I. MISSION

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III. PROGRAMS

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Community Outreach & Education
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First Responders Outreach

Emergency COVID-19 Combat Service

Gary Sinise Foundation Central Florida Chapter

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We serve our nation
by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families and those in need.

We do this by creating and supporting unique programs designed to entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen and build communities.
My Friend,

Ten years ago, I had a decision to make. I would either ramp up this mission of service to veterans, first responders and their families, or I would pull back. For over 25 years, I had been supporting many initiatives and nonprofits and knew the need was great. I thought about the sacrifices of so many who keep our country free and safe. I thought about our veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress, our most severely wounded service members who feel lost and incomplete, and those still serving who continue to face dangerous situations around the world. I thought about the grieving families and children of our fallen, and all the moments they would feel the loss and heartbreak alone. I thought of the first responders who run towards danger for their fellow citizens, and the toll it takes on them. Not all of us are called to serve and sacrifice in such selfless and extraordinary ways, but as Americans we can take up the charge to help those who do. That’s why I founded the Gary Sinise Foundation.

My book, Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service, is a story of discovering a calling to a greater purpose and the extraordinary men and women met along the way. You are such an important part of this journey. There are so many friends just like you who are grateful for our freedom and security. Together, we are expressing our sincere gratitude to our defenders by addressing their critical challenges in meaningful ways. Veterans, wounded heroes, first responders, frontline emergency medical teams – the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our country safe and our communities strong.

It is upon us to give back to our heroes to ensure they have the tools and resources to deal with their physical and invisible wounds. It’s up to us to give them comfort. To give them support.

To give them hope.

I believe while we can never do enough for our nation’s defenders and the families who sacrifice alongside them, we can always do a little more.

Your Grateful American pal,
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since joining the Gary Sinise Foundation in July 2021, I am consistently asked two questions on a regular basis: (1) Is the organization making a difference in the lives of our veterans, first responders and their families, and (2) is Gary Sinise really as genuine as he seems?

The answer to both questions is an emphatic yes.

With your support, we continue to show our gratitude and thank our heroes for putting our nation first, even above their own safety. Many are volunteers, embodying true service and sacrifice. The feedback and testimonials from our defenders, the emails, calls, letters are daily confirmations that together, we are providing necessary support to those who have so faithfully served. The impact we are making is truly changing lives.

And Gary, what I’ve come to see and respect is that he’s far more in this mission than what you see on TV, the news, and social media. He is tireless in his passion and commitment, and he is dedicated to making sure our nation's defenders know their sacrifices are appreciated and not forgotten.

Stepping into this role as CEO is personal to me. Having served our country as a military officer in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years, and now serving my brothers and sisters in arms, it is truly an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously. I have served alongside these brave men and women and watched them sacrifice so much so that we can have our way of life, our freedoms, and our safe communities. I want to assure you that we are faithful stewards of your gratitude to those we serve.

We are so grateful for your generosity and continued support.

Mike
R.I.S.E. is helping our nation’s wounded heroes reclaim their dignity and independence.

As citizens, we must honor the sacrifices of our wounded service members by ensuring their care. The Gary Sinise Foundation established R.I.S.E., a program dedicated to Restoring Independence & Supporting Empowerment for these heroes and their families as they adjust to life after injury.

It’s hard for most of us to imagine being unable to perform the everyday chores of life. But living in total reliance on caregivers for even the most mundane, sometimes very personal tasks is a reality for many of our severely wounded veterans.

Atop the emotional and physical stresses are the financial burdens. Most military families lack the means to update their homes and equipment to fit their individual needs. Through R.I.S.E., we are providing adapted vehicles, mobility devices, and home modifications to injured, wounded, ill and/or aging heroes from all military conflicts.

All across the country, R.I.S.E. is building local support for these heroes. By raising awareness in their communities and enlisting the grassroots efforts of local government and businesses, we’re helping to establish a sustainable network of long-term support for each hero and their family.
Home. It’s where loved ones gather. It’s where we take refuge from the world. It’s the center around which our lives revolve. For our nation’s severely wounded heroes, however, life at home can be a constant battle. Without features designed for their needs, small tasks can present insurmountable challenges. R.I.S.E. builds mortgage-free, specially adapted smart homes all across the country. Our team provides hands-on management and real estate expertise from land purchase to construction. With a place to truly call home, these heroes and their families can move forward with their lives.
HOME MODIFICATIONS

Existing homes can be retrofitted to accommodate the needs of a wounded hero. Adding ramps or refurbishing a bathroom can improve life for the entire family.

12 Home Modifications Completed

ADAPTED VEHICLES

Ensuring our heroes have the resources they need beyond the home is an important aspect of R.I.S.E. Modified trucks and vans alleviate reliance on caregivers, helping our defenders become more self-sufficient.

8 Adapted Vehicles Provided

MOBILITY DEVICES

Beyond basic transportation, R.I.S.E. provides everything from wheelchairs to track chairs, narrow chairs, ally chairs, and hand cycles. Reclaiming personal mobility is key to restoring a healthy mindset of autonomy and freedom.

7 Mobility Devices Provided
“Everything was tailored around me in a way that gave me the opportunity to not only independently achieve the things that I could never really do again but also, forging a greater bond with my family.”

— U.S. ARMY MAJ. (RET.) JEREMY HAYNES
SPECIALY ADAPTED SMART HOME RECIPIENT
Life can change in an instant, especially for our nation’s defenders and their families.

The Gary Sinise Foundation’s Relief & Resiliency Outreach provides complete support to those recovering from trauma, injury or loss in times of urgent need. We host exciting events and group activities to help heal the emotional wounds of those enduring similar struggles. By building a community of strong friendships and forming joyful, lasting memories, our families can find new hopes for the future together. Lending a helping hand during difficult times can become the pivotal moment that changes a life’s direction.

“Support and empathy mean so much more when they come from someone who deeply understands what you’re going through.”

— MIKKI FRISON
SPOUSE OF FALLEN HERO & SNOWBALL EXPRESS ATTENDEE
Our *H.O.P.E.* initiative provides complete support to those who have experienced trauma, illness, injury, or loss during their times of urgent need, sometimes with assistance as simple as help paying bills or buying groceries.

**411**

Veterans, First Responders, and Their Families Provided with Financial Assistance During Tough Times

Through strategic partnerships, we’re addressing the *Mental Wellness* needs of our nation’s service members, first responders, and veterans through innovative and empowering treatment methods.

9

Retreats with 73 Participants

29

Service Animals assisted through Vets for Valor

36

Veterans/First Responders Supported through *Warriors Heart* for Substance Abuse
Honor. Gratitude. Rock & Roll. That’s the mission of every Lt. Dan Band concert. There’s something for everyone as the twelve-member group covers hits from every genre. Whether boosting morale on military bases at home and abroad, raising awareness at benefit concerts across the country or headlining our own Invincible Spirit Festivals, the band entertains and inspires everywhere they go.

Live & Virtual LTDB Concerts

“I like to believe that one show kept me from doing the unthinkable. Thank you for all you do.”

— ANONYMOUS MARINE (WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY)
We serve the children and surviving spouses of fallen military heroes through our Snowball Express Program. No matter where these families are in the grieving process, we hope to inspire them to believe anything is possible. We’re creating a community to learn, grow, and make lasting memories with new friends in an emotionally safe, inclusive environment.

The holidays can be especially hard for grieving families. This December, due to COVID-19, we hosted a virtual Snowball Express for over 1,800 attendees, our honored children and surviving spouses of our fallen heroes. By honoring their loved ones with a blend of fun entertainment and inspiring programs, these families can lean on their peers for support.
Nothing offers an opportunity to bond and give thanks quite like breaking bread together. We’re showing gratitude to our defenders by serving them hearty, classic American meals nationwide and at outposts across Europe and Asia.

155,538
Meals Served to our Nation’s Military & First Responders Across the Country

44,024+
Meals Served to our Nation’s Healthcare Workers Across the Country
Each year, the Gary Sinise Foundation hosts up to 5 trips to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Through our Soaring Valor initiative, we send WWII veterans, their guardians, and high school students each year to recount their unforgettable stories and experiences, providing veterans the opportunity to pass them along to younger generations.

With the cancellation of these trips due to COVID-19, the Foundation sent more than 200 care packages to WWII veterans across the country. Each veteran received a Gary Sinise Foundation hat, eight WWII-themed postcards, U.S.A. themed socks, and much more.
Our Ambassadors Council represents the Gary Sinise Foundation and its mission through speaking engagements, public appearances and leadership opportunities. Each member is individually selected by our founder for their exceptional character and patriotism.

As spokespersons, they proudly share our accomplishments and aspirations as well as their own stories of service. Located throughout the nation, the Ambassador Council inspires, educates, and reminds communities to remember the sacrifices made by all American defenders.
Gary Sinise Foundation Ambassadors

U.S. ARMY (RET.) SERGEANT
Bryan Anderson
Illinois

MILITARY SPOUSE
Carol Brooks
Texas

U.S. ARMY (RET.) STAFF SGT.
Sammy L. Davis
Indiana

U.S. ARMY (RET.) AND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
Drew Dix
New Mexico

U.SMC (RET.) CORPORAL
Juan Dominguez
California

COMEDIAN
Tom Dreesen
California

CEO, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL
Mary Jean Eisenhower
Missouri

U.S. ARMY (RET.) COLONEL
Gregory D. Gadson
Virginia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) MAJOR
Jeremy Haynes
Virginia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) MAJOR GENERAL
Clayton M. Hutmacher
Florida

CELEBRITY CHEF
Robert Irvine
California

U.SMC (RET.) CORPORAL
Garrett Jones
Virginia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) MASTER SGT.
Cedric King
South Carolina

U.S. ARMY (RET.) LIEUTENANT GENERAL
Lt. Gen Rick Lynch
Texas

MILITARY SPOUSE
Sarah Lynch
Texas

ACTOR
Joe Mantegna
California

U.S. ARMY (RET.) MASTER SGT.
John Masson
North Carolina

U.S. ARMY (RET.) STAFF SGT.
SSG Travis Mills
Maine

U.S. ARMY (RET.) LIEUTENANT
Jason C. Redman
Virginia

U.S. NAVY S.E.A.L. (RET.) CHIEF
Michael Schlitz
Georgia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) CAPTAIN
Leslie Nicole Smith
Virginia

POET (RET.)
Danny Prince
Brooklyn

SINGER-SONGWRITER
John Ondrasik
California

AUTHOR & MILITARY WIFE
Ginger Gilbert Ravella
Tennessee

U.S. NAVY S.E.A.L. (RET.) LIEUTENANT
Michael Schlitz
Georgia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) SFC
Michael Schlitz
Georgia

U.S. ARMY (RET.) CAPTAIN
Leslie Nicole Smith
Virginia

ACTOR
DB Sweeney
Illinois

USMC (RET.) COLONEL
Jay R. Vargas
California

U.S. NAVY S.E.A.L. (RET.) CHIEF
William Wagasy
California

USMC (RET.) MAJOR
Gary Weaver
Kentucky

FIRE CAPTAIN (RET.)
John Woodall
North Carolina
“Until the Gary Sinise Foundation, Almira Township fire personnel would have to travel 25 minutes to have their gear washed properly. With this award, not only do we have the opportunity to wash our gear immediately after a fire, I have offered the use of the washer to our neighboring fire departments. Thank you again for your generosity.”

— Chief Brad Drury
Grants Awarded to First Responder Departments Across the Nation

8,859

Pieces of Equipment Provided to Emergency Relief & Training
With the continued spread of COVID-19 across the nation, the Gary Sinise Foundation launched its Emergency COVID-19 Combat Service to address the needs of our nation’s healthcare professionals battling the virus.

We provided personal protective equipment, meals of gratitude, and grants to first responders. Financial assistance was also provided to healthcare professionals, service members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

“Northwest Fire District cannot express enough gratitude to the Gary Sinise Foundation for providing life-saving equipment to our organization during these unprecedented times.”

— MIKE DUNCAN
NORTHWEST FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANT CHEF-OPERATIONAL SERVICES
Launched in August 2020, the Gary Sinise Foundation Central Florida Chapter was the first of many chapters that will extend the philanthropy of our Founder and Chairman, Gary Sinise, and the footprint of the Gary Sinise Foundation.

The Central Florida Chapter, like those to come in other regions across the country, complements the efforts of the Gary Sinise Foundation, catalyzing a greater impact in the lives of our nation’s heroes and their families.

“With our very first chapter in Orlando, we are excited to extend our impact at a regional level. By enlisting the support of communities across the country, particularly where future regional chapters may be located, we’ll be able to expand our outreach even further.”

— Gary Sinise
IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Sources of Support

Expenses

87¢

Of every dollar received funded Direct Program Services
# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
### (IN THOUSANDS)

## REVENUE

- Individuals $28,927
- Foundations $12,618
- Corporations $4,919
- In-kind Donations $3,163
- Performances and Merchandise Sales $163
- Investment Income $1,713
- Other Income $2

**Total Revenue** $51,505

## EXPENSES

### PROGRAM SERVICES

- R.I.S.E $16,774
- Relief and Resiliency $12,254
- Community Outreach and Education $3,478
- First Responders $1,725
- Military Support Concerts $883

**Total for Program Services** $35,114

- Management and General $3,108
- Fundraising $2,013

**Total Expenses** $40,234

**Change in Net Assets** $11,271
V. BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Sinise (Chairman)
General Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Army (Ret.)
John D. Heubusch
James Shubert
Moira Sinise
Pastor (Pat) Velasco
Barbara Titus
Gregory D. Gadson, U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.)
Patricia D. Horoho, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. (Ret.)
Robert Pence, U.S. Ambassador (Ret.)

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Steven B. Hantler
Clayton M. Hutmacher, U.S. Army Major General (Ret.)
Rick Lynch, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. (Ret.)
Sarah Lynch
David J. McIntyre, Jr.
Suzy Pence
Sean Perseo
Anthony J. Saliba
Pam Swan
Mike Swift
Linda Velasco
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
GARY SINISE FOUNDATION

★ ★ ★

TO MAKE A DONATION
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Gary Sinise Foundation
PO Box 368
Woodland Hills, CA · 91365

EMAIL

donor@garysinisefoundation.org

WEBSITE

GarySiniseFoundation.org