



**GREEN BERET**  
FOUNDATION

TRUST ★ STRENGTH ★ DIRECTION

# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

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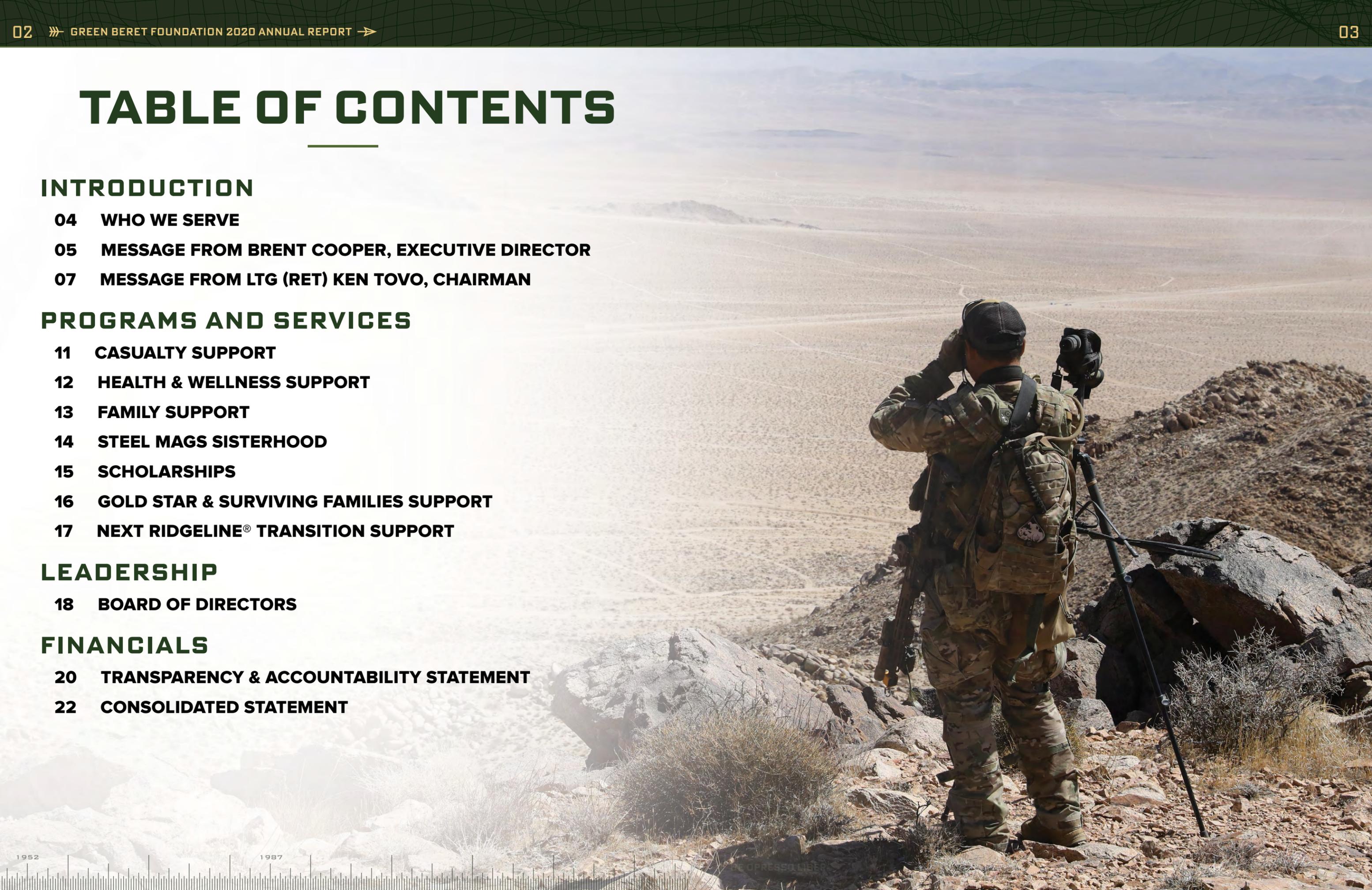
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# THE MOST COMPLEX MISSIONS. THE BEST TRAINED SOLDIERS.

The United States Army Special Forces, known as Green Berets, are America's premier special operations force. The tip of the spear in the United States' fight against diverse enemies worldwide, Green Berets have five primary missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, direct action, and counterterrorism—as well as other strategic missions.

**MOTTO:**  
"DE OPPRESSO LIBER"  
(TO FREE THE OPPRESSED)



**OVER 7,600  
GREEN BERETS  
CURRENTLY SERVING**



**DEPLOYED TO OVER  
70 COUNTRIES AT  
ANY GIVEN TIME**

## PRIMARY MISSIONS



UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE



COUNTERINSURGENCY



DIRECT ACTION



FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE



SPECIAL RECONNAISSANCE

## A LOOK AHEAD

**BRENT COOPER**  
GREEN BERET FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While 2020 was a year that tested our mettle both as individuals and as a nation, at the Green Beret Foundation we are tremendously proud of all we were still able to accomplish in spite of these unforeseen challenges.

True to our Green Beret DNA, the members of this community stepped up and rallied hard to ensure that the GBF would remain the backbone of support for our fellow Green Berets and their families throughout an especially tumultuous year. COVID did not slow us down, and in spite of national lockdowns and financial stresses, we still were able to invest \$1.2 million into our programs and services and serve over 5,000 Special Forces families.



I would like to take a special moment to recognize the enduring supporters who maintained their commitment and loyalty throughout these trying times.

Theodore Roosevelt once wrote that, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing," and 2020 is the year that our supporters proved the worth of this sage advice. You saw this year as an opportunity to surge forth as your best selves, contributing generously in your support of our mission. Green Berets and their families, across the globe, are benefiting from your generosity as we speak! We at the GBF could not be more grateful.

Behind the scenes at the Green Beret Foundation, we were also able to make tremendous strides of growth in 2020. In November, we achieved the rare distinction of accreditation as a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), recognized by the Department of VA Office of General Counsel for the purpose of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the VA. This makes us the sole benevolent organization exclusively dedicated to serving Green Berets that is authorized to function in this capacity, and it has enabled us to move full speed ahead towards assisting Green Berets nationwide with the complex and nuanced VA claims and benefits process. As we focus on further expanding the reach of our service in this area, you will continue to witness the growth and expansion of this burgeoning program—as well as the number of lives that it is impacting.

2020 also did not stop us from earning an impressive 4 out of 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the Nation's largest independent charity evaluator, which speaks to the integrity with which we continue to carry out our mission. As always, our commitment to transparency is ongoing, and we are grateful to the donors who put their trust in our ability to carry out our critical mission as the premier benevolent organization serving the Green Beret community.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all who helped us to weather this historic and unprecedented year; while we hope for a calmer future, the groundswell of support the Special Forces community showed our Green Berets in trying times proves that there is no coming storm that we cannot weather.

Sincerely,

Brent Cooper, Executive Director



# OUR MISSION

*The Green Beret Foundation provides Special Forces Soldiers and their families with emergency, immediate, and ongoing support.*

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**LTG (RET.) KEN TOVO**  
**GREEN BERET FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN**

2020 was a remarkable year for the world by any historical standard; the COVID-19 pandemic created new obstacles and complexities in nearly every aspect of society. Yet, just as the U.S. Special Forces soldiers we serve thrive in complex and difficult environments, so too the Green Beret Foundation demonstrated strength and resilience in weathering the past year's storm. I would like to personally recognize and thank two groups of people who were instrumental in making 2020 a successful year, despite the challenges.



First, my deepest gratitude to our community of supporters, who recognized that while much of society was in lockdown, the missions of our Green Berets abroad carried on largely unabated, as did the GBF's work to support them. While nearly all our annual in-person fundraising events were cancelled, the generosity of our supporters – individuals, corporations, and other foundations – was undiminished.

Second, the staff and all the volunteers that kept the Green Beret Foundation operating throughout 2020 were magnificent. Despite 'work from home' conditions, distributed operations, and all the other challenges of the past year, they ensured GBF programs continued to support the community, while also developing virtual events to replace our planned schedule, often on short notice. It was a remarkable display of dedication and commitment by all; thank you.

With the complete withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan and the drastically reduced American presence in Iraq and Syria, it is reasonable to expect that the caseload of combat-related incidents will continue to diminish. Still, with a persistent presence of Green Berets around the globe in many of the world's hotspots, coupled with a high-risk training regimen, the Foundation will always stand ready to meet emergent needs, while also providing ongoing assistance to those with long-term challenges.

Looking to the future, our board and staff will persist with efforts to examine the GBF's portfolio of programs, tailoring them to best support the broader community of Green Berets past and present. The newly acquired Veterans Service Organization accreditation, which Brent Cooper discussed in his letter, is a key example of such initiatives, and it is fast becoming a cornerstone of the Foundation's ability to provide concrete service to every Green Beret. As a result of extremely positive results from initial operations as a VSO, the board has approved a significant expansion of the program to increase access to these services.

I invite feedback from across the Green Beret community on how the GBF can better serve you and your families. Our focus is to continually work to make the Green Beret Foundation an organization truly worthy of our Green Berets' dedication and sacrifice.

With Gratitude,

De Oppresso Liber, LTG(R) Ken Tovo, *Chairman*

# A NEW BREED OF CHALLENGES

2020 brought a new breed of challenges. The Green Beret Foundation remained apprised of the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and made the necessary adaptations to enable us to maintain our mission focus while also preserving the health and well-being of our network and supporters.

Many of the fundraising events upon which the Foundation relies were postponed or cancelled. The continued financial support of our donors made it possible for us to continue towards the success of our mission. We extend our most sincere gratitude for your willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder with us through 2020.

2020 was not the first time that America and the Special Forces community faced adversity, and it will not be the last. As is written in the Special Forces Creed, "I will do all that my nation requires of me; I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession...My goal is to succeed in my mission—and live to succeed again." Resolutely, as a team, considering all circumstances and using our best judgement as the situation evolved, we overcame this challenge just as we have countless others in the past.



*"The GBF sent help before anyone really knew we were sick. Gift cards for groceries, and expenses appeared without us even having to ask. I was diagnosed in March 2020, the early days of COVID when things were still full of fear and the unknown. After the Sherrifs delivered quarantine papers to our home, we weren't sure how that would affect our income, as both my husband and I were affected by COVID. The GBF alleviated that stress and reminded us that we weren't alone, that we had the entire organization supporting and loving us from afar. It meant so much, and we will never forget it."*

**MRS. SAMANTHA GOMOLKA**  
19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP SPOUSE

# AREAS OF SUPPORT

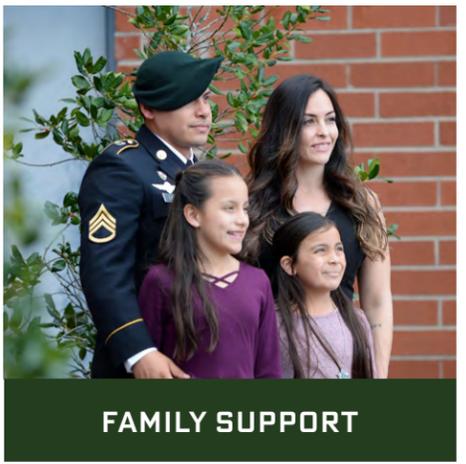
Since September 11, 2001, 60% of all special operations casualties have been sustained by Green Berets. Every day, we honor our commitment to Green Berets past and present, as well as their families, by connecting them with the right resources to prosper and thrive. We believe that Green Berets are our Nation's greatest assets, and when Special Forces soldiers meet powerful opportunities, our Nation's most elite soldiers become our Nation's best leaders.



CASUALTY SUPPORT



HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORT



FAMILY SUPPORT



STEEL MAGS SISTERHOOD



SCHOLARSHIPS



GOLD STAR & SURVIVING FAMILIES



NEXT RIDGELINE® TRANSITION SUPPORT

# CASUALTY SUPPORT

When a Green Beret sustains a wound or injury, assistance provided by our Casualty Support program helps soldiers and their families to focus on what's most important: being together and healing.



## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- A check for \$2500 is issued immediately upon notification to assist with unforeseen expenses.
- A GORUCK GR1 rucksack of essential gear is sent to injured Green Berets immediately upon notification, to make their hospital stay more comfortable.
- We collaborate with military care coordinators to facilitate a smooth rehabilitation process and transition to civilian life.
- We provide financial support for family members' travel and lodging not covered by the Department of Defense (DOD).
- We provide additional financial support for other family needs, such as child care, pet kenneling, and fuel cards.

*"In early February 2020, two U.S. soldiers were killed and six were wounded in an apparent insider attack during a key-leader engagement in Afghanistan. The six wounded Green Berets who sustained multiple gunshot wounds were stabilized at a U.S. facility, and then transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for continued treatment and therapy. Upon their transfer to Walter Reed, the Foundation issued each of the six Green Berets a check in the amount of \$2500 to cover immediate expenses, accompanied by a GORUCK rucksack filled with supplies to make their hospital stay a little more comfortable."*

GREEN BERETS ASSIGNED TO 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)

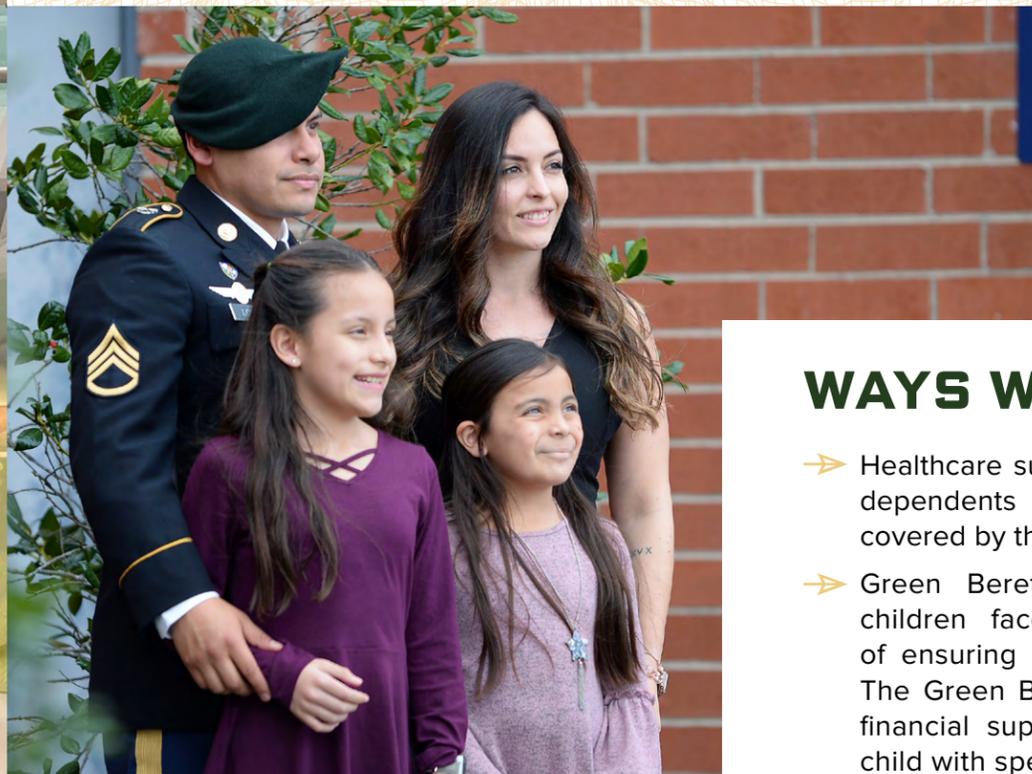


# HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORT

For Green Berets managing wounds, injuries, and conditions resulting from their service, we provide ongoing support through the acute and post-acute phases of their care. The goal of our Health & Wellness Support program is to ensure that these Green Berets receive all of the treatments and tools necessary to thrive in life beyond their careers of military service.

# FAMILY SUPPORT

The first and most important line of support for any Green Beret is the family, so it is critical that the Green Beret Foundation provide advocacy and services to meet the entire family's needs. Our Family Support program offers direct assistance for Special Forces families as they navigate the challenges of training, deployments, and life after the military. The spouses and children of Green Berets bear a heavy load, and often require additional support that is just not available by any other means.



## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- Financial support for alternative treatments and therapies not covered by the DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including mental health and addiction treatment.
- Adaptive equipment, orthotics, and braces needed for mobility, fitness, or quality of life.
- Travel and lodging costs for treatments, including for family or caregivers (when needed).
- Support for medical conditions, including cancer.

## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- Healthcare support for spouses, children, and dependents suffering from conditions not covered by the DOD or VA.
- Green Beret parents with special needs children face the additional responsibility of ensuring their child will be provided for. The Green Beret Foundation can assist with financial support, care, and education of a child with special needs.

*“When one active duty Green Beret was involved in a motor vehicle accident while deployed to Africa, he suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as back and neck injuries. This exacerbated damage he had previously sustained in Iraq, when he was injured by an improvised explosive device (IED). After being informed of his condition by the USSOCOM Warrior Care Program, the GBF stepped in to provide him with essential financial assistance, covering the cost of an intensive physical therapy program to aid him in recovering from his injuries.”*

*“The 15-year-old son of an active duty Green Beret was receiving inpatient treatment for several behavioral health conditions—including suicidal and homicidal ideations as well as self-harm—when the family found that they had maximized their inpatient behavioral health benefits, leaving their son’s specialized care suddenly denied by military healthcare. In the family’s fight to obtain potentially life-saving care for their son, they contacted the Green Beret Foundation to request financial help. The GBF stepped in, assisting the family by providing the financial support needed to get their son back into treatment.”*

SGT. 1ST CLASS ASSIGNED TO 3RD SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)

SGT. 1ST CLASS ASSIGNED TO 3RD SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)

# STEEL MAGS SISTERHOOD

The Steel Mags sisterhood is a national group established as a program by the Green Beret Foundation with the goal of addressing the unique and critical needs of qualifying female family members of United States Army Special Forces soldiers. Steel Mags meet together for support and undertake a variety of training and fundraising projects. They are tough, resilient, focused, caring, resourceful, dependable women who serve to strengthen the Special Forces Regiment and the Green Berets they love, while empowering each other. Their efforts create a stronger Special Forces Regiment and, ultimately, a better America.



## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- Local community strength. We believe that serving others is a very big part of overall health for the entire family unit.
- Peer-to-peer mentorship.
- Financial assistance promoting resiliency to improve the performance of the mind, body, and spirit.

*"I joined the Steel Mags 3 years ago, and since then I have always been grateful to have that support system. We are always there to support each other, and in 2020, it was my turn to be on the receiving end of that support. My whole family had come down with COVID, and during that time, my brother also passed away. It was an overwhelming amount to grapple with all at one time, but the Ft. Campbell Steel Mags went above and beyond to support my family in any way that they could. Not only did a gift card arrive from the Green Beret Foundation to help cover having meals sent to the house, but the Mags—some of whom I had never met before—organized a kind of "gift train" for my 5-year-old daughter to keep her occupied while we were all quarantined and recovering. Even women in our chapter who also had COVID at the same time were thinking of us, dropping things off, and checking in. They're women who see a need and just act to help each other, and it speaks volumes about their character. It truly is a sisterhood!"*

MRS. EMILY FUCHS, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) SPOUSE

# SCHOLARSHIPS

We understand that the rising costs of higher education puts a strain on Special Forces families. For this reason, the Green Beret Foundation provides three merit-based scholarships for the children of Green Berets: De Oppresso Liber (DOL) 1, 2, and 3.



## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- DOL1 Scholarship awarded to the children of Special Forces Non-Commissioned Officers.
- DOL2 Scholarship awarded to the children of Special Forces Warrant Officers.
- DOL3 Scholarship awarded to the children of Special Forces Commissioned Officers.

*"Words cannot express how thankful I am to have been chosen as one of the Green Beret Foundation's DOL Scholarship recipients. I'd also like to thank GBF's donors for investing in my future. This support makes higher education possible for so many students like me."*

7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) CHILD

# GOLD STAR & SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT

Our greatest privilege and most sacred duty at the Green Beret Foundation is to serve our Gold Star and Surviving Families of the Special Forces Community. Our Gold Star Family support begins in the immediate wake of a combat death, assisting with a wide variety of needs as the family navigates the dignified transfer, memorial service, and funeral. Our Surviving Family support often begins before the Green Beret passes, due to injury in training or illness. With sudden non-combat related deaths, we have the ability to react quickly and provide seamless support. We will never forget the service and sacrifice of the Green Berets who are no longer with us.

## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- Payment of funeral costs not covered by the military (including unit memorials, funerals, travel/lodging, and moving expenses).
- Continuous engagement with families to identify gaps in resources.
- Specific support for Gold Star and Surviving Families' children, in the form of therapies and activities.



*"MSG Andy Marckesano, 2nd Battalion, 7th Group Special Forces (Airborne), was my son. Andy was known for and was loved by so many; more than he ever realized. His infectious laugh; his jokes; his high expectations of his team (because he knew and believed they were better than they thought); his leadership going into missions, which he was known for throughout the SF community; his faith; his beautiful wife, Erin; his passion for his family; and mostly how in love he was with his three children—these things were the cornerstone of his life. But my Andy, who never gave up on anything or anyone, gave up on himself July 7, 2020. He had endured so much heartbreak: the torture of war, loss of teammates, and grief over time spent away from his kids. It all proved to be too much. Even after finding a true partner in his wife, Erin—who gave life back to his deep blue eyes—for the first time ever, he just could not quiet his mind and move forward. Now, his grief and his loss have become mine. Every day, I walk and think about what I could have said or done to have helped his mind settle. I struggle daily with this gut-wrenching pain. Thankfully for me, though, my pain has been lifted and carried by the Green Beret Foundation. They swooped in like an eagle protecting my family. They showed me the light at the end of the long dark tunnel that I am still navigating through. They checked in when I checked out. They started the #AndysFund so that I could stand by all the other moms who need the same support for themselves and for their Green Beret. The Green Beret Foundation made sure I had every resource available to me, Erin, and Andy's three children. My grief now has a softer landing because of caring staff such as Frances Arias, who I now consider a dear friend, and Brent Cooper, who I can call at any time, and he will listen and answer my hard questions. Both of them took this broken lady into their hearts and showed me the greatest gift: their heart and their support. I am so honored to be able to say that the Green Beret Foundation helped me, saved me from myself, and did not allow me to give up on me.*

**KATHRYN MARCKESANO, 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)  
MOTHER OF MSG ANDREW MARCKESANO**

# NEXT RIDGELINE® TRANSITION SUPPORT

We know that a Green Beret's transition out of the military is one of the most critical time periods in their life, and that's why we connect Green Berets with the mentors, programs, and advocates needed to make their next move a success. We ensure that Green Berets are prepared and empowered to live full and impactful lives after taking off the military uniform.



## WAYS WE SUPPORT

- Expert guidance to review current military/personnel service medical records or post-service VA treatment records to submit when filing their VA disability claim.
- Assessment of previous service documentation or records for a condition or an injury that could have potentially led to a service connection disability.
- Pre-transition briefings for Green Berets and family members.

*"Early on in the process of learning to navigate the VA disabilities system, I was encouraged by VSO representatives to attend a GBF information session being conducted at USSOCOM—and it was one of the best things I ever did! At the session, the GBF's own Veterans Services Director, John Armezzani, conducted an informative presentation on VA compensation; he then followed up with a one-on-one comprehensive review of my medical records, during which he identified the medical conditions qualifying me for VA treatment and compensation. Over the following months, the GBF continued to guide and assist me with my VA compensation claim, acting as my representative throughout the process. It was only through the efforts and professionalism of the GBF that I was able to prevail with the VA and obtain 100% "total and permanent" disability in a timely manner, saving me from having to spend a small fortune on legal representation and independent medical record reviews. John's assistance, in particular, was invaluable, and his knowledge of the VA process—and ability to relate to me as a fellow Green Beret—made a world of difference. It is no exaggeration to say that John and the GBF have truly enabled me to raise the quality of my life for my remaining years."*

**LT. COL. (RET.) LOUIS "LOU" HOFFMAN, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)**

# THE BOARD

DEDICATED TO THE MISSION, THE TEAM, AND THE GREEN BERET COMMUNITY.



**LT. GEN. (RET.)  
KEN TOVO**  
CHAIRMAN



**CHRIS ROBINETTE**  
TREASURER



**ANDREW BRAY**  
SECRETARY



**KRISTA SIMPSON  
ANDERSON**  
BOARD MEMBER



**NATHAN BUELOW**  
BOARD MEMBER



**CHARLES  
DONABEDIAN**  
BOARD MEMBER



**KEVIN FLIKE**  
BOARD MEMBER



**JASON MCCARTHY**  
BOARD MEMBER



**FRAN WESSELING**  
BOARD MEMBER

# FINANCIALS

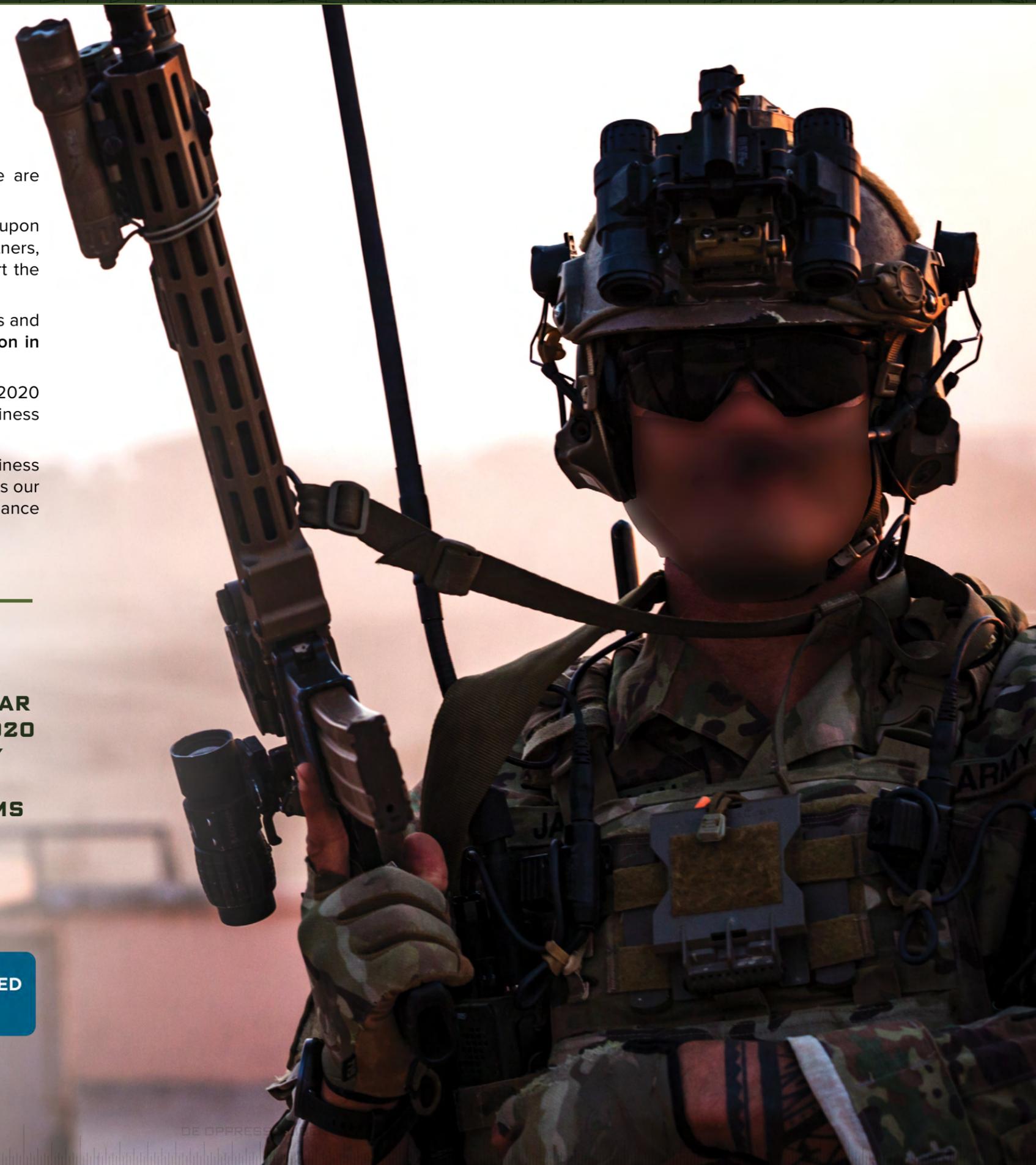
The Green Beret Foundation takes transparency and efficiency very seriously. Each year, we are independently audited by Randy Walker & Co.

Our key financials, including IRS filings, may be viewed at [www.GreenBeretFoundation.org](http://www.GreenBeretFoundation.org), or upon request. We maintain the highest standards of integrity, in order to ensure that our donors, partners, and supporters know exactly the manner in which their contributions are being used to support the Special Forces Regiment.

In 2020, the Green Beret Foundation invested **81 cents of every dollar** donated into our programs and services directly supporting the Special Forces Regiment. All in all, we invested over **\$1.2 million in program support activities**.

The Green Beret Foundation achieved a 4-Star Rating with Charity Navigator, was awarded the 2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency by GuideStar, the highest level, and was recognized as a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, as well as a 2020 Top-Rated GreatNonprofits Nonprofit.

Our volunteer Board of Directors is comprised of former U.S. Army Green Berets and business executives. We have the great honor of having retired Green Beret Lieutenant General Ken Tovo as our Chairman of the Board. The Foundation executes our daily mission under the leadership and guidance of former Green Beret Brent Cooper as Executive Director.



## 2020 AT A GLANCE

**NET:**  
**\$2,527,556**  
**FUNDRAISING EXPENSES:**  
**\$138,888**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:**  
**\$185,179**



**OF EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN 2020 WENT DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT GBF'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**



IN 2020, WE INVESTED  
**\$1,274,571** INTO  
 OUR PROGRAMS AND  
 SERVICES, BENEFITING  
**5,017** SPECIAL FORCES  
 FAMILIES.

FAMILY  
 SUPPORT:  
**\$462,526**

GOLD STAR AND  
 SURVIVING FAMILIES  
 SUPPORT: **\$93,759**



OR **81 CENTS** OF EVERY  
 DOLLAR WAS INVESTED  
 INTO OUR PROGRAMS  
 AND SERVICES.

HEALTH AND  
 WELLNESS  
 SUPPORT:  
**\$405,511**

CASUALTY  
 SUPPORT:  
**\$71,688**

NEXT RIDGELINE<sup>®</sup>  
 TRANSITION  
 SUPPORT:  
**\$241,087**

HERE  
 WHEN  
 YOU  
 NEED  
 US

# “FIGHTING SOLDIERS FROM THE SKY”



## GREEN BERET FOUNDATION

TRUST ★ STRENGTH ★ DIRECTION

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(844) 287-7133 | GREENBERETFUNDATION.ORG

*The Green Beret Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt national nonprofit charitable foundation.  
Tax ID #27-1206961 | CFC #64397*