

2010
Annual
Report



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM



*Assisting severely wounded members of the
Armed Forces to maximize their potential.*

Chairman's Letter



Dear Supporters

of Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation,

For several years, we at Sentinels of Freedom have been finding better ways to increase and support opportunities for the severely wounded members of our Military to move forward in achieving their personal life goals and objectives. Our ambition is to be a continued source of practical knowledge, experience, and guidance in this field of support to those we serve.

We find ourselves, like all nonprofit organizations, navigating a period of Political and economic uncertainty unlike any in recent history. But the times are particularly challenging for nonprofits of our size, reliant as we are on a comparatively small base of funders committed to our issues; funders who are themselves struggling with the consequences of an unsteady economy and escalating need.

We are fortunate to be building on a solid foundation of accomplishment spanning nearly 8 years and a dedicated core of supporters who have come to rely on us for performance and integrity. That base of support has been gradually widening, even in difficult times, and for that we are especially grateful.

In the five years since Sentinels of Freedom went to a national footing and adopted our current agenda, we have continued on a steady path of measured growth in serving our wounded and injured members of the Armed Forces. The growth has come from an increasingly diverse group of companies, foundations and individuals. It is our firm belief that this is not a Government's responsibility alone. It is also the responsibility of Citizens, Communities and Corporations.

Historically, beginning from the birth of our Nation, young men and women have stepped forward to serve in our Nation's military. Today, every summer thousands of them join the military and continue this legacy.

I have often said in my presentations across the Nation, "Without them we would have no quality of life." It is, and should always be, a National imperative to do all we can to support them.

Today thousands of our severely wounded members of the Military are seeking a path through adverse circumstances with an amazing spirit of determination and inventiveness. This is what animates our work. We hope this report will inspire you to continue your support of our mission.

Your support continues to inspire us and has given us the moral and financial strength to carry this mission "ON TO THE OBJECTIVE."

For whatever part of support you have provided or may provide in the future in this mission, large or small, we are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Conklin".

Mike Conklin

Chairman & CEO

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation

GOAL

The goal of Sentinels of Freedom is to alleviate the barriers that severely wounded/permanently disabled Veterans face in order that they can focus on their life goals and live their life to their fullest potential. Sentinels of Freedom provides the Veteran with the resources and support they require to lead an active, engaged and successful life as they recover from the physical and emotional impact of their injuries.

MISSION

The mission of Sentinels of Freedom is to provide life-changing opportunities for men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have suffered severe, permanent injuries post 9/11 - primarily in Iraq or Afghanistan. These warriors greatly benefit from the care and loving support of grateful communities willing to assist them as they set out to achieve their goals and dreams.

Unlike any other time in our U.S. history, many more severely wounded service members are returning home to face the extreme challenges associated with putting their lives back together. Once these severely wounded Veterans are released from hospitals and rehabilitation centers, they face major issues such as relocation, housing, continuation of their education, potential employment/career planning, and, in most cases, continued medical care and rehabilitation. All Veterans face difficulties assimilating back into civilian life, but for the severely wounded Veteran these hurdles can be much higher.

PROGRAM

Our program has remained the same since Sentinels of Freedom started in 2003 to assist Jake Brown, the first Sentinel in our program. It is through our comprehensive tenets that we are able to provide the Veteran with the services that will help lead to their success as they graduate from our program.

- 1. Housing Assistance:** Veterans in our program come to us unemployed and seriously disabled, many with special needs and very little income-earning potential. Without our assistance, they may face lives of poverty and dependence, and at potential risk of homelessness.
- 2. Job Training and Retention:** Once in our program, and depending on the Veteran's capability, at some point we work with the Veteran to secure employment/training opportunities. This is done on a part-time basis with the goal in mind of eventual full-time career employment.
- 3. Education:** Veterans in our program are required to continue their formal education in line with their capabilities and goals. In most cases, the Veteran begins their post-secondary education shortly after arriving in our program.
- 4. Mentorship/Guidance:** The volunteer teams fulfill many roles such as working with the Veteran to ensure that all paperwork and benefits owed to them has been, and continues to be, taken care of. They also act as their advocate; ensure they have the resources needed during school, and assist with securing employment when the Veteran is ready. The team assists the Veteran in regaining their health and connects them with mentors, colleagues and friends who be there for them long after they have left our program.

*Goal,
Mission
and
Program*

Veterans in Our Program

As of May 15th, 2011, 66 Veterans are currently in our program or have graduated. By the end of 2011 we expect to have placed a total of 25 new Veterans (we call them Sentinels) in our program. We are able to accomplish this goal through a team effort of your support, Community Mentor Teams, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Military.

Community Teams

The number of community teams grows each year, which allows us to provide greater flexibility and options to the Veterans coming into our program.

California: San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Stockton, Sacramento, Monterey, Pleasanton, Livermore

Texas: Dallas, Houston, Frisco

Arizona: Scottsdale

Nevada: Las Vegas

Washington State: McMinnville

Washington DC

Georgia: Atlanta

Alabama: Birmingham

Florida: Tampa, Cocoa Beach, Orlando

North Carolina: Fort Bragg, Pinehurst

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh

Illinois: Chicago

Virginia: Virginia Beach

Colorado: Denver, Colorado Springs

Missouri: St. Louis

New York: New York City, Buffalo

Tennessee: Nashville

While we've expanded our program significantly, the number of severely wounded/permanently disabled Veterans continues to grow. As an example, here are the numbers of Veterans residing just in California who are receiving service-connected compensation from all wars:

Rated at 60% disability – 14,787

Rated at 70% disability – 8,620

Rated at 80% disability – 5,244

Rated at 90% disability – 2,164

Rated at 100% disability – 20,885

Unemployable – 20,150

In a speech given by Lieutenant General Robert Kelly, just days after losing his son in combat in Afghanistan, he said, "The responsibility and burdens of war should not be shouldered alone by the tiny fraction who serve and their families at home. As a democracy – We the People – and that by definition is every one of us, sent them away from home and hearth to fight our enemies. ***We are all responsible.***"

It is our hope that these words will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect every day on the freedoms we hold dear, give thanks to those who sacrificed to secure those freedoms, and commit to do more to support those who serve. We ask that you assist us in spreading the word about Sentinels of Freedom and our mission and support us in raising the necessary funds to continue our vital work. To continue to bring 25 new Veterans into our program each year, we need to raise \$1,500,000.00 each year.

Our
Program
and
Community
Teams

Travis Fugate – Awarded Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship November 2010.

Travis is attending Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) before transferring to CSUMB (California State University at Monterey Bay). He is completing a degree in Computer Science and Information Systems. Fess, his guide dog, and his backpack are the two essentials that are with him on campus. In between his Math and Computer Programming classes, Travis also finds time to represent a group of Veterans going to MPC to speak to the President of the College and the local Congressman Sam Farr.

Travis is always one of the first to help other Vets, including helping to move in furniture for the next Sentinel to arrive in Monterey later this month, Navy Seal Chris Judge.



In order to ensure that his education at MPC and CSUMB is appropriate for jobs in Silicon Valley, Travis has started visiting some of the high-tech campuses and meeting with other engineers at those companies. The connections he is making now will be invaluable in the future. One visit was to Google where Travis met with another blind programmer as well as other Vets and employees. Travis will be beta testing some of the products for usability and working toward an internship at Google or another high-tech company while he is still in school. This will make it much easier to obtain a full-time position upon graduation.

Travis has been maintaining a straight A, 4.0 GPA for all of his classes. Amazing! This is not easy and requires a diligent study schedule and hard work. So when he needs a study break, he often takes his guide dog Fess to the beach for some exercise while he contemplates his studies and the wonderful future that lies ahead of him.



*Travis
Fugate*

John Wayne Walding



John Wayne Walding – Awarded Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship on April 01, 2011

John Wayne will begin the next phase of his life when he and his family move to Frisco, Texas in early summer. John Wayne completed tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. In April 2008, John and nine other Special Forces soldiers from a 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) assault team were attacked by the Hezbe Islami al Gulbadin while searching for insurgents in Afghanistan. John and several of his team members were injured. However that didn't stop John. While recuperating, John worked as an assistant instructor at the sniper detachment in Fort Bragg. During this time, many of John's classmates didn't know about his injury. John lost the lower half of his right leg due to the sniper fire.



It is through John's personal determination and standards, that he was able to push himself through his rehabilitation and onto Sniper School.

John is married and has three children. In May, they made a trip to visit their new town Frisco, visiting elementary schools for the children, getting acquainted with the town, meeting the mentor team and touring the college where John will start in the fall. John's team is working hard, getting ready for his arrival and looking forward to assisting him with his transition to civilian life. One chapter of John's life will end and a new chapter will begin. We are very proud in John becoming a Sentinel. John's will, determination, family, and positive attitude are the driving forces that will move him towards his goals.

Mark Robbins – Awarded Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship in 2008

I have been a Sentinel since 2008. I was accepted into the program when I was retiring from the Navy. Mike Conklin, Marty Kaplan, Tim Raynor, and Pete Walsh have been by my side since that time without fail. The Sentinels program has helped me greatly in transitioning back into civilian life by providing a network of support and financial help.

Since retiring, my wife Jessica and I moved back home and bought our first house together. I have been employed for over two years now with the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. For the last year, I have also been member of their SWAT unit. With the help of the Sentinels, I hope to continue to push myself and pursue a college education.

The Sentinels program has gone above and beyond what I ever expected and I cannot thank the program enough for the support they have given Jessica and I. In my opinion, Sentinels of Freedom (SOF) is the non-profit standard of excellence for assisting wounded veterans.



Mark Robbins



Jay Wilkerson – Awarded Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship
in March 2009

SSG Jay Wilkerson was welcomed to the City of Pleasanton at a Sentinel ‘Welcome Home’ ceremony on March 4, 2009. Jay’s story of recovery and his transition to civilian life has been remarkable.

Jay was injured on March 28, 2006, in Iraq when two rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), struck his Humvee. He suffered severe head and hand injuries and was immediately evacuated to Germany, then on to Bethesda and Walter Reed Hospital. After 39 days in a coma and over two years at the Poly Trauma Center in Palo Alto, California, Jay took his first steps into the civilian world when he entered the Sentinel program in Pleasanton, California.

Jay is currently working part-time for the City of Pleasanton, while he continues to attend Las Positas College. He works in the Support Services Group within the City Operations Department. His current job is “Maintenance Assistant.” Jay loves his job as it has provided excellent training and flexibility as he continues his education and medical recovery.

Jay believes that the Sentinel program “allowed me to heal outside of the hospital setting.” Jay realizes that he must heal physically as well as mentally. When Jay was in the hospital for over two years, his transition to civilian life and wellness appeared to be a very daunting task. His future was “very cloudy.” The Sentinels and the Mentoring Team allowed Jay to see clearly, develop a path to wellness, receive financial and personal guidance and develop a relationship with a community that clearly embraced him.

Jay would like to continue his education at Las Positas and eventually purchase a home in the community. Jay would also like to help other injured Veterans through their injuries and on the road to recovery.



*Jay
Wilkerson*



Robert Smith – Awarded Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship in March 2010



For the years of 2010 and 2011 my family and I have moved back to our home city of Cocoa, Florida with the assistance of Sentinels of Freedom Space Coast. I have completed two semesters of college at our community college. In April of 2011 my wife, daughter, and I welcomed a new family member, a beautiful baby girl named Khloe.

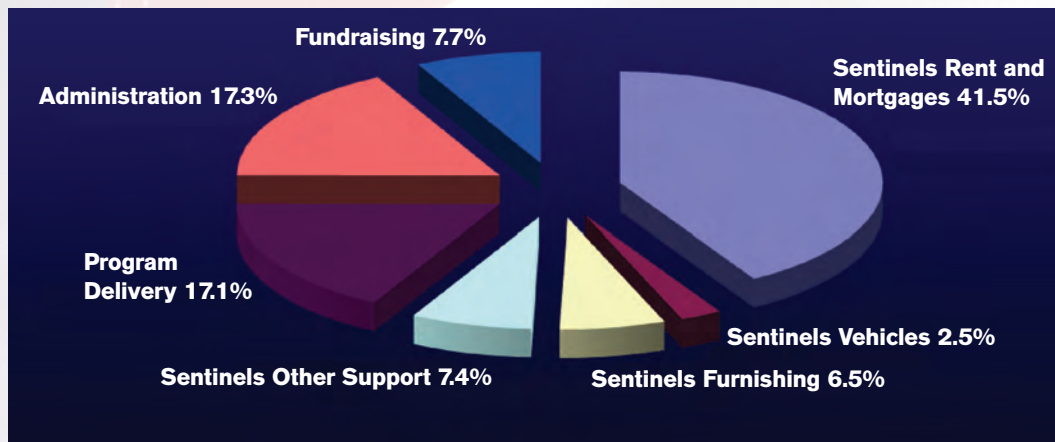
Currently for the summer of 2011, I have not elected to take any summer classes for school. I plan to return in the fall. My wife and I are in the process of purchasing a house. In addition to getting back into a routine with the new baby, my goals for the summer are to help my wife prepare for the upcoming fall term of school if she so wishes to do so. I have changed my career choice a few times along with my major of study. At this time, I am considering trying to pursue a job in law enforcement which has been a life-long goal. So for this summer I am looking to start training in running as well as conditioning. I am inquiring into Florida Fish and Wild Life Conservation aka a game warden.

To date the SOFSC has helped my family and I transition back into civilian life. In addition to supplementation of rent, they have assisted us with appliances, furniture and other various needs. They have also helped to open strong connections in the community and mentoring. Working with the SOFSC and being a Sentinel has been a great experience as well as an honor, having the opportunity to change my mind with school and the ability to redirect and investigate different careers has been amazing for me. Just having the ability to concentrate on my family and school has made a huge difference in the ways that post military life has affected me.

*Robert
Smith*



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION 2010 ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY



*Fiscal
Year
2010
Expenses*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

INCOME

Contributions	\$1,122,468
Contributed Services	\$6,000
Fundraising and Event Income	\$100,950
Investment Return	\$11,269
Total Income	\$1,240,687

EXPENSES

Program	
Sentinels Rents and Mortgages	\$386,721
Sentinels Vehicles	\$23,485
Sentinels Furnishings	\$60,323
Sentinels Other Support	\$69,150
Program Delivery	\$159,823
Administration	\$160,978
Fundraising	\$71,676
Total Expenses	\$932,156
NET INCOME	\$308,531

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Investments	\$2,513,820
Liquid Assets	\$773,022
Other Assets	\$50,902
Total Assets	\$3,337,744

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$3,046
Payroll Payable	\$3,201
Projected Funding for Scholarship Recipients ^[1]	\$2,044,808
Total Liabilities	\$2,051,055

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,013,243
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$273,446
Total Net Assets	\$1,286,689

**TOTAL LIABILITIES
AND NET ASSETS \$3,337,744**

[1] Off-books calculation of expected future funding required to support currently enrolled Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship recipients. (See Note)

Note: A projection of funds required to meet obligations to currently enrolled Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship recipients was added in order to provide a realistic view of current liabilities and obligations as viewed by the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors (see Footnote 1). As such, this document does not conform strictly to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. For a strict accounting view of the Sentinels of Freedom 2010 financial performance and end of year financial position, download the organization's IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) and Audited Financial Statements from the web site www.sentinelsoffreedom.org

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\$50,000 - \$99,999

Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation

\$20,000 - \$49,000

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