Happy 12th Anniversary! Our team’s passion and commitment, our donors’ support and fidelity, have helped 16,000 service members and their families with $127 million in support since 2004 — an impact that simply cannot be overstated.

The support can sometimes be small and other times be substantial. But we are there — a lifeline for them. We couldn’t do it without your support. Everyday, we see the lives that we have changed — and often saved. We are busier today than we have ever been caring for those who still return home critically wounded, and also those who are adjusting whether from visible or invisible injuries like PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

We hope you’ll continue to empower us with your contributions so we can provide that help and fulfill our long-term commitment to serve those who preserve our freedom.

Karen Guenther
President, Executive Director and Founder

As this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, Memorial Day is upon us. It’s a day of remembrance and, also a day of tribute during which we salute and honor those who have answered our Nation’s call. As I walked through the Charlotte VA Hospital last week for my appointment, I was taken back by the significant numbers of Korean War, Viet Nam era, and Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans who were filling the hallways waiting for their care. There are millions more just like them all across our great Nation. God bless them all for their faithfulness.

The Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen currently serving worldwide, are our fathers and mothers, our husbands and wives, and our sons and daughters. They courageously place their lives on the line every day, many of them thousands of miles away from their loved ones. We wish them all courage in adversity, and a safe return back to America.

Our mission at the SFF and America’s Fund continues. There is no shortage of needs today. Our world remains a dangerous neighborhood to operate in. Combat missions have not ended for America’s sons and daughters, nor have illnesses or tragedies lessened — that’s when the Semper Fi Fund steps in, that’s our mission. We will be Semper Fidelis — always faithful! As you honor those who have served and sacrificed this Memorial Day, I hope you consider donating to the Semper Fi Fund. Supporting the Fund’s efforts is one of the best ways I can think of for every American to play an active role in the care of our veterans.

I am as proud of the work that the Fund is doing, as I am of the service members themselves. I remain…

Semper Fidelis,

General James F. Amos
35th Commandant of the Marine Corps
Dear Supporters,

Thank you to all our donors, supporters, community athletes, event hosts and all who have collectively joined efforts to make the 2015 giving season our biggest effort in our 12 year history! Together, we raised a total of $8,871,000 between November 1 and December 31, 2015. Raising almost **$9 million in 61 days** is a remarkable milestone for us: We’ve never before seen so much generosity and support. Support that will directly impact those we serve — our wounded, critically ill and injured service members and their families.

THANK YOU to The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, which matched this generosity dollar-for-dollar — bringing the total raised in the last two months of 2015 to nearly $18 million. This funding will touch and change many lives, allowing us to carry on our sacred duty to those who are injured in their service to our great Nation. This funding will have a powerful impact in improving the lives of so many.

Thank you for supporting our mission. Bless you for your compassion and commitment to our service members and their families. We couldn’t do it without each and every one of you.

*With Deepest Appreciation,*
The Semper Fi Fund Team

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**Chairman Emeritus:**
General Alfred M. Gray  
29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

**Honorary Board Members:**
General James T. Conway  
34th Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Lieutenant General “Chip” Gregson Jr.,  
USMC, Ret  
RADM Richard R. Jeffries,  
USN, Ret  
Dr. Robert Koffman, Captain,  
USN, Ret  
David McIntyre  
General Peter Pace,  
USMC, Ret  
Lynne Pace  
Suzi Schwartz  
Barbara Woodbury
16,000 wounded, critically ill and injured service members assisted

The needs of service members range from transportation to doctor appointments to adaptive vehicles and everything in between. We change and save lives everyday!

The Fund has averaged 6% overhead since its inception in 2004.

$127 million has been given in assistance to service members and their families.

The Semper Fi Fund has been awarded the highest ratings from watchdog groups for six consecutive years: A+ from CharityWatch, and we are one of only three veteran nonprofits to receive this rating; 4 stars from Charity Navigator.

Every day the Fund processes 80+ Grants

Why the name Semper Fi Fund? “Semper Fidelis” (Semper Fi, for short) means “always faithful” and we pledge to always be faithful to those we serve — from their bedside, through recovery and beyond.
MEMORIAL DAY

Soldier’s memorial at Normandy, World War II. Courtesy National Archives, photo no. 26-G-3422

WORLD WAR I
WORLD WAR II
KOREAN WAR
VIETNAM WAR
GULF WAR
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR
AFGHANISTAN
IRAQ WAR

A day of remembrance of those who sacrificed all on the battlefield. Your legacy will live on forever in the hearts of a grateful Nation.
Words To Live By

Our service members generously share their experiences and have remarkable insights on life. They have been through things most of us will never know, and they have learned lessons that all of us should take to heart...

“I haven’t lost my competitive spirit. Always find ways to encourage your confidence and team spirit.”
—Josh

“All injured vets are people who want to strive forward and push ourselves, we’re just like everybody else. A lot of us do it through sports, but nothing’s really changed. I just put on legs instead of putting on running shoes. It didn’t change the core of who we are.”
—Stefan

“Semper Fi Fund has enriched our lives and opened up a whole new world for my son to explore. They have truly changed our lives with their assistance and I can’t even begin to express my gratitude to them for it.”
—Christopher, father of Sean (Shown)

“Without the help of Semper Fi Fund I would not have the opportunity to be blessed with such an amazing service dog. Sierra has helped me overcome a lot of issues associated with my PTSD. Thank you.”
—Mario
Marine Staff Sergeant Alan Young and his wife Jennie are living every parent's nightmare: Their son Cylan was diagnosed with stage 4 rhabdomyosarcoma, an extremely rare cancer. Not yet three years old, Cylan was given a 25 percent chance of survival. He had to undergo a year of chemotherapy plus an eight-week course of radiation.

The Semper Fi Fund assisted the Youngs with gas cards and gift cards.

"Gas cards and gift cards may not sound like much," Jennie explained, "but not having to worry about things like being able to have enough groceries, running out of..."
Born and raised in the Philippines, Hubert Gonzales didn’t have many hobbies. His parents were farmers, so he helped work the land. Along the way, he heard lots of stories about World War II.

“These stories made me interested in history,” he says, “and about becoming a warrior and serving my country.”

In 2011, his fourth deployment (with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines) took him to Sangin, Afghanistan — where his life would take an unexpected turn.

“Around 0800 on March 31, 2011, we were conducting a dismounted patrol,” Hubert recalls. “Three hours into the patrol, about 300 meters away from our patrol base, we were in an alley. I was the 8th man in a single file.”

“When I took a step, I heard an explosion and saw the Marine in front of me startled,” Hubert continues “I didn’t realize that I stepped on a pressure plate.”

The Semper Fi Fund reached out to Hubert while he was dealing with his medical issues in San Diego. We provided him with assistance to help pay for travel to and from his medical appointments (“I was driving 200 plus miles a week,” he recalls). We also gave him a grant to purchase a bicycle to help him with his recovery.

After many months of pain and an inability to do much with his left leg, Hubert made the difficult decision in January 2015 to have the leg amputated below the knee. Again, the Semper Fi Fund was there, providing a grant so Hubert could get a better wheelchair.

“My recovery has been a long road, from my limb salvage to my amputation,” Hubert says. “The decision to amputate was a well thought-out decision, but it didn’t prepare me for the length or the struggles of my recovery.”

“Life is short,” he says. “I need to live in the here and now, because you don’t know when your time is up.”

Read Hubert’s full story at: https://goo.gl/0m5k54

Testimonials from Our Heroes

“Semper Fi Fund was the single-most helpful, all-encompassing organization while my husband was enduring combat PTSD. They provided financial assistance without delay when we needed it during his treatment, but they went above and beyond anything we could have imagined. They helped us form friendships with others going through what we were going through. They helped to restore hope in our lives, always treated us with respect not pity, and encouraged us to live a full life again. When we needed them (and that was often for quite awhile!), they were immediately responsive, every single time.

Leadership is strong in SFF, and their staff exudes selflessness and passion for their mission at a level unmatched by any other organization out there. Veterans, here is help; Caregivers, here is understanding; Donors, here is service. Please consider supporting this organization so that other families may be touched as ours has been.”

—Wife of a service member

“Marines by nature are a very strong-willed, proud and confident bunch. I embody all of those traits, and before the injury, I could do anything easily. After the blast, though, I have to ask for help daily, and that’s the toughest thing for me to do. Semper Fi Fund doesn’t make me ask. Most of the time, they just call to see what I’m up to, and the next thing I know that burden is off of my shoulders.”

—Marine Master Sergeant

“All the monetary aid, although important, cannot match the uplifting effect that your people have on Soldiers and Marines like us.”

—Army Chief Warrant Officer

“Words can’t express my family’s gratitude for Semper Fi Fund and every single donor. You have been there for my family when we had nowhere else to go. The staff has been so wonderful to deal with and never once made us feel bad for needing your help. Thank you so much for being there.”

—Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Why Give to the Semper Fi Fund?

These three partners have a few reasons to share with you

Tim Day of the Timothy T. Day Foundation joined the Marine Corps after college and this experience had a profound influence on his core values, personal traits and character.

Grants from the Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions program unite injured service members with service dogs and they also ensure the dogs are properly trained and continually cared for despite the financial difficulties that often arise while an injured service member is transitioning back to civilian life.

Dean Chamberlain, CEO of Mischler Financial Group (pictured far left in Mohave Desert 1986) is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Walter Mischler, the company’s founder, is West Point class of 1969.

“Charitable giving is just part of what we do. We’re about paying it back and paying it forward. What’s important in any charity is the percentage of the dollar given to the cause, and that the cause is needed. For us, it’s a combination of how highly rated the Semper Fi Fund is, how they started and what they do.”

Heather Prill Pritchard, Sr. Manager of National Partnerships for The Home Depot Foundation (pictured front left).

“Our company was founded on nine core values, and one of those values is giving back. We want to be good neighbors in each of our communities. We started looking for trusted partners, well known and well respected, and wanted to be sure we’re working with the best of the best. Semper Fi Fund was brought to our attention, and we’ve gone from a $500,000 investment in 2011 up to $2 million in 2015.”
Better Together

When community athletes and supporters join forces with the Semper Fi Fund, great things happen on behalf of those who serve us all.

Cal Ramm
7 Marathons on 7 Continents in 7 Days

120th BOSTON MARATHON
One World Trek – 4.15 Strong

From Sea to Shining Sea

3 Ways You Can Help:

Participate and Volunteer: Find out about volunteering in your community and becoming a community athlete by visiting semperfifund.org/get-involved/participate-volunteer

Host an Event: Have an idea about holding an event in your community? Go for it! Visit: semperfifund.org/get-involved/fundraise-support/ to contact our Community Outreach team for more information

Spread the Word: Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/semperfifund) and Twitter (twitter.com/semperfifund) and Instagram (instagram.com/semperfifund) and spread the word about our work to your own social media audiences
Thank You for Serving Those Who Preserve our Freedom

$127,000,000 Assistance to service members and their families

We’ve Helped Over 16,000 Wounded Heroes and their Families

Administered Over 113,000 Grants to Service Members

Operates with an average of 6% overhead since inception

Processes over 80 grants per day

A+ Rating from CharityWatch & 4 Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Donations may be made online: SemperFiFund.org

Please send check donations to:
Semper Fi Fund
825 College Boulevard
Suite 102, PMB 609
Oceanside, CA 92057

Donate today and give a legacy for tomorrow. Please consider joining our Semper Fi Fund Legacy Society and continue to make a difference in the lives of our service members forever.

For any additional information, please email: info@semperfifund.org

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For donations, the Fund’s federal tax ID number is 26-0086305.