like to selflessly give to a cause much bigger than ourselves. And when our warriors come home, it is a privilege to walk alongside them, motivated by their example of what it means to be an American.

Inspired by the relentless perseverance of our service members, we at The Fund have made it our mission to embrace our military heroes and empower them to succeed after their service. **With help from our incredible Fund family, we vow to rise to any challenge, meeting the obstacles set before us and those yet to come.**

And all of this is made possible because you've chosen to open your hearts to this cause.

I'm thrilled that this year marks the 10th annual Double Down for Veterans Match Campaign with The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. We have successfully "doubled down" every year of this campaign, and through the generosity of the Parsons, this effort has raised more than \$145 million to date. The Match continues now through December 31st.

With all my heart, thank you again for your ongoing love and support. I hope this coming year is filled with hope and joy for all!

God Bless,

Karen Guenther





Donations may be made online:
TheFund.org

Please send check donations to:
Semper Fi & America's Fund
825 College Boulevard
Suite 102, PMB 609
Oceanside, CA 92057

For any additional information,
please email: info@TheFund.org

A+ from CharityWatch, one of only
three Veteran nonprofits to receive their
highest rating

4-Star Charity Navigator rating for
ten consecutive years; an achievement
attained by only 2% of charities

Awarded the GuideStar Platinum
Seal of Transparency



SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S[®]
FUND
For Our Combat Wounded, Ill, and Injured

**Service Members, Veterans
and Families Since Inception**
27,000

**Given in Assistance Across
All Armed Forces**
\$260,000,000

