ANNUAL REPORT

Helping One Sentinel At A Time

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2018
Our Mission

Our mission is to assist severely wounded, post-9/11 veterans as they complete their higher education and transition back into civilian life.
Dear Sentinels of Freedom Supporters,

I'm very proud to report that your generous support for Sentinels of Freedom in 2018 strengthened our programs for severely wounded veterans.

Thanks to you, this year we welcomed 83 new veterans into our program. We also congratulated 68 Sentinels who graduated and are now successfully pursuing their chosen careers.

Many times our veterans struggle during their transition home. They need healing from both emotional and physical wounds, and time to determine their next step in life's journey. When the light bulb comes on and they decide to continue their education, they start looking for helpful resources and find Sentinels of Freedom. It's their own self-motivation and drive that pushes them forward towards their goals. Sentinels of Freedom is right beside them providing guidance, mentorship and support, one Sentinel at a time.

We understand that as long as there are wounded veterans, the need for Sentinels of Freedom's services will continue. We work to accomplish this by putting 82% of every contribution into our programs.

Thank you again to all our partners and investors, large and small. You help make our Sentinels whole again as they successfully transition home, complete their higher education, enter their career paths, build their families, and continue to do so much good in their communities.

The return on your investment in each of these Sentinels is reflected in the stories they share with us. Throughout the year when we get a call or a thank you note, the news they share from their journey is inspiring:

“I just got married.”

“I just graduated.”

“I just got my first job as a civilian.”

“I just got engaged.”

“I just bought my first home.”

Invariably they end with: “Mike, I want to help another veteran like myself become a Sentinel.” These messages inspire us with the strength and drive to carry on with this vital mission. We hope they inspire you as well.

Very Respectfully,

MIKE CONKLIN
Chairman & CEO

MESSAGE FROM MIKE
Our board members consist of men and women who display an incredible commitment to our cause. The board also includes two graduated Sentinels, a testament to paying it forward one Sentinel at a time.
We are proud to report that 82% of every dollar raised was applied directly to our Sentinels. Our team operates in a manner respectful to all our donors, partners, and Sentinels we support.

(Data compiled from FY 2018 IRS form 990)
A Sentinel is more than a number when they enter our program. Aiding one Sentinel at a time leads to personalized support that nets real results.

What your investment achieves

97% of Sentinels state SOF increased their employment and earning potential

90% of Sentinels have employment lined up within 6 months of graduation.

18% more Sentinels accepted in 2018

521 Sentinels served since SOF began

The need for support is still increasing.

+46% increase in applicants for Sentinel's Bridge for Education program from 2017

74 eligible, qualified applicants who could have been accepted in 2018 with additional funding
SENTINEL
JOHNNY CHINCHILLA
Gunnery Sergeant,
US Marines
BS Accounting,
University of San Diego
Prime served our nation for more than twelve years in the Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) which took him across Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

During a combat deployment to Afghanistan, his unit suffered heavy fire from multiple rocket-propelled grenades (RPG’s). The insurgent attack left Prime with a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), migraine headaches, dizziness and vertigo, and loss of memory. The years of hard service also left him with debilitating back injuries. He was forced into medical retirement with no clear plans for his immediate future.

Once he decided to pursue his Executive MBA from the University of Southern California, Sentinels of Freedom provided him the support to achieve his ultimate goal of becoming an entrepreneur.

He credits the successful attainment of his degree in large part to the SOF team, especially his case managers for their positive communications. Sentinels of Freedom connected him with the proper mentorship and a meaningful network which allowed him to launch his business and nonprofit endeavors. With SOF’s resources at his disposal, it allowed him to focus on his goals without the stresses of seeking additional employment to stay afloat.

After graduation, he completed a 9-month business incubator and accelerator course called San Diego Sports Innovators. From this, he grew his two businesses: Deep End Fitness and Underwater Torpedo League. After expanding them in the Southern California area, Prime is poised to take them nationwide.

Ultimately, Sentinels of Freedom allowed Prime to focus strategically on his priorities and in his words was a “major stepping stone” to effectively transitioning back to civilian life.
“Sentinels have provided me with financial support that has enabled me to focus on school and nonprofit efforts. Instead of having to take jobs out of necessity that would keep me away from my dreams, I am able to dedicate myself as an entrepreneur and nonprofit leader.”

SENTINEL PRIME HALL
Executive MBA,
University of Southern California
Staff Sergeant,
US Marine Corps Special Operations
Thank you to all of our supporters from across the nation who attended our annual Sentinels Gala in April 2018. Vice Admiral Joseph P. Mulloy (Ret.) represented Northrop Grumman, our title sponsor, while addressing the crowd as our keynote speaker.

Sentinel Chris Judge shared an inspirational account of his journey transitioning from a Navy SEAL to a successful post military career with the US Department of Homeland Security. He and his fellow Sentinels shared their stories throughout the evening and were celebrated by the over 350 people in attendance.

You continue to make our mission possible with your unwavering support. Thank you.

Please mark your calendar for our next Annual Sentinels Gala to be held on April 4, 2020.
The Sentinels Gala is a special occasion to witness the impact of your generosity and meet the Sentinels you help throughout the year.
DONORS HELPED FUND SENTINEL’S NEEDS LARGE AND SMALL IN 2018

In Addition To Housing Support, There Are Many Other Ways You Helped Support Our Sentinels.

BOARD OF NURSING EXAM FEES
Brian Chavez, US Army
Arizona Mesa College
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (CPA) EXAM FEES
Jhonnathan Chinchilla
US Marine Corps
University of San Diego
Bachelor of Science in Accounting

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS (GRE) PREP MATERIAL
Adam Pawlowski
US Marine Corps
Columbia University
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

POWER OF ADVANCED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS (PASW) SOFTWARE
Jorge Arredondo, US Army
University of Colorado
Masters in Public Administration

MACBOOK PRO LAPTOP
Andrew Mack, US Army
Empry Riddle Aeronautical School
Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology

STUDY ABROAD ASSISTANCE
Kevin Wallace, US Air Force
George Mason University
Master of Fine Arts

MOVING TRUCK EXPENSES
Franchon Powel, US Army
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Bachelor of Arts in Human Services

BUSINESS CARDS
Simon Sandoval
US Marine Corps
University of San Diego
Bachelor of Arts in History
Our partnership with General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS) spans many years. In 2018 GDMS sponsored a $50,000 matching campaign to double the impact of every dollar donated to SOF. It was a rousing success raising over $108,000 in just under 3 months. In addition, GDMS hosted a Small Business Tech Conference in September and invited SOF CEO and Chairman Mike Conklin and graduated Sentinel John Wayne Walding to speak to their attendees and employees.

They continually create awareness of our mission to their employees, suppliers and friends. Their partnership has helped support so many of our wounded veterans. Thank you GDMS!

“General Dynamics Mission Systems is proud to support Sentinels of Freedom. Their programs are tailored specifically to provide unique support to severely wounded post-9/11 veterans who have given so much in service to our country. Each year we work with our employees, suppliers, partners and the community to raise awareness and needed funding for this very worthy cause.”

CHRIS BRADY
GDMS President
Gathering the community to help one Sentinel at a time.

Law Rocks Concert funds raised: $13,000

Law Rocks is an annual rock band competition held in Washington, DC to raise funds for charities. All the members of the bands competing are legal professionals. In 2018, the band IC/DC (In-House Counsel Rock DC) competed on behalf of Sentinels of Freedom. IC/DC featured in-house counsel from General Dynamics Mission Systems; ASRC Federal; Fannie Mae; Merchant Link and Amazon Web Services.
BEEB’S 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT
Beeb’s Sports Bar & Grill hosted their annual golf tournament to raise funds on behalf of Sentinels of Freedom. A fun day on the fairway translated into life-changing opportunities for our Sentinels.

Beeb’s 2018 Golf Tournament raised: $9,500

SENTINEL JAY WILKERSON & LENNAR HOMES
Brian Olin, the Vice President of Operations of Lennar Homes, came to SOF wanting to help a veteran. Lennar partnered with SOF and the community to deliver Sentinel Jay Wilkerson a modern home in Concord, CA. The renovated home came with new furnishings, lighting, appliances, electronics, bedding, and more.

To host your own fundraising event, visit sentinelsoffreedom.org/get-involved/host-an-event/
Help fund one Sentinel at a time by donating today.

SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG/DONATE