On to The Objective
Dear Supporters,

2014 was a milestone year for us as we grew our program through streamlining technical systems and adding two full-time staff members. These steps forward have enabled us to expand the breadth and reach of our program.

This growth lays the foundation for us to increase the number of scholarships awarded in the coming year to 60. While this may not sound like a big number, just assisting one severely wounded veteran as they transition into college and onto career placement is no easy task. Each of these veterans has a unique set of circumstances, with their own goals and objectives, that requires a high-touch personal support from our organization and staff.

I must admit I am very happy with the direction our program is headed and our metrics is a testament to the efficacy and quality of our program. However, we cannot rest on our laurels; we still have thousands of veterans we would like to assist.

We raise each year’s funding in the year prior governing how many scholarships we can provide. It has been our doctrine never to bestow a scholarship without first securing the funds for that Sentinel. I am personally inflexible in this decision. I will never allow any Sentinel to fail because we had to adjust our financial commitments due to fundraising issues. We have made a commitment to them and they depend on us. They are too valuable for us to ever let them down.

A simple thank you will never be enough for your support. Working together on our mission with you has helped us meet our national responsibility to those who have served and sacrificed in our armed forces.

I respectfully ask you to stay the course with us as we move “On to the Objective” in growing our program to support more scholarships to deserving wounded veterans.

Chairman’s Letter

Mike Conklin
Chairman & CEO
Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation
2014 Financials

$0.75 of every dollar spent by Sentinels of Freedom goes directly to serving our Sentinels

Grants Received in 2014

Amgen Foundation
AMS Group
ARMA Global
Armstrong Charitable Fund of Ayco
Asurion
AT&T Foundation
Barrington Area Community Foundation
California Contractors Alliance
Gellert Foundation
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation
Disabled American Veterans
General Dynamics
General Dynamics C4 Systems
General Dynamics Information Technology
Horeksi Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Hurlbut-Johnson Fund
Journey Home Project
Lincoln Financial Group
McKenna Long & Aldridge Foundation, Inc.
Newman’s Own Foundation
North American Rescue Products Foundation
Northrup Grumman Foundation
Northrup Grumman ENGPAC
PG&E Community Foundation
Raytheon Company
Robert Half International
Shell
State Farm Life Insurance Company
St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
Tesor
TJX Foundation, Inc
Wells Fargo Corporate Giving
Westgate Resorts Foundation
Woodruff Sawyer & Company
Wounded Warrior Project
Sentinels of Freedom was a Silver Sponsor at the 2014 Valor Games in Alameda, CA. The Valor Games is a Paralympic sporting event that brings together wounded and injured veteran athletes in a 3-day competition.

Chairman and CEO Mike Conklin was featured on CCTV’s, Veteran’s Voices.

At the close of 2014, SOF relocated to Bishop Ranch 11 and expanded our staff adding a marketing coordinator and a program assistant.

Sentinel Ritchie Mushfiq is our first foreign civilian scholarship recipient. He and his family are refugees from Afghanistan where he served as a translator working for the US military.

In coordination with the Town of Danville, the City of San Ramon, and local veterans organizations, Sentinels of Freedom organized and hosted the 1st Annual Swearing-In Ceremony. The ceremony honors graduating high school seniors who will be entering the armed forces.

Starting in 2014, Sentinels of Freedom handed over the V3 Bike Ride event to the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club. Proceeds from the event go to Sentinels of Freedom; this year $19,000 was raised for our organization. Sentinels Shawn Coe, Manny Del Rio, and Ryan Sykes (speaking above) were guest speakers for the event.
Mike Holmes and his team placed 5th in National American College of Sports Medicine Student Bowl.

Sean Karpf, who interns with the Jacksonville Jaguars was honored with the opportunity to lead the team onto the field before a game.

Kyle Carpenter was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor. He was injured while serving in Afghanistan in 2010 when he threw himself over a grenade to shield his friend and fellow Marine during a rooftop attack.

Shawn Coe was featured on the cover of Pleasanton Weekly as the Grand Marshal of Pleasanton’s Veterans Day Parade.

Jesse and Kelly Cottle’s photo went viral, even prompting television interviews. They welcomed their first daughter into this world in December.

Kevin Flike appeared in “Changing Sports, Changing Lives” video that documents the transformational impact of adaptive sports for those with physical disabilities. He also was featured on the local New York news when he spoke at a Veteran’s Day dinner in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Brian Vargas was featured in the Contra Costa times as he helped set up the new UC Berkeley Student Veterans Center at Stiles Hall.
Gabe Garcia
Sergeant, USA

I fulfilled my dream of serving my country, but a life changing injury left me wondering what I would do next. My expectations were temperate again, more so than before because I was now disabled.

When SOF entered my life, they saw the potential inside of me. Their belief in my abilities was the spark I needed to charge forward in life. My goals and expectations went from moderate to limitless. They invested in my future, and I was going to pay them back in the best way possible, by becoming a successful contributor to our society.

I have flourished in many ways under the guidance of SOF. Here I am, almost exactly four years removed from my medical discharge from the Army, graduating from ASU with my B.S. in Finance. I owe so much of my success to the Sentinels of Freedom; they gave me a hand up in a time of need.

Erin and Sam Nichols
Sergeant, USMC

The assistance of SOF has meant a freedom that I haven’t had for many years. When my husband was injured I lost the comfort and support of having someone to depend on. The financial services has allowed me to save money and focus on my education, so one day I can provide for my own financial security.

Access to a lawyer through SOF enabled me to ensure the financial health of my husband and other beneficiaries in the event of my early demise. Most comforting has been the establishment of a family trust and an executor; I now know that my husband will be taken care of if something should happen to me. SOF seeks to invest in the future of those who have sacrificed for their country. Thanks to the assistance provided to my husband and myself, we will one day be able to show a return on their investment.
Kevin Honaker  
Lance Corporal, USMC

My plan was always to go back to school after my time in the military and that did not change a bit after my injury.

Once I returned back home in September of 2012, I wanted to rent out an apartment and get settled for college in the Spring. SOF made that such an easy transition. The fact that they pay the rent every month means a lot financially and will let me focus on my academic goals.

SOF does the most for me by caring about my academics and goals in life. They have set me up with a plan for success. I am very grateful that they want to assist me through the next four years. I believe that this gives me and other wounded veterans the motivation to be as successful as we can and to not give up.

79% of Sentinel Graduates have employment lined up upon graduation  
16% of Sentinel Graduates are employed within six months of graduation

Sentinels of Freedom connected Wayne Waldon to General Dynamics where he worked full-time while earning his MBA at Georgetown. He was the guest speaker at General Dynamics C4 System’s Soldier’s Network Supplier Event. Using his combined education and work experience, Wayne recently started his own company, the Reveille Group, LLC.
2014 Sentinel Graduates

Anthony Maschek
Brandon Rumbaugh
Brandon Stone
Chad Watson
David Smith
Donny Daughenbach
Edgar Salazar
Erin Nichols
Ferris Butler
Jack Schumacher
Jake Murphy
Jeremiah Butler
Jeremy Wilczek
Jesse Cottle
John Baldari
John Walding
Josiah White
Kevin Blanchard
Matt Slaydon
Matthew Bowman
Nicholas Thom
Noah Bailey
Robert Smith
Ryan Sykes
William Colwell

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