



## **Cincinnati-based Hatton Foundation grants Green Beret Foundation \$100,000 again to further support injured U.S. Army Special Forces**

*Healing and Recovery Fund to help cover medical costs for Special Forces soldiers*

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**– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

**CINCINNATI** – For the second year in a row, the Cincinnati-based Hatton Foundation has given the Green Beret Foundation (GBF) a \$100,000 donation to ignite support in 2020. The Hatton Foundation's grant of \$100,000 in 2019 enabled GBF to establish the Hatton Healing and Recovery Fund, which covers the cost of innovative therapies and devices for injured and ill Green Berets and their family members. The grant was initiated through the work of the Cincinnati Supporters of Green Beret Foundation and GBF board member Mrs. Fran Wesseling.

The Green Beret Foundation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Forces (commonly known as Green Berets) and their families. Due to the ongoing nature of our current wars and military interventions around the world, Green Berets sustain a grueling deployment schedule, and have the highest casualty rate of any branch of Special Operations Forces (SOF) in the military. These soldiers return home from duty with myriad and life-altering physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, and they do so at a rate which exhausts and exceeds U.S. Government resources.

As the Green Berets who first joined the military in the wake of the September 11 attacks approach their twentieth year of service, many will be retiring with extensive medical needs. Wounded and retiring Green Berets continue to face mounting medical expenses—in need of therapies, treatments, and adaptive equipment not covered by military insurance or VA benefits—and travel expenses related to treatment present additional considerations, rarely covered by Government resources. The summation of these factors often leads to a barrier to care for many members of the Green Beret community.



This is why, in 2019, the Hatton Healing and Recovery Fund was established, subsequently enabling the Green Beret Foundation to provide over \$100,000 of care and support to the Special Forces community in its first year. The fund has enabled the Green Beret Foundation to purchase equipment and provide specialized, life-saving, and life-altering services to over 55 medically recovering Green Berets. Chemotherapy, adjustable beds, high-percussive massagers, IDEO braces, and heel-wedge device are just a sampling of the therapies and equipment either not covered or insufficiently covered by Government funding sources that the Hatton Healing and Recovery Fund has made possible.

“We are honored to continue our support of the Green Beret Foundation through the Hatton Healing and Recovery Fund,” says Walt Lunsford, Executive Director of the Hatton Foundation. “We are grateful for the incredible sacrifices made by these heroes and their families on our behalf. We are forever indebted and hope that our support is a catalyst for others to contribute in order to help improve the quality of life for both the injured Green Berets and their families.”

“This contribution will have a tremendous impact on the Green Beret community,” said Fran Wesseling, Green Beret Foundation National Board Member, GBF Cincinnati Chapter Director, and mother of a combat wounded Green Beret. “The Hatton Healing and Recovery Fund enables the Green Beret Foundation to effect positive change in the lives of countless Green Berets and their families, and we are eternally grateful to the Hatton foundation for their support of our mission.”

**About the Hatton Foundation:** The Hatton Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation established by E. Kenneth Hatton, M.D. upon his death in 1997. Dr. Hatton was a general practitioner with an office in Bond Hill. Serving on the board of the foundation are Steve Scherzinger, President; Bob Robinson, Vice President; Kim Beach, Treasurer; Carlene Robinson, Secretary; Margaret Saladin Lunsford, Trustee; Chase Lunsford, Trustee; and Walt Lunsford, Executive Director.

**About the Green Beret Foundation:** Founded in 2009, the Green Beret Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term health of the Green Beret community. The Foundation answers the call of the Green Berets and their families, so that they can succeed in their next mission. The Green Beret Foundation provides casualty support, extended care support, family support, and transition support to aid in this transitioning process. For more information, visit: [www.greenberetfoundation.org](http://www.greenberetfoundation.org).