



**ROBERT
IRVINE**
FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Our Mission

The Robert Irvine Foundation supports and strengthens the physical and mental wellbeing of our service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. We provide these heroes with life-changing opportunities that unlock the potential in their personal and professional lives through food, wellness, community, and financial support.

[▶ Watch Our 2024 Impact Video](#)

The Crisis We’re Tackling

Mental Health. Many veterans and first responders experience PTSD, depression, and anxiety due to the traumatic experiences encountered during service.

Loneliness. Many veterans don’t feel they have the support system needed to get through hardships.

Reintegration. Veterans often feel unsupported and forgotten after returning home to civilian life.

Family Strain. The impact of service-related issues can place significant strain on family relationships.

Veteran suicide rate is 57% higher than national average.

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the past year, I'm overwhelmed with pride at how much we've grown and all that we've accomplished. It was a year that exceeded my expectations in every way, and was a stark reminder of the incredible power created by people working together with a singular purpose.

I've seen countless moments that remind me why our mission matters, whether that was connecting with service members on base, watching veterans and their families bond over a meal, or seeing an injured hero regain independence with a life-changing mobility device. And those are just a few of the ways we've made a positive impact in the lives of the best and bravest among us.

One man's story, so perfectly emblematic of what makes the Robert Irvine Foundation's mission so critical, continues to resonate with me on a daily basis. In 2024, this young man joined me and 25 other veterans on the Robert Irvine Foundation's team for the CATERAN YOMP. It's a tough trek through the highlands of Scotland where you take on 22, 36, or 54-mile hikes in just 24 hours. Out there, as the miles pile up, veterans and service members open up. They share their stories, their struggles, and push each other to keep going.

This man told me that, not long before the Yomp, he had tried to take his own life by starting his car in the garage. Thankfully, fate intervened and the man survived, but he was still at the lowest point of his life. Then came the invitation to join our team. He said it gave him something to look forward to, and that it felt like a reason to live. His story reminded me that you never really know what someone is going through, and it strengthened my resolve to do the work we do here. Stories like this strengthen my resolve to do the work we do here.

In 2025, we expanded our impact further by taking 65 participants to Scotland. This meant hearing even more powerful stories of resilience, connection, and healing.

Every program we run carries a promise that no hero will ever be forgotten, left behind, or without support. Mental wellness is at the heart of everything we do. For me, showing up for our service members, veterans, first responders, and their families isn't optional. It's the least I can do. Yes, it is time away from my own family and friends, but that sacrifice is nothing compared to what our nation's heroes have given, and continue to give, for all of us.

To You who fuel this work, I want to say thank you. Whether you donated, volunteered, partnered, or simply shared our mission, you are part of this journey. And with your help, I believe the best is still ahead. Let's keep pushing forward, together.

As we do, remember the words I live by: *Nothing is impossible.*

-Robert Irvine
Founder, Robert Irvine Foundation



Dear Supporters,

In 2024, we experienced tremendous growth and a renewed purpose at the Robert Irvine Foundation. With your unwavering support, we expanded our reach and sharpened our focus to ensure every one of our programs are delivered to meet the evolving needs of our nation's heroes.

One highlight was the expansion of our Reuniting the Brave initiative. Launched in 2023, it brings together veterans, their families, and Gold Star Families of military units who once served side by side. These reunions have become powerful spaces for healing, storytelling, and shared strength, and the demand for them continues to grow.

We also welcomed Let's Chow into our program family. This unique initiative supports veteran food entrepreneurs while addressing food insecurity and fostering community mentorship. By equipping aspiring chefs with training, resources, and a platform to serve others, Let's Chow builds both confidence and connection, one meal at a time.

Another critical focus this year was mental health. As a proud grantee and coalition member of Face the Fight, we began integrating suicide prevention education directly into our programs. Through Crisis Response Planning and Lethal Means Safety training, we are equipping veterans, caregivers, and families with the tools to navigate crisis moments and support one another more effectively.

Behind the scenes, we strengthened our leadership by welcoming new Board Members who bring fresh insight and steadfast dedication. And through careful stewardship of our resources, we upheld the highest standards of financial responsibility and transparency, maintaining our four-star Charity Navigator rating and Platinum rating from GuideStar.

Every one of these milestones reflects your belief in what we do. Together, we are changing lives, one reunion, one training, and one act of support at a time.

On behalf of the entire Robert Irvine Foundation team, thank you for standing with us as we carry this mission forward.

With my heartfelt gratitude,

-Judith Otter
President, Robert Irvine Foundation



DONOR HIGHLIGHT

OUR BECAUSE

We encourage you to ask yourself...
What's your because?

Why we choose to support the Robert Irvine Foundation

Some partnerships are strategic. This one is deeply personal. The Robert Irvine Foundation doesn't just support programs; it changes lives. We didn't partner with them because it was easy. We partnered with them because it was right.

My wife, Marcey Hunt's because is this exact mission:
To bring peace to the chaos that trauma leaves behind.
To help veterans and first responders feel safe again in their own minds.

She believes in the transformative power of service dogs, not just as companions, but as protectors, interrupters, and lifelines. That's why we stand with the entire team. That's why we ride with the Robert Irvine Foundation. Because this work doesn't just matter. It heals.

This is our because, we encourage you to ask yourself 'what's yours'? Partnering with the Robert Irvine Foundation helps fulfill ours, and it can do the same for you.

To the Robert Irvine Foundation, thank you for standing beside us in purpose and power. What you do for our heroes cannot be overstated.

Thanks to my wife, I've learned the true power animals have to impact lives. Because of Robert Irvine and the Robert Irvine Foundation, Marcey and I can help our heroes heal. There is no greater joy than seeing happiness in the eyes of others.

Thank you for being the best partners we could ever dream of!

-Mick and Marcey Hunt



FOOD

PROGRAMS

We often overlook the fundamental aspect of our health: nutrition. Yet, what we eat profoundly influences not just our physical health but also our mental wellbeing. Research consistently demonstrates the intricate connection between food and mood, emphasizing the critical role of nutrition in supporting mental wellness.

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BREAKING BREAD WITH HEROES

Food also has an extraordinary ability to transcend boundaries, spark conversation, and foster connections. Whether it's gathering around a shared meal or collaborating in the kitchen, the act of breaking bread together is a universal language that brings people closer.



12,790+

Heroes and their families served meals at
Breaking Bread With Heroes

Food does tend to bring people together, and builds those connections to strengthen those relationships in a really fascinating way... you can be sharing a meal with somebody and end up going into a deeper conversation than you would normally.

BBWH participant



LET'S CHOW FOOD TRUCKS

The Let's Chow Food Truck Training Program provides culinary and business training to veterans and military spouses as they transition to civilian life. Designed to empower and uplift veterans, we're helping those with a passion for food nurture their skills in the kitchen and develop sustainable businesses while operating on our fleet of food trucks across the country.

9,230+

Impacted by Let's Chow Food Truck
program

“My dream is to support my family through my own business..and this Let's Chow food truck is going to help that dream come true.”

Let's Chow Food Truck Recipient



FOOD INSECURITY

The food insecurity crisis within the military is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts to provide assistance to those who bravely defend our nation and their families. It's our moral responsibility to honor the service of our military personnel by ensuring that they have the support they need to thrive, both during and after their service.

35+

Military family members received support for their Thanksgiving meals to help combat food insecurity during the holiday season. A grant also was distributed to military families to help combat food insecurity.

"We've got incredible volunteers here today helping give out food to our military families in need... To serve our military families that are underserved in the food category, food insecurity is such a huge problem especially in the military community. This is so important."

-Robert Irvine, Meal Handout Event

WELLNESS

PROGRAMS

Our service members sacrifice their physical and mental well-being in defense of our nation. However, their journey doesn't end on the battlefield. Through our Wellness Programs, we help heal the visible and invisible wounds they incurred while serving our country, and empower them to break through boundaries and fulfill their potential.

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IBOTS AND MOBILITY DEVICES

Mobility devices and IBOTs not only provide physical support but also serve as symbols of resilience and adaptability. By restoring mobility and independence, these devices empower service members and first responders to navigate the challenges of daily life with dignity, reducing feelings of helplessness and improving overall mental well-being.



5

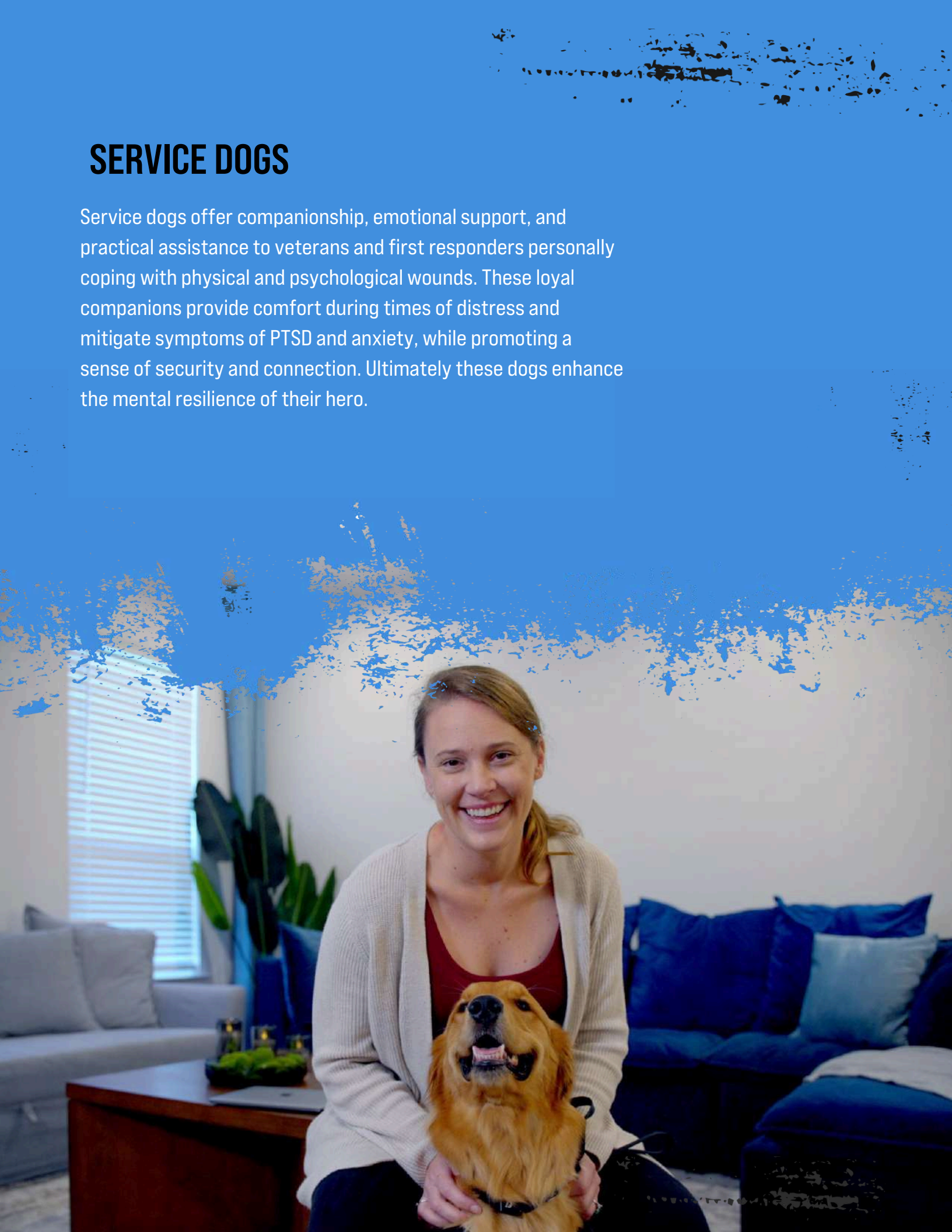
IBOTS provided to injured heroes
(Mobility Devices)

“This has helped me physically, it’s helped me mentally... It allows me to do things in my home I couldn’t do before, it allows me to go out and do things I couldn’t do before like watching my daughter cheer at a football game. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

**Michael Shannon,
Mobility Device Recipient (Ibot)**

SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs offer companionship, emotional support, and practical assistance to veterans and first responders personally coping with physical and psychological wounds. These loyal companions provide comfort during times of distress and mitigate symptoms of PTSD and anxiety, while promoting a sense of security and connection. Ultimately these dogs enhance the mental resilience of their hero.



3

Service Dogs Matched With Their Forever Hero

In high school I was raped... it strips you from your innocence. I was having a hard time and that's what joining the military was about - finding purpose and healing. I then fell into an abusive relationship... I thought I was deserving. Then I was recommended for a service dog. My whole life has changed.. I have confidence, happiness, and be the mom I always wanted to be.

Lindsey Mulford
Service Dog recipient



2,250+

Veterans, Gold Star Families, and military family members
participated in Reuniting the Braves

REUNITING THE BRAVE

Reuniting the Brave brings together service members and their families who shared a unique experience, offering an opportunity for camaraderie, validation, and healing. These gatherings provide a safe space for veterans from the same unit to share their stories, process trauma, and find solidarity among peers who understand their struggles firsthand. By fostering a sense of belonging and understanding, this program plays a vital role in promoting mental health.

“I’ve never been around a closer family, even my own, than this group of men and women. Meeting people my son served with, it’s a new family and it means everything.”

Father of fallen hero
Reuniting the Brave Participant



MEDEVAC PODCAST

A podcast dedicated to veterans and first responders provides a platform for these individuals to share their unique experiences of service, injury, recovery, resiliency, success and failure fostering a sense of solidarity and understanding within the community. Hearing personal stories from fellow veterans and first responders can offer support to those who may be struggling with similar challenges, reducing feelings of isolation and stigma surrounding mental health issues.

45

episodes sharing stories from our nation's
heroes were aired on the Medevac Podcast

**"I hope people hearing this story will help
other veterans to reach out to one another
like Ryan and I did. This was so great. From
the bottom of my heart, thank you."**

Veteran, Bernie
Medevac Podcast participant

COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS

Having community-focused programs is crucial to build peer support networks for veterans, service members, first responders, and their families while uplifting one another. New friendships and lasting memories are made through bonding experiences and resiliency-building events. By promoting collaboration and resource-sharing, these programs contribute to the overall well-being of our heroes and their loved ones.

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RESILIENCY EXPERIENCES

Resiliency Experiences are important for service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families as they offer opportunities for healing, connection, and personal growth. Together, these individuals are encouraged to share their stories and learn coping strategies. Our heroes may arrive feeling alone, but they walk away with a renewed sense of family.

6,310+

Heroes Impacted At Resiliency Experiences

“It’s been really wonderful, listening to each other’s stories - and while it’s taxing to relive an experience, especially when it’s something similar to your own...it’s just nice being there for one another.”

Gold Star Family Member & Peer Mentor





“You’re about to do something really great, so thank you! From a veteran to another veteran, you’re going to love it.”

Robert Irvine, Base Visit

BASE VISITS

When Robert visits the military on base, he brings a sense of home. It provides a morale boost, lifts spirits, and offers a break from the rigors of military life. These visits also serve as a reminder that their sacrifices are appreciated. Beyond creating memorable experiences and sparking joy, Robert always makes time for important dialogues about what it means to serve, sharing his insights on food, nutrition, and fitness which in turn inspires service members to persevere through challenges with renewed motivation and resilience.

7,150+

Service members and military families
were visited on military bases.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Less than .04% of the American population serves in the military. Community Education events are raising awareness about the ever-changing needs of those who protect our nation and their families by bringing local communities together for special events that inform and inspire. By bridging the gap between the military and civilian sectors, these events facilitate collaboration and strengthen the support network available to military members, veterans, first responders, and their loved ones.



“We have a crisis when it comes to veteran suicide. Talking about it doesn’t make it worse, it only helps and everyone in this room can be part of that solution.”

**-Robert Yarnall
Veteran and Robert Irvine Foundation
VP Development & Impact**

359,160+

**heroes and civilians attended Community
Education events**



4
Ambassadors
Joined the Team

AMBASSADORS

Robert is one person and knows he can not make a difference on his own. That is why he's created an outstanding team of veterans, military families, and caregivers to raise awareness about the Robert Irvine Foundation. These friends volunteer their time to help Robert spread his vision. As Foundation representatives, they provide program updates and share their stories at speaking engagements and events.

FINANCIAL

SUPPORT

The sacrifices made by our military personnel and first responders extend beyond their own lives - they impact their families profoundly. By providing financial support to these communities, we can alleviate stressors, bolster resilience, and ultimately enhance the mental wellbeing of the individuals and families receiving help.

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GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Financial support for Gold Star Families is crucial as it provides a lifeline during a time of profound loss and transition. By alleviating financial burdens, this assistance allows these families to focus on healing, honoring the memory of their loved ones, and rebuilding their lives.

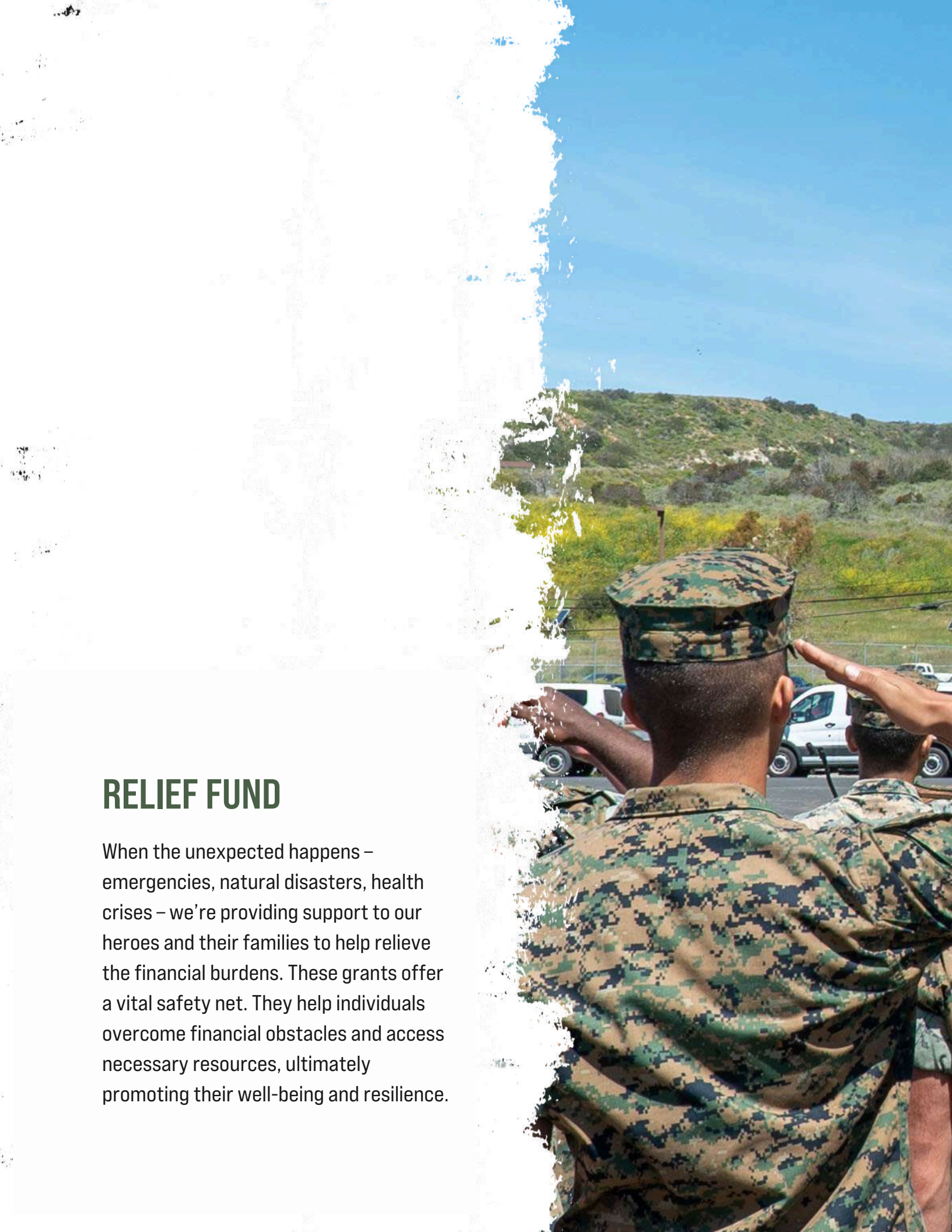


250+

Gold Star Family members impacted by grants

“Thank you for choosing us! My son is special needs, caring for him just got a little easier. I was able to purchase a special adaptive electric chair for the bathroom for Christmas this year!”

-Gold Star Mom & recipient
of a Robert Irvine Foundation grant



RELIEF FUND

When the unexpected happens – emergencies, natural disasters, health crises – we’re providing support to our heroes and their families to help relieve the financial burdens. These grants offer a vital safety net. They help individuals overcome financial obstacles and access necessary resources, ultimately promoting their well-being and resilience.

19

Relief Grants Distributed

“I wanted to attend (a relief event)... But it was in Tampa. My concern was not being able to afford the plane ticket and a place to stay. Thankfully, the Robert Irvine Foundation stepped in and made it possible for me, even though I reached out for support at the very last minute.”

Marine Veteran



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community grants are vital within the military and first responder communities as they facilitate local initiatives that directly address the unique needs of these groups. This support is the fabric of the community, enabling collaboration, resource-sharing, and mutual support among service members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

7

Community Grants Distributed



SCHOLARSHIPS

Children of military families sacrifice alongside their parents. We're providing scholarships so they can learn, study, and prepare for their futures without financial stress. These grants empower military children to pursue their academic aspirations, while honoring their family's service to the nation.

"I am grateful to receive this scholarship, as it not only eases the financial burden of my studies, but also helps me maintain my focus on what truly matters."

Military Child

Robert Irvine Foundation Scholarship Recipient

2

**Scholarship Grant Distributed
To Support Military Children**

MEET CHEF ROBERT IRVINE

Robert Irvine is a renowned chef, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He's received civilian honors such as Honorary Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy and the Bob Hope Award from the Medal of Honor Society for his charitable work and USO tours.

As an accomplished author, he's penned four cookbooks and recently wrote an entrepreneurial book: *Overcoming Impossible*. He is the owner of two restaurants, Fresh Kitchen by Robert Irvine in the Pentagon and on Joint Base Andrews. He's the owner of FitCrunch, Robert Irvine Foods, Boardroom Spirits, and Terra Arma. A portion of proceeds from all his businesses go to the Robert Irvine Foundation.

The Foundation supports veterans, first responders, and their families. By 2023, it achieved top ratings on Charity Navigator and GuideStar for financial efficiency and transparency.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors serves as the guiding force behind the Robert Irvine Foundation’s mission and impact. Comprising accomplished leaders from the military, corporate, and nonprofit sectors, our Board ensures that every decision we make is strategic, ethical, and aligned with our commitment to our mission.

Each member brings invaluable expertise, oversight, and integrity to the table. They help shape our vision, approving programs and budgets, and safeguarding the trust of our donors and the communities we serve. Their leadership extends far beyond the boardroom; they are advocates for our heroes, and stewards of the Foundation’s continued growth and sustainability.

It is both a privilege and an honor to have these distinguished individuals dedicate their time, wisdom, and resources to strengthen the Foundation’s reach and ensure lasting impact for service members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

ADVISORY BOARD

Our Advisory Council is composed of respected professionals, veterans, and community leaders who lend their expertise and passion to guide the Foundation’s programs, partnerships, and outreach. Their influence is profound, offering strategic insight, amplifying our mission, and connecting us with new opportunities to serve.

Advisory members act as trusted thought partners and mission champions. They bring unique perspectives that help us evolve and innovate across our core pillars of Food, Wellness, Community, and Financial Support.

We are deeply grateful for their willingness to share their time, voices, and experience in support of the Foundation. Their counsel enriches our work, ensures relevance across communities, and helps drive meaningful change for the heroes we proudly stand beside.

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robert Irvine
World-class chef and entrepreneur, and a tireless philanthropic supporter of our nation’s military.



Gail Kim
A legend in professional wrestling, she is a retired star of TNA Wrestling.



Dave Jeffries
Dave has been practicing business law for 30 years, and working with Robert for the last 10.



Justin Leonard
Justin currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for Chef Robert Irvine.



Scott Sonnemaker
Scott Sonnemaker served our nation in the US Navy. He was on Active Duty from 1985-1990.



Ramón Colón-López
Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) Ramón Colón-López is a United States veteran who served in the Air Force for 33 years



Will Taylor
Will Taylor is a Managing Director and Private Wealth Advisor at Alex. Brown | Raymond James. He leads a specialized team that serves a select group of high net worth clients, including C-Suite executives, business founders and partners, professional athletes, institutional investors, and individuals navigating significant liquidity events.



Samuel R. Schraer
Samuel R. Schraer is an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, with a focus on intellectual property & technology transactions. He joined the Board of Directors of the Robert Irvine Foundation along with the Let’s Chow program in 2024, after serving as the Chair of the Board for Let’s Chow since 2020. Mr. Schraer obtained his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center (Magna Cum Laude, Order of the Coif), and graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University (Cum Laude).



JoAnne Bass
JoAnne Bass served in the U.S. Air Force for over 31 years. In August 2020, she was selected as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the first woman to become the highest senior enlisted leader in any military service, making her a unique trailblazer and role model to hundreds of thousands of men and women, both in the Air Force and in other branches. She retired from that position in March 2024.

MEET OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL



John F. Campbell
General (Retired) John F. Campbell retired from the U.S. Army in May 2016 after 37 years of active duty service. He was most recently the Commander of the U.S. and NATO Forces in Afghanistan from August 2014 to March 2016. He also served as the 34th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army; the second highest ranking officer in the 1.1 million US Army.



Peter Clarke
Peter Clarke is a Senior Director at Roberts & Ryan, focusing on Equity, Debt Capital Markets, and Corporate Development. Mr. Clarke has over 20 years of experience in financial services. He has previously held positions at DLJ, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Fidelity & Trust. Mr. Clarke holds SIE, FINRA Series 7, and 63 licenses.



Sean Perseo
Sean Perseo served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1990 to 1994, with deployments in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Restore Hope. A highlight was dining with General Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in Somalia. Since 2003, Sean has worked at Sunbelt Rentals, where he is now Ambassador of Outreach Programs.



Marc Roberge
As frontman for multi-platinum alt-rock band O.A.R., Marc Roberge has performed for sold-out crowds at iconic venues worldwide, building a devoted global fanbase. Now on their tenth album, The Arcade (2022), the NYC-based singer/songwriter/guitarist has also built a solo career over the past decade.



Ellyn Dunford
Growing up in the Boston area, Mrs. Dunford graduated from Simmons College with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and moved to northern Virginia, where she met her husband, Joe Dunford. They have been married for 38 years, through 20 homes, six states, three children, and numerous deployments in peacetime and war.



Ryan D. McCarthy
Ryan D. McCarthy was confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate and sworn in as the 24th secretary of the Army and served in the role from September 2019 until January 20th, 2021. In August 2017, he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate and appointed as the 33rd Undersecretary of the Army.



Tim NeCastro
Tim NeCastro is the president and CEO of Erie Insurance (ERIE), which provides auto, home, business and life insurance in 12 states and the District of Columbia. Based in Erie, Pennsylvania, ERIE is a Fortune 500 company with more than seven million policies in force.

Robert Irvine Foundation
Statement of Financial Position

As of 12/31/24

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,123,365
Receivables	\$128,774
Fixed assets, net	\$277,930
Other Assets	\$588,952
Total assets	\$2,119,021

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$241,758
Net Assets	\$1,877,263
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,119,021

Robert Irvine Foundation
Financial Information for Annual Report

FYE 12/31/24

Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support

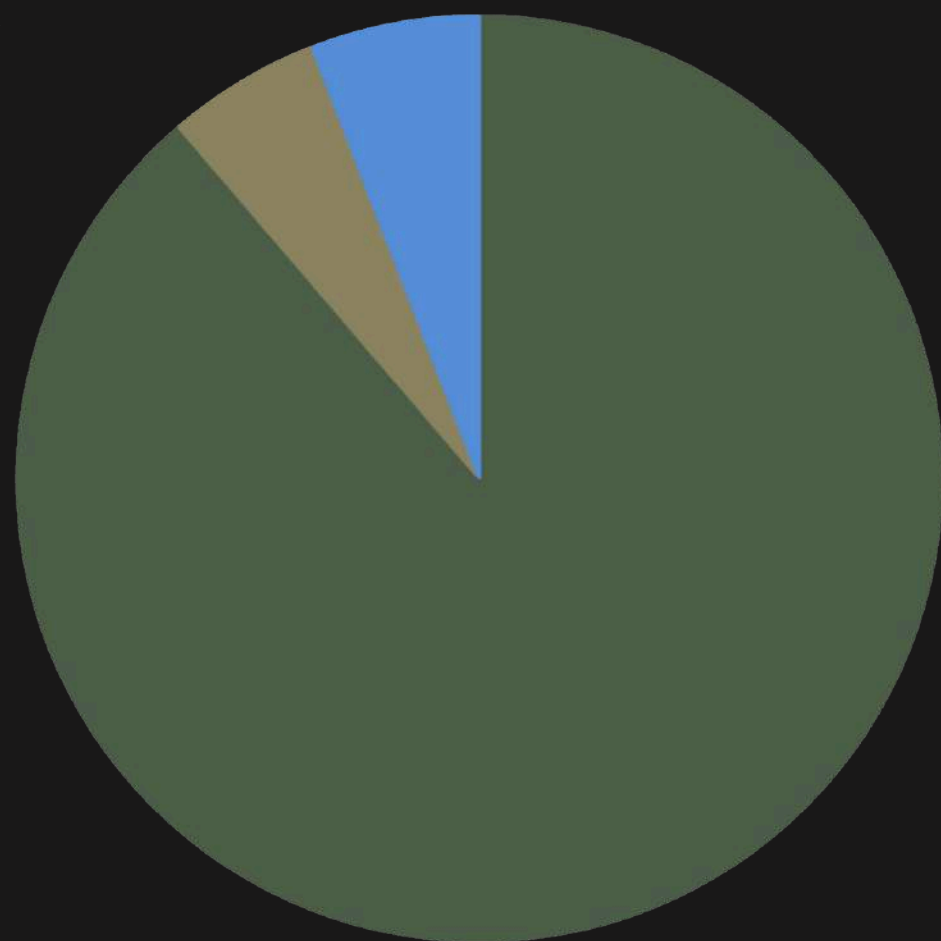
Corporations	\$1,046,815
Foundations	\$1,163,940
Individuals	\$1,118,212
Indirect Public Support	\$21,854
In-kind Contributions	\$421,329
Other Revenue	\$76,205
Total Revenue and Support	\$3,848,355

Expenses

Empowerment and Community	\$1,454,444	
Financial Support	\$365,107	
Food Programs	\$374,151	
Wellness & Health	\$1,073,593	
Total Program Services Expenses	\$3,267,295	89.94%
Management and General	\$158,756	4.37%
Fundraising	\$206,892	5.69%
Total Supporting Services	\$365,648	
Total Expenses	\$3,632,943	

89¢

89¢ of every dollar directly supported
our programs and outreach



Program Expenses	89%
Management & Admin	5.4%
Fundraising	5.6%

JOIN US

Becoming a supporter of the Robert Irvine Foundation is a powerful way to serve our mission of aiding veterans, service members, first responders, and their families, while showcasing your commitment to community and service.

CONTACT US

development@robertirvinefoundation.org

Learn about the ways you can support Robert Irvine Foundation.

[Ways To Give](#)



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RobertIrvineFoundation.org