



Thank you for believing in us and standing with us as we continue to help our military and their families! Your kind and generous hearts are the driving force behind the CFSRF and we couldn't do it without you!!

We are close to finishing up our 14th year in what many refer to as a ministry. This is our mission; my passion and I am proud to report that we have provided over 3.8 million in direct assistance to our surviving and disabled/wounded veterans and their dependents. We have served more than 700 military children whose parent or parents were experiencing a financial hardship. We have expanded our emergency financial assistance to include surviving and disabled veteran's families *who have served and have been waiting for benefits to take effect*. Many have been referred to us from other Veteran's organizations, the VA, Survivor Outreach Services, casualty officers, US Army, National Guard, Tragedy Assistance Program, the Red Cross, and other non-profits.

We continue to provide emotional, educational and financial assistance to our families affected by a loss or severe disability and those who fall through the cracks or lie within what we refer to as the "gray area", such as rising stateside deaths of our military personnel. Some of our families fall outside the government agencies and other charitable organization's guidelines that is where our Adopt a Family Program is helpful. Thanks to LA T's and one other sponsor we could help 11 families with emergency assistance for food, housing, utilities, insurance, car repairs and assisted one of our Marines with a startup business under our Adopt a Family Program in 2015 alone. Our Adopt a Family program in 2016 continued to help our families not only during the Holidays, but with continual financial support and sadly with the loss of several of our servicemen who lost their lives due to suicide, vehicular accidents and accidental drug overdoses. Our families have a great need for this program, however it continues to be greatly underfunded.

We have stepped in and provided burial expenses for several military families for instance a young serviceman who lost his 3 year old son to cancer while on active duty, stepped in to provide burial expenses to a Gold Star mother whose 13 year old son discovered she had passed in her sleep and after burying her own husband left three young children behind (Deidra had had cancer and didn't want to worry or burden her children who had lost their father and no one other than she and her physicians knew). We have been providing emotional, educational and financial assistance to families throughout the States and have added morale boosting and mental well-being programs the last several years.

We now have a Texas Chapter that hosts our Salute to Military Service every November in celebration of Veteran's Day in Kemah City, Texas and for two consecutive years in July in Denver, Colorado. Our Salute to Military Service in conjunction with partners, such as Landry's Corporation, the City of Kemah, the US Army, USO, Elitch Gardens, The Kemah Boardwalk, The Elk's Clubs and other local sponsors and volunteers have partnered with the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund, Inc. to bring our wounded veteran's from Fort Sam Houston, TX and Fort Carson, CO and their children to a fun-filled weekend in each city where they are provided with an all-expense paid two to three night stay that includes, meals, drinks, amusement park rides, local musical entertainment, fireworks, a huge military display of vehicles, the Golden Knights and All Veterans Parachute teams, luncheon cruise on the gulf of Mexico, free access to the local Aquariums all with military guest speakers, the Mayor of

both cities as well as an Army swearing in ceremony. We realize the hardships placed on our wounded are not only financial, but the daily emotions, stresses and continual care can place an added burden on their spouses, parents, children and any individual in a caregiver position. Our Salute to Military Service is our way of thanking our brave heroes and their families by providing them with a weekend of fun, relaxation and quality time away from the hospital atmosphere. However, we have been unable to raise funds for the Denver event so the 2016 event was our final one in that City.

The summer of 2016 marked our fourth year that we sponsored the [Battle of Fallujah Reunion](#) for the 1st Battalion 3rd Division Marines who fought what the U.S. military calls some of the heaviest urban combat U.S. Marines have been involved in since the Battle of Hue City in Vietnam in 1968. The fighting in Fallujah cost US forces 51 killed and 425 seriously wounded, while Iraqi forces lost 8 killed and 43 wounded; insurgent losses were estimated between 1,200 and 1,350.

These proud, dedicated and self-less brothers fought the worse battle in Iraq that resulted in the loss of many of our brave young. Many of those that did make it through have sustained lifelong traumatic stress and physical injuries suffered from roll-overs, improvised explosive devices, RPGs, mortars, rounds of bullets, etc. They have fought side by side losing their brothers as they fought for Freedom of the Iraqi people and continuing to fight for all our Freedoms here at home. Due to the substantial decrease in donations we were unable to help them with this very important morale boosting event that reunites many who have given so much for us here at home. We hope to be able to assist them in the future and help other reunites, however can only do so with the generosity of others.

As you may or may not know there are [22 veteran suicides each day](#) many who return home with the after effects of war find it extremely difficult as they have waited weeks and months for VA appointments and many we serve have become destitute, some losing their own family and homes. It has unfortunately become all too common for our veterans to wait 12 to 18 months for the VA physicians, counselors and advocates to make a rightful decision on their cases.

Other than helping our many disabled veterans nationwide, I personally adopted the 1/3 Marines and their families. I do my best to provide these warriors with emotional, educational and financial assistance as well as help them manage a "crisis" network, which was developed in December 2015 after losing 5 young Marines within 12 months from the 1/3 to suicide. We do our best to be there not only during normal business hours, but evenings, weekends and Holidays. I am truly saddened by the losses our military have been experiencing, however am happy that our network has been able to help four recent potential suicides. These are our families and this is our passion, every day we can assist a military family is our way of thanking them for all the many sacrifices they have provided so our own families can enjoy the benefits of Freedom.

Unfortunately, many members of the public are not aware of the urgent need for emotional, educational and financial assistance that our Gold Star and Disabled Veteran's need. It saddens me much more so today than in 2003 to receive a phone call from not only other military agencies, but the families we serve to learn that their loved one who served so proud and honorably is unable to receive timely benefits and are suffering not only emotionally, but are unable to provide food or shelter for their loved ones let alone themselves. We may be small however our hearts are emboldened with the spirit of passion and giving. Again, thank you for supporting our dream and passion. Our partnerships and donors are the force behind our giving ability and with your continual support we will continue with our good works.

Giving a "gift" back to those who serve