



Sometimes their sacrifices change them.

Help them heal and
start anew.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Our mission is to assist severely wounded,
post-9/11 veterans in their efforts to
become productive and self-sufficient
members of their communities as they
transition back into civilian life.

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Dear Friends,

This year's Annual Report marks the 10th Anniversary of Sentinels of Freedom (SOF) becoming a 501(c)(3). It's my great honor to have partnered with you, our donors, to support our nation's severely wounded veterans, our Sentinels, during this time. Their dreams of continuing their education and finding meaningful employment have been made possible through your generosity and belief in them as individuals.

Milestones such as this offer a great opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made over the years. We began with a few inaugural Sentinels in 2007 and are proud to report that 42 graduated from our program in 2017 with 70 more on track to graduate in 2018! This is all thanks to your continued support of our motivated and driven Sentinels.

We continue to maintain a Guidestar Platinum rating giving you confidence in your decision to partner with us. Out of every dollar you contributed in 2017, 82% went directly to our programs; directly to our Sentinels.

Our program stands apart because you, our supporters, understand that your contributions are investments in each Sentinel. The investments extend well beyond their educational and professional achievements to include long-term support for themselves, their families, and their communities. Our Sentinels love to share special moments with us, such as graduating with honors, having a baby, buying their first home, landing a great job. Sometimes they call to simply say thank you to our donors and staff for being there for them.

As we continue to accept more Sentinels into our program each year, we see more unique and motivated individuals making a difference. Michael Holmes' story (Page 3) is a wonderful illustration of how a Sentinel can combine higher education and a commitment to service to improve the world.

We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our Sentinels and greatly appreciate your involvement with this mission. Thank you for your support, your trust in our organization, and your belief in our Sentinels.

Sincerely,

Mike Conklin
Chairman & CEO



Michael Holmes

A SENTINEL'S JOURNEY



Even for a Sentinel, Michael Holmes' journey took him further abroad than most.

Michael's Sentinel Story began in 2006, when a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) exploded into the windshield of his Humvee, leaving him badly burned. Following a year's rehabilitation, Michael was first in line to return to combat.

He sustained a second set of injuries in 2009, which badly damaged his back and left him in constant pain. A long recovery began for Michael, centered around physical therapy to increase his mobility and relieve some of his pain. In characteristic Sentinel fashion, Michael chose to focus not on how his injuries negatively changed his life, but on how he could turn his experience around to help others. Impressed by the success of his physical therapy team, and with the help of Sentinels of Freedom, he set his sights on a degree in Physical Therapy.

Opportunity knocked loudly for Michael during his graduate school education and again, with the help of SOF, he answered the call. Ohio University offered a three-week immersion program in Botswana and in 2017, Michael expanded his world travels. He worked with an interdisciplinary team to help African children who had difficulty communicating due to autism, difficulty walking due to cerebral palsy, and difficulty hearing due to profound deafness.

Sentinels of Freedom was proud to make this trip possible for Michael by providing counseling, airfare and travel expenses. We were not at all surprised to learn that his experience further ignited Michael's passion and commitment to serving others.

He graduated cum laude with a Physical Education degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and recently received his Doctor of Physical Therapy from Ohio University.

“Sentinels of Freedom is an organization that has shaped, supported, and created opportunities in my life that I have only dreamed possible.”

MICHAEL HOLMES

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Ohio University

Read other Sentinel Stories at
SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

Board of Directors



“In SOF's mission, we are meeting our national responsibility as citizens to support those severely wounded veterans who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom.”

MIKE CONKLIN, Chairman
CEO
Sentinels of Freedom



“Our focus on ‘education first’ is spot-on with what most wounded veterans need most. That includes individual, hands-on focus on each veteran, including the commitment to support him or her for up to four years.”

MARTY KAPLAN, Board Secretary
Executive Vice President
Pacific Bell (retired)



“It is our responsibility as Americans to support those who serve and protect our freedoms. The Sentinels program is about hands-on support for severely injured vets. It prepares them for the future.”

KENT STRAZZA, Board Treasurer
Managing Director, Alternatives Group
Franklin Templeton Investments



“I can tell you from personal experience that transitioning from military to civilian life is not easy. The rules are different. The pace is different. Especially if there's a significant injury.”

MARY KING
Vice President, Human Resources
Pacific Gas and Electric



“What makes the SOF programs different from other, similar programs? SOF has higher expectations — it's about ‘earning rather than giving.’ That's why I see our Sentinels as “thrivers” not just “survivors.”

HT TRAN, Graduated Sentinel
Founder, CEO, and President
Anvil Builders



“I like that Sentinels requires its candidates to be accountable — to go back to school or work as soon as their injuries allow. I also like the requirement to meet with a financial planner to get their financial lives in order.”

PETE WALSH
Founder, President, and CEO
Owards LLC



“I may have lost my legs, but the Sentinels program has given me a big step forward into a new life. And importantly, the help we Sentinels get is not temporary, not just a one-time gift... Its benefits are there for the rest of our lives.”

JASON CHURCH, Graduated Sentinel
State Counsel
US Senator Ron Johnson
of Wisconsin



“I see Sentinels not as a charity but as an investment vehicle. The upside created by unlocking the potential of these veterans is truly 'off the charts'”

CHRIS MARZILI
President
General Dynamics Mission Systems



“These men and women stepped up to defend America and they've been injured in the line of duty. It's our obligation to look out for them.”

MAJOR GENERAL RONALD LOWE (RET.) ARMY
Executive Director of General Contracting
AT&T (retired)

Sentinel Statistics

6

MERIT-BASED
GRANTS
AWARDED
IN 2017

68

SENTINELS
ACCEPTED IN 2017
AND ARE ATTENDING
COLLEGE ACROSS
THE COUNTRY



43

OVER 43% OF
THE SENTINELS
VOLUNTEER OVER
11 HOURS EVERY
MONTH

91

91% OF THEM HAVE
A LONG TERM
FINANCIAL PLAN

100%

OF CURRENT SENTINELS
ARE SATISFIED WITH
THEIR SUPPORT

Financials

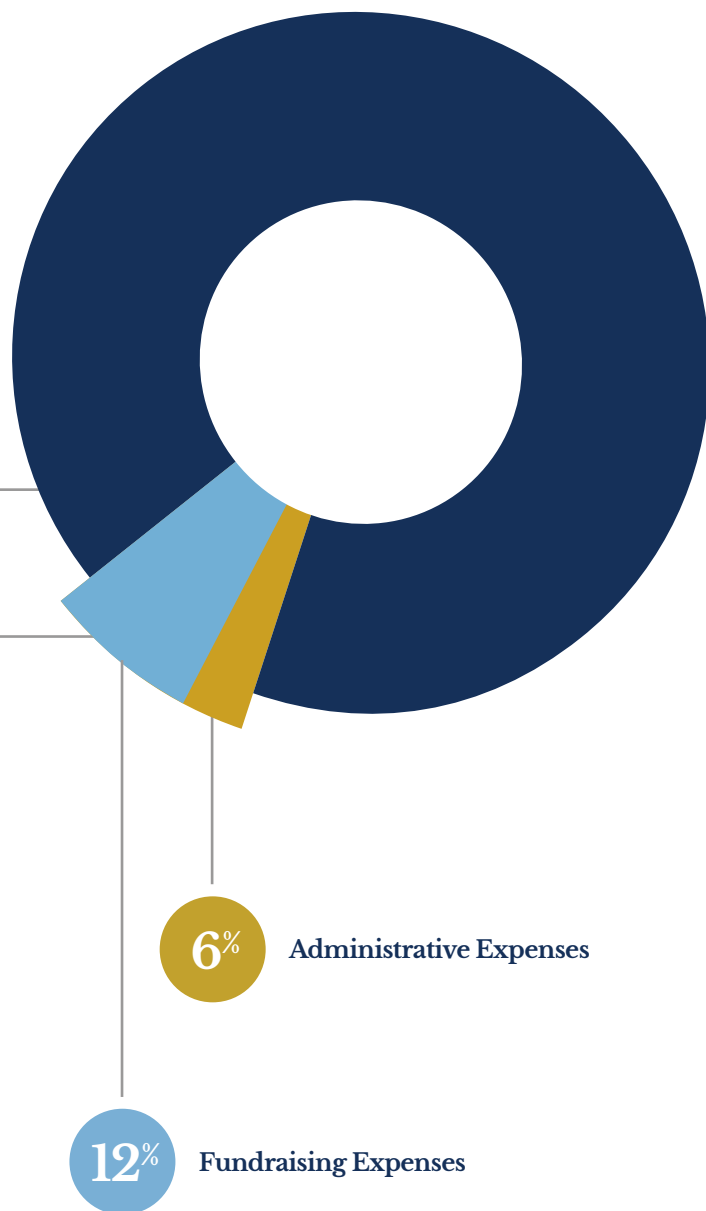
FISCAL YEAR 2017

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 2017 IRS form 990)

82% PROGRAM

18% OPERATIONS



You can view our full financial documents online:

SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

Sentinels of Freedom (SOF) is a 501(c)(3) nationwide nonprofit | Federal Tax ID: 20-8139201

21 COMMUNITY EVENTS
IN 2017, RAISING \$760,846

90% OF SENTINELS HAVE
EMPLOYMENT LINED UP
WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF
GRADUATION

Community

MIKE ERGO

Iron Man Fundraising

A great example of what one person can do, Mike Ergo chose SOF as the beneficiary of his 2017 Iron Man World Championship. His initial goal was a stretch at \$18,000. At the finish line, Mike's efforts raised \$23,103 for our Sentinels!

“I have seen the impact that Sentinels of Freedom has provided in my own community and across the country. SOF provides severely wounded veterans with that opportunity to succeed.”



Read about Mike's full story and how you can host your own community event at SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

SOF CO-HOSTED MILITARY CAREER DAY AT SONOMA RACEWAY WITH PG&E JUNE 2017



To further SOF's career and networking assistance we proudly co-hosted this event. Nearly 50 employers attracted a crowd of 125 registered attendees at this one-day event, including active and reserve duty personnel, along with veterans and military families. Employers present ranged from national companies to regional and local organizations. This event also presented workshops on job placement. Our own Director of Operations, Annie Fasanaro alongside Gia Iole, Principal Strategist at PG&E, hosted one of them.

Read more about the event at SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

97% STATE THAT SOF'S ASSISTANCE INCREASES THEIR EMPLOYMENT & EARNING POTENTIAL

100% OF ALUMNI WOULD RECOMMEND SOF TO OTHER WOUNDED VETERANS

2017

Sentinels Gala



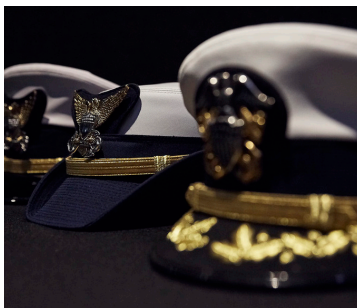
Thank you to all our supporters who attended our Sentinels Gala in March 2017. Our annual event attracted over 350 supporters across the nation. Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, delivered the keynote. In it he spoke of his respect for SOF's mission and the importance of supporting veterans transitioning from military to civilian life.

Throughout the year our donors walk alongside our Sentinels during their journey from meritorious military career to a meaningful civilian career. The Gala offers the opportunity to meet these inspiring individuals personally.

We would not be able to host this important event or continue our mission without your support. Please mark your calendar for next year's Gala on April 13, 2019.

To learn more about our organization and our Sentinels, visit:

SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG



Help a Sentinel heal and
start their new journey by donating today at

sentinelsoffreedom.org/donate



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