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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 Friends,

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, I began devoting much of my time supporting the men and women who were deploying in response to those attacks—the brave service members who, each day, protect and defend our great country. Having veterans in my own family, and having been involved with supporting our military veterans going back to the '70s, '80s and '90s, it was after that terrible day I decided to become much more active for our defenders however and wherever I could.

A few years after 9/11, I visited local NY firehouses, befriended many firefighters, and have supported the FDNY through numerous efforts, including raising funds to build The Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance in honor of all 416 first responders lost on that terrible morning. Through the Disabled American Veterans organization, I found it my mission to do all I could to support our wounded heroes and their families. And by getting involved with many other veterans initiatives, I began to support the children of the fallen, Gold and Blue Star Families, and wherever I could serve and honor a need within the military, veteran and first responder communities.

Over the years, I have met many dedicated people who are also actively working to do the same, and I have tried to do what I can to support their efforts as well as spearhead many projects on my own in support of those who are currently serving, have served, our first responders, and the families who serve alongside them. I've traveled to visit our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, and have also performed with my band (Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band) in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Singapore, Diego Garcia, Guantanamo Bay, Alaska and throughout the U.S. in an effort to help boost the morale of our troops and military families. Through my travels I've seen first-hand the extraordinary dedication of our service members.

My personal mission is what led to the founding of the Gary Sinise Foundation in 2011, and with the help of supporters like you, we will continue to expand this mission in support of our nation's defenders, veterans, first responders and their loved ones, while upholding the importance of keeping our country strong by taking care of those who serve. While our programs and projects have certainly made a difference in many lives, there's much more work to be done. I encourage you to browse our website, look into our programs, view the many great videos that show us in action on our YouTube channel, read about some of the heroes and families we have had the privilege to support, and consider making a contribution to help us do even more.

On behalf of all of us here at the Gary Sinise Foundation, thank you.

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### Dear Friends,

In June, the Gary Sinise Foundation celebrated its 7th Anniversary. It has been my true privilege to serve as Executive Director since the Foundation's outset. Together with your generosity, we have made a positive impact on the lives of so many American heroes and their loved ones.

This annual report will provide you with a comprehensive update regarding every Gary Sinise Foundation program. Last year, 91.12% of every dollar raised was applied directly to supporting our defenders and their families. Our commitment to fiscal responsibility and efficiency in all we do earned us a Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar. And I am so proud to announce we are now listed on Charity Navigator, having received their coveted four-star rating in our very first year of eligibility.

We continued to expand throughout 2017 by launching our newest programs, Snowball Express and our Center for Education & Outreach. Additionally, we are now accepting 8-10 new heroes each year into our specially adapted smart home program. Our local and national in-kind partners have been absolutely essential to the success of this program, not only by securing product and services for each home, but by donating their most precious asset: their time. This above-and-beyond generosity allows us to grow this program while keeping overhead low. From Gary's early involvement in 2010 through the Gary Sinise Foundation's efforts today, we have completed 50 forever homes for America's severely injured heroes and their loved ones with 20 more currently underway.

Over the years, I have seen first-hand how Gary's work has improved the lives of our nation's defenders. Nearly forty years later, he is still forging close relationships with those we serve. Our entire organization follows in his footsteps. We believe there is no substitute for personal interactions, sincere gratitude, and meaningful connections.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your trust and support. I hope you will consider making a gift or increasing your current contribution so we can continue to honor and serve our heroes and their loved ones each and every day.

Judith & Cto



RESTORING INDEPENDENCE R + I + S + E SUPPORTING EMPOWERMENT

Through R.I.S.E., we're building specially adapted smart homes for our most severely wounded heroes. We're also providing home modifications, mobility devices, and adapted vehicles to our injured, wounded, ill, and/or aging heroes.



WOUNDED HEROES MOVED INTO THEIR NEW SPECIALLY ADAPTED SMART HOMES



We're constructing one-of-a-kind specially adapted smart homes for our nation's most severely wounded veterans. These 100% mortgage-free homes ease the daily challenges faced by these heroes and their families who sacrifice alongside them. We're helping restore their self-reliance and independence.

#### DAILY CHALLENGES

The simple tasks of everyday life are easy to take for granted. But living in total reliance on caregivers for even the most mundane and sometimes very personal tasks is a reality for many severely wounded heroes. This is especially true at home.





#### MORE THAN A HOUSE

Home is where we take comfort from the world. For our severely wounded heroes, however, life at home can be a constant battle. Without features designed for their unique needs, small chores can become insurmountable challenges.

#### A NEW BEGINNING

Our specially adapted smart homes provide a safe haven for these heroes to reclaim their independence. Built from the ground up with their individual needs in mind, these homes alleviate stress on the entire family.



"After investing so much time and training for that level in special operations, my career was over in a few seconds. You start thinking, 'How will I provide for my family?' But the house you built for us knocks down the obstacles most people wouldn't think about."

> - SFC JARED BULLOCK SPECIALLY ADAPTED SMART HOME RECIPIENT



#### HOME MODIFICATIONS

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





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#### ADAPTED VEHICLES

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

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#### MOBILITY DEVICES

We're providing everything from wheelchairs to track chairs, ally chairs, and hand cycles. Reclaiming personal mobility is key to restoring a healthy mindset of autonomy.



# RELIEF + RESILIENCY

Life can change in an instant, especially for our nation's defenders. Our duty as citizens is to ensure these families stay strong through hardships by offering our complete support before, during, and after the battle.





Children of the fallen & their surviving parent/guardian joined us for snowball express 2017

### SNOWBALL \*\*\*\* EXPRESS

PRESENTING SPONSOR American Airlines

We're serving the children of fallen military heroes. In 2017, Snowball Express became an official Gary Sinise Foundation program. We are committed to maintaining the wonderful traditions while finding new and exciting ways to serve our families of the fallen.

#### HONORING THOSE WE LOST AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND

No matter where these families are in the grieving process, we hope to inspire them to believe anything is possible. By providing guilt-free fun and beneficial resources in a stress-free environment, we're creating a community to learn, grow, and make lasting memories with new friends.





#### HEALING $\delta$ CELEBRATION

The holidays can be especially challenging for grieving families. Each December, we host a five-day experience for 1,750+ children of the fallen and their surviving parent or guardian. As a therapeutic retreat with a blend of fun and inspiring programs, these families can lean on their peers for support. And this year we're bringing Snowball Express to *Walt Disney World*<sup>®</sup> Resort!

#### YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT

We're also hosting community-driven events for these families all year long. From baseball games, to arts & educational opportunities, to camping trips, these families can deepen friendships right in their hometowns. These events are essential for children and surviving spouses to build bonds with the only people who can truly understand their loss: each other.



### INVINCIBLE SPIRIT \* FESTIVAL \*

The heroic spirit displayed by our wounded service members through rehabilitation is an inspiration. Our Invincible Spirit Festivals celebrate the courage not only of these heroes, but their families and caregivers as well.



14,400+

ATTENDEES AT AMERICA'S MILITARY MEDICAL CENTERS

"It has been an amazing, amazing day...it says so much to our military, their families, our wounded warriors and their caregivers. So a shoutout for you all for being here. Thank you so much!"

> - ELAINE RODGERS PRESIDENT, USO OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON





CONCERTS PERFORMED FOR AMERICA'S HEROES & THEIR LOVED ONES



Honor. Gratitude. Rock & Roll. That's the mission of every Lt. Dan Band concert. There's something for everyone as the thirteen-member group covers hits from every genre in their explosive live show.



"Upon returning from my first tour in Afghanistan, the loss of more brothers than I'd like to remember was taking its toll. I saw a poster that the Lt. Dan Band was performing in my area and decided to attend. I like to believe that one show kept me from doing the unthinkable. Thanks for all you do."

> - ANONYMOUS MARINE (WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY)



Our H.O.P.E. program 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.

#### PIVOTAL MOMENTS

When our heroes or their loved ones experience dark times, we seek to provide support and hope. Lending a hand in a difficult moment can change the course of an entire life.

#### COMMUNITY

Bringing people together who have shared a common life trauma helps form a network of support. By sharing their experiences and reminding one another they are not alone, these groups can find joy in the present once again.







PARTICIPANTS IN OUR MENTORSHIP RETREATS

# RETREATS

In collaboration with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Boulder Crest Retreat, we're connecting wounded veterans from different military conflicts. Over the course of seven days, these heroes can heal and find renewed strength to overcome their individual challenges together.



"The biggest thing I got from attending was that growth is possible. I learned that I do not have to live my life as a diminished version of myself, but a better version. I also learned better ways to cope with stressors in life. And that I am not alone."

> - KEITH RICHARD US ARMY, SFC (RET.)

### COMMUNITY outreach & EDUCATION

We're working to bridge the gap between our defender and civilian communities. Honoring America's heroes both past and present, and inspiring the next generation to do the same, is a responsibility we all share.

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#### GREATEST GENERATION

Our WWII veterans fought to save the world from tyranny. The freedom we know today is thanks to their bravery and valor. They taught us the true meaning of patriotism and we remain forever grateful for their sacrifices.

### SOARING VALOR

We're bringing World War II veterans and their guardians to New Orleans to tour The National WWII Museum built in their honor. Their experience includes entertainment, celebratory meals, and community building with their fellow heroes. Students who accompany our veterans carry on their stories with a new appreciation for the sacrifices made by an entire generation.



#### LIVING LIBRARIES

Every veteran is a living library. We've partnered with The National WWII Museum to record the individual stories of America's Greatest Generation and share them with the world. For those who cannot travel, we're sponsoring a historian to conduct interviews with WWII veterans in the comfort of their homes. "Words cannot convey how grateful I am to you for hosting my father on your Soaring Valor trip. We will cherish the memories for the rest of our lives. Thank you for your program and for honoring my dad in a way that I never could."

- SON OF WWII VETERAN SOARING VALOR PARTICIPANT





298

VETERANS & THEIR GUARDIANS JOINED US FOR A SOARING VALOR EXPERIENCE



63 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACCOMPANIED OUR VETERANS



#### STUDENT EDUCATION

In 2017, the Gary Sinise Foundation expanded Soaring Valor by inviting students to join the experience. This educational opportunity presents World War II from a whole new perspective, directly from those who lived it.

### serving HEROES

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 military outposts in Germany and Korea.



MEALS SERVED TO OUR DEFENDERS ACROSS THE NATION

"I'd like to thank Gary and the Foundation for providing a free lunch here at our USO. The lunch provided today benefitted at least 150-200 Jr. Soldiers. Having been in their shoes 17 years ago, I can tell you it really hit the spot."

> - MATTHEW EDMONDS EL PASO, TX

#### FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

AIRFORCE

Serving Heroes is more than a meal. It's an opportunity to form connections and strengthen communities. It's a simple way to remind our heroes that America cares and is grateful for their service. We're showing our gratitude faceto-face with a plate, a smile, and a handshake.

#### EXPANDING LOCATIONS

We're hosting Serving Heroes at military bases and transportation hubs, police departments, fire houses, and veterans senior living facilities all across the country.





Anyone who has served our nation is welcome to join us for a "Vets Night" dinner and dress rehearsal performance free of charge at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. We're expanding this program to more venues and locations across the nation.



#### EXPANDING HORIZONS

In 1984, Gary directed a production of "Tracers", a play written by Vietnam veterans. The experience was transformative for the cast, crew, and the veterans in the audience. Soon after, Gary launched the first "Vets Night" at Steppenwolf, the theatre he co-founded.



VETERANS JOINED US FOR A "VETS NIGHT" PERFORMANCE

#### A 40-YEAR TRADITION

Now part of the Gary Sinise Foundation, "Vets Night" continues to expose local veterans to the theatre. It's a unique way to show our gratitude for their service.



"Thank you so much. Our veterans had a wonderful time. They all returned with smiles and want to know when they can do it again. Thank you."

> -RON BRAND VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA



AMBASSADORS REPRESENT THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION NATIONWIDE

### AMBASSADORS COUNCIL

Our Ambassadors Council represents the Gary Sinise Foundation through speaking engagements, public appearances, and leadership opportunities. Each member is individually selected by our founder for their exceptional character and patriotism.

#### INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

Located throughout the country, our Ambassadors Council educates and reminds communities to remember the sacrifices made by all of America's defenders and their families.

#### SPREADING THE WORD

As spokespersons, Gary Sinise Foundation ambassadors proudly share our accomplishments and aspirations as well as their own remarkable stories of service.



US Army (Ret.), Sergeant **Bryan Anderson** Illinois



US Army (Ret.), Staff Sergeant Sammy L. Davis Indiana



US Army (Ret.), Major **Drew Dix** New Mexico



USMC (Ret.), Corporal Juan Dominguez California



**Tom Dreesen** California



Mary Eisenhower Missouri



US Army (Ret.), Colonel Gregory D. Gadson Virginia



**Chef Robert Irvine** California



USMC (Ret.), Corporal **Garrett Jones** Virginia



US Army (Ret.), Master Sergeant **Cedric King** South Carolina



US Army (Ret.), Lt. Gen. **Rick Lynch** Texas



Sarah Lynch Texas



Joe Mantegna California



US Army (Ret.), Master Sergeant John Masson North Carolina



US Army (Ret.), Staff Sergeant **Travis Mills** Maine



US Navy (Ret.), Lieutenant Jason C. Redman Virginia



US Army SFC (R) **Michael Schlitz** Georgia



US Army (Ret.), Captain **Leslie Nicole Smith** Virginia



**DB** Sweeney Illinois



US Marines (Ret.) Colonel Jay R. Vargas California



Special Operations Chief, US Navy SEAL **Bill Wagasy** California



USMC (Ret.), Major **Gary Weaver** Kentucky



Fire Captain (Ret.)



John Woodall North Carolina

### CENTER for EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Opened in 2017, our Center for Education & Outreach is bringing civilians and defenders together. Through speaking series, workshops, and summits, our hosted events focus on character building exercises and educating communities about the importance of service over self.

#### BRIDGING THE GAP

With less than 1% of our population in the armed services today, and all serving on a volunteer basis, our military and civilian communities rarely interact. This facility provides a casual, communal environment to bring these two worlds together for constructive dialogues and inspiring events.

#### RAISING AWARENESS

A service member's successful transition to civilian life starts with a welcoming community. Our forthcoming multimedia exhibit and student tours will help instill visitors of all ages with a new respect for our defenders and raise awareness about the heroes living among them.





#### FEATURED EXHIBIT

*Gary Sinise: A Call to Action* is a retrospective look at Gary's crusade to serve America's heroes. The collection of memorabilia from his travels, philanthropy, and career shows how he discovered his true calling and hopefully inspires others to "always do a little more."









GARY SINISE PRESEN

### FIRST **FIRST** RESPONDERS outreach

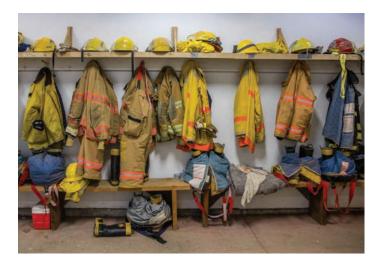
Our firefighters, police, and EMTs are indispensable to the safety of our communities. We provide funds for equipment and training to ensure these heroes can perform to the best of their abilities.

#### HEROES NEXT DOOR

When crises occur, our firefighters, police, and EMTs put their own lives at risk. They answer the call, rush toward danger, and lead the way.

#### TIRELESS EFFORTS

Oftentimes, these heroes are performing with limited resources. The Gary Sinise Foundation is dedicated to keeping our first responders strong.



"With the grant we were able to purchase lockers to finally get all of our gear off the floor. For years we have had to use folding chairs to hold gear and hope nothing was damaged. The items you have enabled us to purchase will not only help protect our guys but also help us to better serve the community."

- Kevin Merritt Fire Chief for Chagrin Falls Fire Department





GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS & EMTS NATIONWIDE



205

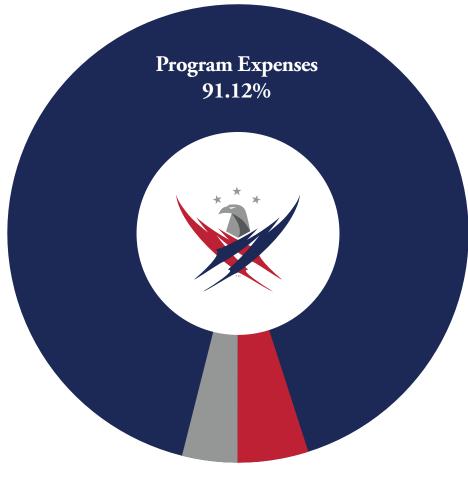
FIREFIGHTERS & EMTS RECEIVED TRAINING SPONSORED BY THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION



131

ESSENTIAL PIECES OF EQUIPMENT WERE DONATED BY THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION





Administrative 4.97%

Fundraising 3.91%

We are supported by more than **50,000** donors and cherish the trust of each one. Above all, we are committed to fiscal responsibility, efficiency, and low overhead in all we do.

For 2017, we are proud to report that **91.12%** of every dollar contributed was applied directly to support our nation's defenders and their loved ones.

**Total Expenses** \$21,833,243

**Program (91.12%)** \$19,894,469

**Administrative (4.97%)** \$1,085,212

**Fundraising (3.91%)** \$853,562







#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2017

#### ASSETS

Cash	\$18,330,735
Investments - Endowment Funds	\$11,722,978
Grant Receivables	\$5,090,266
Property & Equipment, Net	\$1,690,796
Other Assets	\$442,112
TOTAL ASSETS	\$37,276,887
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	\$941,347
Net Assets	\$36,335,540
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$37,276,887

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

#### PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support	\$28,224,655
Revenue	\$1,382,884
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$29,607,539
EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$19,894,469
General & Administrative	\$1,085,212
Fundraising	\$853,562
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,833,243
NET PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$7,774,296

-	R.I.S.E.		Relief & Resiliency		Community Outreach & Education		Military Support Concerts		First Responders		Total	
Salaries, payroll taxes												
& employee benefits	\$	366,975	\$	298,561	\$	303,449	\$	219,712	\$	27,548	\$	1,216,245
Accounting		-		-		-		-		-		-
Advertising & promotion		38,667		-		-		-		-		38,667
Commissions		-		-		-		7,500		-		7,500
Computer		8,816		7,225		7,753		5,648		664		30,106
Construction costs		11,153,684		-		-		-		-		11,153,684
Contributions		146,917		549,828		511,710		-		288,708		1,497,163
Depreciation & amortization		19,809		16,119		16,384		11,863		1,491		65,666
Equipment rental		52,199		650,963		4,163		-		-		707,325
Furnishings - In-Kind		481,000		-		-		-		-		481,000
Insurance		12,362		10,175		8,818		17,282		803		49,440
Legal		528,338		39,533		17,852		3,810		-		589,533
Merchandise cost		-		-		-		-		-		-
Merchant fees		11,667		6,578		6,475		855		1,829		27,404
Miscellaneous		9,577		10,467		11,726		6,457		686		38,913
Occupancy		34,356		24,612		92,062		18,113		2,276		171,419
Outside services		485,135		568,709		442,632		163,805		-		1,660,281
Postage		12,404		7,265		11,729		1,302		227		32,927
Printing		8,422		9,993		5,256		2,198		276		26,145
Repairs and maintenance		22,837		1,950		2,544		1,435		181		28,947
Supplies		41,137		40,395		76,038		9,672		862		168,104
Taxes and licenses		38,173		-		-		-		-		38,173
Telephone		1,874		1,525		1,977		1,122		141		6,639
Travel and entertainment		312,366		692,239		690,481		14,143		-		1,709,229
Venue Costs		-		100,000		-		-		-		100,000
Website		15,071		12,264		12,465		9,025		1,134		49,959
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	13,801,786	\$	3,048,401	\$	2,223,514	\$	493,942	\$	326,826	\$	19,894,469

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

#### SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management & General Fund Raisin		aising	1	Fotal		2017			2016	
					•					
\$ 180,462	\$	351,266	\$	531,728		\$	1,747,973	\$	1,40	
204,500		-		204,500			204,500		19	
94,787		19,523		114,310			152,977			
-		-		-			7,500			
45,658		46,841		92,499			122,605		11	
-		-		-			11,153,684		7,29	
-		-		-			1,497,163		1,69	
9,740		18,969		28,709			94,375		5	
6,487		37,263		43,750			751,075		49	
-		-		-			481,000		34	
6,210		10,209		16,419			65,859		12	
21,741		14,641		36,382			625,915		39	
65,297		830		66,127			66,127		11	
112,713		27,883		140,596			168,000		10	
14,233		10,612		24,845			63,758		e	
14,871		28,963		43,834			215,253		25	
69,939		133,687		203,626			1,863,907		1,49	
4,468		24,197		28,665			61,592		8	
1,805		41,058		42,863			69,008		5	
1,178		2,295		3,473			32,420		1	
4,913		36,947		41,860			209,964		19	
7,757		-		7,757			45,930		11	
921		1,794		2,715			9,354		1	
210,122		15,152		225,274			1,934,503		1,63	
-		17,000		17,000			117,000			
7,410		14,432		21,842			71,801		7	
\$ 1,085,212	\$	853,562	\$	1,938,774		\$	21,833,243	\$	16,49	

#### TOTALS

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Sinise (Chairman) Linda Bammann John D. Heubusch Captain Jim Palmersheim James Shubert Moira Sinise Pastor (Pat) Velasco

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Gib Bosworth Steven B. Hantler Martin Licker Lt. Gen. Rick, US Army (Ret.) & Sarah Lynch David J. McIntyre, Jr. Suzy Pence Anthony J. Saliba Linda Velasco

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

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

SERVING HONOR AND NEED<sup>TM</sup> GARYSINISEFOUNDATION.ORG