2016 WAS EPIC.

Exceptional generosity has helped us help more operators.

Without a doubt, Operation Healing Forces (OHF) experienced our most phenomenal growth year ever. Numerous donations from civilian patriots across the U.S. have fueled our outstanding growth and expansion during 2016.

We are proud to report that we have received an astounding 872% increase in cash donations from 2015 to 2016 – 872%! Generous donors have increased more than eight-fold from 30 to 263 in that same time frame. One donor couple who are deeply devoted to our cause donated an astounding $500,000 last year. The number of homes donated for our retreats more than doubled. And through 2017 a total of 396 SOF and spouses from more than 75 cities and 11 states will have attended OHF retreats.

We are on a roll, as the saying goes, and there’s no sign of any let-up. The year 2017 promises to continue our growth enabling us to serve even more wounded SOF and spouses. Despite all that we do, we have only begun to address the full and profound need among SOF active-duty and recent-veteran personnel for our life-changing and life-affirming retreats.

A QUICK RECAP: By any standard, 2016 was a banner year!
Thanks to amazing benefactors like you, we can report:

- Cash donations increased from nearly $175,000 in 2015 to more than $1,693,000 in 2016
- Donated homes for retreats increased from five in 2015 to 12 in 2016
- Donors increased from 30 in 2015 to 263 in 2016
- Retreats are growing from five in 2015 to 25 in 2017

396

Wounded Special Operations Forces and spouses to be served by year end 2017.

263

Individuals & corporations who have donated so far to Operation Healing Forces.

“...the brotherhood and sisterhood that quickly developed provided a sense of security, so much so that my wife and I were able to completely drop our guard...”

- Green Beret Sergeant First Class, retreat participant recovering from multiple shrapnel wounds and traumatic brain injury

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Both our staff and our board of directors have been actively involved in preparing a three-year strategic plan for the years 2017 through 2019. This plan will guide our efforts in the most time- and cost-efficient ways in the coming years and help ensure that our goals are consistently met. This process is an organizational management tool used to set priorities, focus energies and resources, strengthen operations, align all involved toward a common goal, establish intended outcomes and results, and assess and adjust our response to a changing environment.

Toward those ends, we conduct quarterly board meetings between directors and staff to evaluate progress. We construct detailed plans to make sure that our wounded, ill and injured SOF and spouses receive the best possible rehabilitative experiences while we remain careful stewards of every donated dollar.

The current strategic plan for 2017 – 2019 seeks to increase retreats to 35 in 2018 and extend to 50 in 2019. Attaining this goal will have allowed us to serve 450 wounded SOF couples with more than 900 participants in three years.

SOF is on mission—right now—for U.S.

Special Operations Forces (SOF) deployed to 146 countries in 2016. In Africa alone, deployments increased 1,600%. The operational pace is unrelenting. This small elite force recently surpassed the rest of the Department of Defense in casualty rates. Suicides, divorces, brain injuries, posttraumatic stress, and cancer rates are still major issues for our nation’s most elite forces. Additionally, the SOF cancer rate has surpassed our civilian population.

In 2016, we’ve had some incredibly patriotic Americans step forward to offer a ray of hope to those bearing the brunt of battle. Our OHF donors are shining a light to help bring struggling couples back together, allowing them to realize their sacrifices were not in vain, and showing them that Americans really do care. OHF peer counseling and sharing of information have created bonds between spouses and among fellow operators. They have revitalized couples to provide hope where hope was lost and to seek treatment instead of facing continued pain.

You, our donors, help make these miraculous stories of recovery, redemption, and salvation possible. Without your support, the Constitution is just piece of paper and an office is just a title. Our society is only sustained by good men and women like you who stand by those who are willing to sacrifice all.

Thank you for daring to make a stand. May God bless you, those on missions as I pen this, and our families. I send you gratitude beyond words for your support.
Our focus remains the three Rs.

After long and repeated deployment to war-torn regions of the world, Special Operations Forces and their mates suffer untold hardships readjusting to stateside life. The Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Resiliency available through Operation Healing Forces retreats do much to benefit not only the operator but the spouse and the entire family as well. It’s not a stretch to realize that happier couples can more easily be happier parents.

Starting conversations among participants helps.

There is a stigma in the SOF community associated with counseling and therapy, which is a major obstacle for those needing help. That’s why OHF chooses activities that are known to elicit conversation, break barriers, and create comfort between participants. So the therapeutic activities our participants experience during retreats are actually productive. These may include parasailing, horseback riding, ATVs, snowmobiling, skiing, SCUBA diving, ropes courses and other intensive pastimes. Each is carefully chosen to encourage camaraderie between fellow operators and their life partners. Doing things together that may be familiar to the operator but unfamiliar to the spouse can break the emotional ice and begin conversation. Couples can discover a willingness to explore issues that they face individually, as a couple, and as a group. In essence, these therapeutic activities are central to helping create bonds that cure, which is our mission.
Donations GROW!

One hundred percent of donations to Operation Healing Forces goes directly to program expenses that benefit our wounded operators and their spouses during their retreats. Brothers Gary and Tony Markel personally fund all other expenses – General, Administrative and Fundraising costs – to continue making all other donations from benefactors like you solely for the benefit of wounded SOF and spouses.

And how successful are we as an organization? As a result of their participation in an OHF retreat, 96% of attendees reported that OHF continues to have a positive impact on their relationships, mental health, confidence, and continued recovery. That is what we call success.

Dedicate Your Gift To Someone Special.

Many benefactors of Operation Healing Forces choose to make their donation in honor of someone important in their lives. Recently, the following donors have chosen to remember another person through gifts to Operation Healing Forces.

**Donor Name**
Cherry Grove Foundation
Jerry and Charlotte Dawson
Lt. Colonel (R) and Mrs. Stephen Huebner

Offit Capital
M. Soloman Organization CT
Len Reed
David and Donna Schaar
David and Donna Schaar
Susan Schaar

**Donor Name**
Ron and Mary Jane Campbell
Hourigan Construction
Judith Cull
Rivero, Gordimer and Company, P.A.

**In Honor**
Steven Francis Snyder, U.S.M.C.
Claude Dawson, Jr- 82nd Airborne
LCDR Allan Huebner, USN
and LCDR Christopher Huebner
James W. Crystal
James W. Crystal
USMA Class of ’54
Susan and Bill Schaar
Bill Schaar birthday
Bill Schaar birthday

**In Memory**
Ben Davidson
Marshall Weakley’s Father
Lindsey Cull
George K. Winton

**Donations Made In Honor of Gary and/or Tony Markel**
Gerard Capone
Stewart Kasen
Owen Maiden
Russell Rabb, Jr
Clarence and Mary Costa
Bruce and Janet Kay
Pat and Barry Parkhill
Jay Weinberg & Marilyn Simon

Thank you for your support of Operation Healing Forces

Comments? Questions?

Please tell us what you think about our quarterly newsletter. Direct questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, e-mail us at: info@operationhealingforces.org or by mail to:

Operation Healing Forces
380 Park Place Blvd, Suite 175, Clearwater, FL 33759

2016 Financial Report

Thanks to our generous donors, a total of $1,767,955.26 was raised in support of Operation Healing Forces during 2016. Below are our expenses during the year:

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Creating bonds that cure.

www.operationhealingforces.org