



**AIR WARRIOR COURAGE FOUNDATION (AWCF)
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2021**

**AWCF, P.O. Box 877
Silver Spring, MD 20918**

www.airwarriorcourage.org

**AIR WARRIOR COURAGE FOUNDATION (AWCF)
(Wounded Warrior Emergency Support Fund)**

"Where Camaraderie and Caring Continue"

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021

Mission: The Air Warrior Courage Foundation was formed by military aviators to "care for our own." We work closely with the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association to do that. We focus on active duty, guard, reserve, and retired military personnel and their families needing financial assistance for medical, educational, and other extraordinary expenses not covered by other military, veterans', or charitable institutions.

In time of war and peace, members of our military and their families safeguard our freedoms. Caring for their brothers and sisters in combat and for their families – including the families of comrades who never came home - is a proud tradition followed by Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. In that tradition, Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF) was formed in 1998 by members of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association (River Rats) to help with financial problems of warriors (primarily military aviators, Wounded Warriors, and their families) of an emergency nature or that fall beyond government support. We continue that mission today.

- ***AWCF has been named a "Best in America" by Independent Charities of America (independentcharities.org) each year since 2006.***
- ***In FY 2021 AWCF was awarded its ninth consecutive highest rating of Four Stars by Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org).***

AWCF, aka Wounded Warrior Emergency Support Fund, spends 95.4% of the funds we raise directly on our programs in aid of our military beneficiaries. In FY 2021 we spent \$565,898. Since our founding, we have spent over \$10,000,000 to help our military beneficiaries and their families. Though the wars we now fight are not always on the nightly news, there remain many needs that are not met by appropriated funds. Organizations like AWCF play a vital role in ensuring that our military members and their families are supported as they should be.

During FY 2021, AWCF raised \$655,449 to fund our programs. With those funds we:

- **Continued to support Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda, MD and Fort Belvoir, VA and at San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) in San Antonio, TX.**
- **Provided Emergency Cash Grants to individuals and families nation wide. This does not include the WRNMMC and SAMMC cash grants that are reported separately.**
- **Provided Therapeutic Riding for 174 medically challenged active duty dependents in 35 programs in 14 states.**
- **Assisted 5 children with IRS College Savings Plans (529 Plans) who are dependents of aircrew killed in combat or training aircraft accidents.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The COVID 19 pandemic continued to impact our FY 2021 efforts. However, AWCF did strive to help Wounded Warriors and military families through these difficult times by providing funds that the Military Services cannot provide by law and regulation. We worked hard to make sure that there was a minimum time between the statement of need and the fulfillment of that need. We continue to plan for the future by investing and using your donations wisely so we are able to expand our efforts as we see is necessary. However, due to the current economic conditions our assets have decreased.

There have been areas that do continue to grow. These are the use of dedicated funds for the Archie and Sue Lorentzen Education Endowment, our Therapeutic Riding Program (TRP) for children of Active Duty parents and programs for Wounded Warrior rehabilitation and athletic games.

The Lorentzens left us a legacy to be used for the education of our military. We continue to use that legacy to provide grants to ROTC cadets and enlisted airmen who are working on their college degrees. The ROTC cadets and enlisted airmen are in all part of the USA. We have joined with the Society of Wild Weasels to increase our efforts with education grants.

The Therapeutic Riding Program, for children with various disabilities of Active Duty Service Members remains at 35 riding facilities in 14 States.

We continue to provide funds to participants from both Air Force and Navy Warrior Games as well as the Sacramento Habitat for Humanity programs for military veterans.

If you have ideas/suggestions/donations that will help us to expand our efforts even further. You may contact us at www.airwarriorgourage.org.

Thank you for your continuing support

David Brog, Executive Director

AWCF PROGRAMS

AWCF coordinates both financial assistance and service to the programs that are identified below. We work through official representatives of military commands and the Veterans Administration. The River Rats and their families and friends provide most of the manpower to help with projects and programs. We also partner with other non-profits when together we can provide more help. In the following sections you can see specific information (and photos) of what we've been doing this past year:

- TROOP SUPPORT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS
 - WALTER REED NATIONAL MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER (WRNMMC)
 - SAN ANTONIO MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER (SAMMC)
- GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS (TO ASSIST ACTIVE, GUARD AND RESERVE MILITARY, RETIRED MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS)
- THERAPEUTIC RIDING
- EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
 - IRS COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS (529 PLANS)
 - LORENTZEN EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

In the years we have been supporting our Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) at Bethesda, MD, and San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) in San Antonio, TX, and Nationwide grants we have dedicated untold hours and over \$3M in financial support. In FY 2021 alone we spent a total of \$376,156 on programs/grants. The Troop Support programs at the two medical centers are structured differently, but the end result of helping the Wounded Warriors and their families is the same. The funding we are able to provide to help these families is wonderful, but it is far surpassed by the value of the support provided by our volunteers. They donate untold hours, work and passion to help the folks we honor.

Our donations have continued to come from wide and far and we pass them on in many programs and forms. Below we've mentioned just a few:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In FY 2021, AWCF made a contribution of \$15,000.00 to a Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Build. For this contribution, the AWCF received another award from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, California.

FY 2021 WALTER REED NATIONAL MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER (WRNMMC)
TROOP SUPPORT PROGRAM IN ACTION

In FY 2021, AWCf continued to support Wounded Warriors and military patients with long-term illnesses at WRNMMC. Dave Brog and Gene Russell head up our involvement at WRNMMC and at Fort Belvoir where more transition care is going on for Wounded Warriors leaving inpatient care. We continue to join with other organizations that support Wounded Warriors in the D.C. area on a variety of projects.

HOLIDAY MEALS

Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have provided complete meals for Wounded Warriors and their families who can't leave the hospital. These meals include the traditional meats, side dishes, rolls and dessert. All they need to do is reheat and enjoy. This year we provided meals to 18 families. As always, the recipients are happy to be able to share these holiday meals with their families!

EMERGENCY CASH GRANTS

Despite a smaller patient population, the Emergency Cash Grant program remains active at WRNMMC and Fort Belvoir. During FY 2021, we spent just over \$2,500.00 for Emergency Cash Grants. These grants cover a wide range of financial problems that Wounded Warrior families' encounter, including Non-Medical Attendant healthcare support – especially dentistry – the need for which has increased – and the Holiday dinners. During already difficult times, emergencies can escalate beyond a family's ability to cope and it is often impossible for military appropriated funds to meet these needs. Nonprofits currently provide the only solution to hardship situations for the Wounded Warriors and their families and AWCf often partners with other non-profits to cover these costs.

FY 2021 SAN ANTONIO MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER (SAMMC)
TROOP SUPPORT PROGRAM IN ACTION

The SAMMC Troop Support effort is led by Gary Baber, helped by a large group of volunteers. Since their operation began in 2005, AWCf has spent more than \$3.5 million supporting the wounded and their families in the SAMMC area. The demand for our services and funding has dropped over the past three years as the population of Wounded Warriors dropped from a high of 700 in FY 2012, to less than 150 in FY 2021.

EMERGENCY CASH GRANTS

The Emergency Cash Grant program continues to be the most urgent program that AWCF sponsors at SAMMC. During FY 2021, Emergency Cash Grants were given out at a value of \$118,698. These grants cover a wide range of financial problems that Wounded Warrior families' encounter including pay interruptions during permanent change of station moves to SAMMC, car repairs, security deposits for apartment or house rentals, emergency travel, and funeral expenses. There are too often nonmilitary programs that provide financial assistance in these cases. Unfortunately, nonprofits remain the only solution to these hardship situations for the Wounded Warriors and their families.

CHRISTMAS HOPE PROGRAM

The SAMMC Troop Support Program has sponsored the Christmas Hope Program since 2009. Christmas Hope is a special outreach during the Christmas holidays to Wounded Warrior families with children. It kicks off in November each year with social workers at SAMMC providing a consolidated list of Wounded Warrior families facing a bleak Christmas without some help. Starting in early December, grants of \$600 are given to families with up to two children, \$850 to families with three or four children and \$1,100 to families with five or more children.

The Lake Travis Christmas Hope Committee started with a group of patriots in and around Austin, Texas. They have taken on this cause as a personal project and have involved friends from Connecticut west to California and south to Key West. They have truly spread the word across the nation. Patriotic Americans have wowed us by their generosity. Since Christmas Hope began in 2009, these caring people have raised over \$1 million to help Wounded Warrior families.

In FY 2021 Christmas Hope provided \$7,300 to 19 families to help them to a Merry Christmas.

Christmas Hope funds not needed for Christmas grants in FY 2021 were used throughout the remainder of the year as to send children from Wounded Warrior families to summer camps at Ft. Sam Houston and Lackland AFB.

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ADAPTIVE SCUBA PROGRAM

The Adaptive SCUBA program has become more popular each year since its inception in 2006. AWCF, together with Duggan Diving, a professional SCUBA diving company, provides a program specifically tailored to train Wounded Warriors with amputations and burns. The program is assisted by the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) rehabilitation facility at SAMMC. The CFI aids in selecting Wounded Warriors for the dive program and provides volunteer physical therapists that monitor the training.

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GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS
(TO ASSIST ACTIVE, GUARD AND RESERVE MILITARY,
RETIRED MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS)

Our help was given to over 150 individuals and families under this program in FY 2021. This year, our Grants for Individual program have provided emergency financial support for utilities, rent, transportation, auto repairs, and medical expenses that may fall through the cracks of what is provided by TRICARE. Once again - a reminder of how many expenses there are which for various reasons aren't covered by appropriated funds and how difficult it can be for individuals dealing with the long waits for Veterans Administration (VA) determination of benefits.

THERAPEUTIC RIDING

Therapeutic Riding remains our longest running major family program. we. In FY 2020, we provided \$166,967 for Therapeutic Riding for 174 medically challenged active duty dependents in 35 riding stables/programs in 14 states.

The Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) and other groups and developmental professionals promote therapeutic horseback riding as a valuable program for children and adults with certain mental, physical or developmental challenges, including traumatic brain injuries and autism. There is a TRICARE autism demonstration project underway to determine better coverage for services related to autism. Therapeutic riding is not yet covered under Standard or Prime TRICARE, although some programs are covered if an individual is covered under the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program. Until this valuable therapy is routinely covered, we provide funding assistance to active duty families who need it. Our medical doctor, Dr. Mike Herndon, does a record review and certifies each of our riders as having a condition that could benefit from therapeutic riding. We either pay a portion of the cost of this therapy or, for stables/programs that do not charge, we make a donation to them to help defray costs.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

IRS COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS (529 PLANS)

AWCF offers IRS College Savings Plans (529 Plans) for children of aircrew members from all Services killed while performing their aircrew duties. We start each 529 Plan with an AWCF donation of \$2,000 in the case of training accidents or combat deaths. We currently actively manage 97.

We have an active system with the Services to get the information quickly after a tragedy occurs. Not all take advantage of our offer to set up a plan, but for those who do, upon the request of the family, we open the 529 Plan immediately so that media notification of deaths, funeral services, etc., can contain information to permit donations for the education of the children of those killed.

LORENTZEN EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Over the past few years we have been helping Wounded Warriors with grants for tuition and equipment for educational opportunities that fall outside appropriated fund rules. We have also been making presentations on our mission to the next generation of military officers at Reserve Officer Training Units (ROTC). Thanks to a generous endowment to AWCF from the estate of Archie and Sue Lorentzen to be used for educationally related needs, AWCF has been able to increase our assistance to our next generation of Servicemen and Women.

Because of our increased involvement (especially in the Heartland of the US) with ROTC units, in FY 2021 we provided \$65,597 to universities around the country through a variety of means of assistance to their ROTC units and cadets. There are currently 24 ROTC detachments from 14 universities in the program. We have also provided airmen at Vance AFB, OK, Laughlin AFB, TX and Ft. Carson, KS with these education grants. These airmen are working toward advanced degrees. They are obtaining these through distance learning. Not only have these efforts helped these future leaders, they have increased recognition of AWCF among them. This has resulted in numerous donations.

FY2021 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES				
INCOME STATEMENT				
REVENUE				
Contributions				\$499,536
CFC				\$100,801
Investment Income				\$232,012
Other Revenue				\$24,000
	Total Revenue			\$856,349
EXPENSE				
Program Service				\$563,956
Overhead Expenses				\$27,248
	Total Expenses			\$591,204
		NET		\$265,145
BALANCE SHEET				
Cash				153,290
Lorentzen Funds				1,492,876
Investments				3,019,489
IRS 529 College Savings Plan				489,375
Accounts Receivable				27,723
Pepaid Expenses				1,336
	Total Net Assets			5,184,089
Jerry Knotts Treasurer				

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Chairman

Sam Angelella, Lt Gen, USAF (Ret) Daytona Beach, FL.

President

George Harrison, Maj.Gen. USAF (Ret.) Peach Tree City, GA.

Vice President

Rick Zehrer, Brig.Gen., USAF (Ret.), Lakeway, TX-

Secretary

Dave Brog, Col., USAF (Ret.) Silver Spring, MD.

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Jerry Knotts, Col., USAF (Ret.) Thousand Oaks, CA.

General Counsel

Manny Simpson, J.D. Chicago, IL

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Directors

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Earl Hailston, Lt.Gen, USMC (Ret.) Round Hill, VA.

Bob Ettinger, Col., USAF (Ret.) Palos Verdes Est., CA.

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Mike Sloniker, LTC, USA (Ret.) Edmond, OK.

Gary Baber, Col., USAF (Ret.) Selma, TX.

Bruce Wright, Lt.Gen., USAF (Ret.) Arlington, VA.

Rick Zehrer, Brig.Gen., USAF (Ret.), Lakeway, TX-

Rob McAvoy, SGTMAJ, USA (Ret.) Glens Falls, NY.

Chuck DeBellevue, Col., USAF (Ret) Edmond, OK.

James Paulsen, Capt, USN (Ret) Lafayette, IN.

Gene Russell, Col., USA (Ret.) Springfield, VA.

Bill Schwertfeger, LtCol, USAF (Ret.) Caldwell, KS.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As long as there are brave men and women serving in defense of our freedom, AWCF will continue to provide support to them. Because of the generous help provided by people like you, AWCF daily makes a difference in people's lives. So, please:

- Donate to Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #11450 under the title Wounded Warrior Emergency Support Fund) or United Way (write in "Wounded Warrior Emergency Support Fund") or through Independent Charities of America (ICA).
- Donate at – www.airwarriorcourage.org. Simply hit "Donate" and follow directions.
- Donate by check made out to "AWCF" and mail with the form below to PO Box. 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918.
- If you shop at Amazon, go to www.smile.amazon.com and register for an Amazon Smile account with AWCF as the beneficiary. It costs you *nothing* but for every dollar you spend on an eligible purchase (most are) Amazon contributes 0.5% to AWCF. Amazon Smile works whether you have a standard Amazon account or Amazon Prime – just start your purchase at smile.amazon.com.
- Make a planned gift from your estate to help us in the future. Your estate/tax advisor can advise you how best to do this.
- If you are over 70 you can take part of your annual mandatory distribution from your IRA as an IRA Charitable Rollover transferred directly to AWCF. When the donation is transferred directly from your IRA to AWCF, it is not considered as federally taxable income for you – but it does count toward your required minimum distribution. Your estate/tax advisor can advise you how best to do this.
- Identify individuals or projects in need of our support. Just email or call the AWCF National office with your recommendations.

- Contact the AWCF National Office (or your local River Rat chapter) to volunteer your service and ideas or to ask for additional information.

Air Warrior Courage Foundation
P.O. Box 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918
(301) 588-3283 email: awcf@airwarriorcourage.org
www.airwarriorcourage.org

AWCF is an IRS 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization and is therefore eligible for personal or corporate contributions. Acknowledgement letters will be sent in response to donations made directly to AWCF.

Please accept my/our gift in the in amount of \$ _____. (Make out check to "AWCF" and mail to AWCF, PO Box 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Email _____