



KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDATION





## **A JOINT LETTER FROM THE KNIGHTS OF HEROES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Dear Readers:**

In 2016, we hosted our tenth annual summer camp. Once again, between our boys, girls and younger siblings programs, we had roughly 100 campers in attendance. The boys camp was hosted on our very own camp property. The girls were hosted at the nearby Christ Haven Lodge. In addition to the summer camp, we hosted a spring and fall retreat at the KOH camp. We are very excited to expand our programs beyond the annual summer camp.

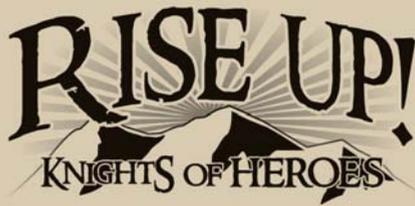
Having our own camp property has been a dream of ours for a long time. In March of 2015, we began a Capital Campaign to fund the property purchase and renovations. Just two short years later, we raised over \$1.2 million. We are happy to say we have reached our goal!!! Hundreds of generous donors made this possible. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported our dream. We would like to extend an extra thank you to everyone at Southwest Airlines and the Freewheel Foundation. These two organizations have been with KOH for many years and have been instrumental in our success.

Over the past five years, the Freewheel Foundation has donated \$435,000 to the Knights of Heroes Foundation. These funds have covered a very large portion of the annual program costs. The staff and riders who make up the Freewheel Foundation have become part of the KOH family.

In 2016, Southwest Airlines honored KOH by selecting us as one of only three organizations to benefit from their 32nd annual LUV Classic Golf Tournament. Southwest donated \$200,000 to KOH. Not only has Southwest provided financial support to our organization, they have also donated airfare necessary to fly our families to Colorado each year. Even more impressive is the near perfect record Southwest has delivering campers and families to Colorado on-time with world class customer service. It is no surprise so many of our camp mentors are also Southwest employees. Southwest hires the same kind of people we seek to serve as mentors for our campers.

We are very excited about the future of KOH. We have plans to hire an operations director who will develop curriculum and begin to open up the program to families outside of the military. The possibilities are endless. Thank you to everyone who has walked beside us on our journey.

God Bless,  
Knights of Heroes Board of Directors



## **THE KNIGHTS OF HEROES SUMMER CAMP**

### **Historical Beginnings**

Steve Harrold created the Knights of Heroes Foundation in 2007. He did so in order to commemorate the life of a friend and former pilot, Major Troy Lee “Trojan” Gilbert who was killed during combat operations while flying his F-16 to protect ground troops being overrun by the enemy in the Al-Anbar Province, Iraq on November 27, 2006. At the time of his death, Major Gilbert was a husband and a father of five children.

The first camp held near Colorado Springs, Colorado had 16 participants. The program has grown every year with 100 campers attending the tenth camp held in 2016. Additionally, the Foundation added seasonal retreats in 2016. All expenses are covered through generous donations from individuals and companies across the Nation (see Appendix B).

### **Mission, Purpose, Vision, and Values of the Summer Camps**

#### **Statement of Mission:**

Knights of Heroes empowers children who have lost their fathers during military service by providing positive adult mentorship, character development, and lasting friendships, which are forged during wilderness adventure camps.

#### **Major Purposes:**

1. To provide mentorship to children ages 10-17 who have lost their fathers while in military service to our Nation
2. To provide a caring and safe environment for campers and to develop lasting friendships among participants
3. To host families with common losses in order to share experiences and build relationships
4. To increase public awareness and ensure the sacrifices of these families are not forgotten with the passage of time

#### **Vision:**

The vision of the Knights of Heroes Foundation is to provide guidance and encouragement to children who have lost one of the most influential figures in their lives: their father. Many of the challenges we face today can be tied to the absence of positive male mentorship in the lives of young men and women. The values the Foundation promotes stay with the campers and help them to develop a foundation in their lives.

### Values:

In concert with the mission and vision are values for which the Knights of Heroes aspire. KOH wants children to be responsible, proactive, boundless, bold, and to exercise leadership. Congruently, reject immorality, substance abuse, infidelity, and a sense of entitlement.

### Future Goals:

**Goal #1:** Property Development

**Objective:** Host the boys and girls program on the KOH property in 2017.

**Goal #2:** Multiple Programs

**Objective:** Host four programs per year by 2020.

### Camp Activities:

The summer camp is the Foundation's cornerstone event. Activities are designed to build greater individual confidence and a sense of trust and belonging among the campers. Campers take part in activities such as rock climbing, hiking, fishing, shooting, archery, horseback riding, orienteering, canoeing, white water rafting, mountain biking, and wilderness survival skills.

While the children are attending the camp, 1st and 2nd year moms and younger siblings are afforded lodging and the opportunity to visit nearby sites such as Garden of the Gods, Seven Falls, Focus on the Family, and Pikes Peak. They also take part in their own schedule of outdoor adventure activities that includes horseback riding and white water rafting.

### Seasonal Retreats:

In 2016, the Foundation added spring and fall retreats. The spring retreat is intended for families who have sponsored a cabin and for recently graduated male campers. The spring retreat is spent working on cabin renovations and preparing the camp for the upcoming summer camp. In 2016, five boys and two families were in attendance.

The fall retreat is intended for families who were unable to attend the summer camp due to scheduling conflicts. In 2016, five families attended the fall retreat, taking part in mountain biking, hiking, the ropes course and enjoying the amazing fall colors.

### Ride430:

The Ride430 is the Foundation's largest fundraising event. Each fall, the Freewheel Foundation hosts a 430-mile bike ride in California or Arizona. The recently graduated female campers are invited to attend the week-long event and assist with the ride logistics, share their stories and provide encouragement to the riders. In 2016, seven campers and one mom participated in the Ride430.

## THE FOUNDATION, GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION

### Origins and Non-Profit Status

The Knights of Heroes Foundation is a non-profit organization and was granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service in October of 2007. The principal office of the Knights of Heroes Foundation is located at 20260 True Vista Circle, Monument, Colorado. Funding and an annual budget are reliant upon individual, organizational, and corporate donations, including in-kind contributions equivalent to monies, materials, or services. Further, five other non-profit “partner” organizations (see Appendix A) work with the Foundation.

### Governance & Bylaws

This non-profit Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors that was first appointed by its founder, Steve Harrold. Thereafter, Directors are nominated and approved by the remaining members of the group for 3-year staggered terms. Each member of the Board is an unpaid volunteer along with members of the volunteer part-time staff. There is an elected Executive Director of the Board, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and others serve as at-large members. The organization’s bylaws determine how the group is governed. Meetings of the Board occur during the week of the camp, and special (electronic) called meetings when needed.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following are the names of the Directors, while specific details on their individual backgrounds can be found in Appendix C:

**Steven Harrold, Executive Director**

Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Jason Ausdemore, Member-at-Large**

Dallas, Texas

**Kerri Hartwick-Doughty, Secretary**

Leander, Texas

**John Oglesby, Treasurer**

Evergreen, Colorado

**Eric Eaton, Member-at-Large**

Crested Butte, Colorado

**Charles Huber, Member-at-Large**

Fort Worth, Texas





## APPENDIX A

### Knights of Heroes Non-Profit Partner Organizations

#### Freewheel Foundation (Ride430)

The Freewheel Foundation hosts a 430-mile bike ride. Participants ride to raise money for a number of veteran organizations. In 2012, the Foundation added the Knights of Heroes as a beneficiary and donated \$50,000 to KOH. They doubled their donation in 2013 presenting KOH with a check for \$100,000. In 2014, they provided KOH with a \$110,000 donation, the largest donation KOH has ever received. They continued their support in 2015 with a \$75,000 donation and again with a \$100,000 donation in 2016.

#### Bastion

Bastion is a community of Wounded Warriors, surviving families, and service-oriented seniors that will assist veterans and families in their recovery from the wounds and casualties of war. The role of community is vital to the recovery and social reintegration of Wounded Warriors and surviving families.

#### Air Compassion for Veterans

The mission and purpose of Air Compassion for Veterans is to ensure that no financially-stressed wounded warrior, veteran, or active duty military person or their family member(s) is denied access to distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or rehabilitation for lack of means of long-distance medical air transportation. Air Compassion has provided travel accommodations for KOH families since 2008.

#### Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. It provides help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles.

#### Folds of Honor Foundation

The Folds of Honor Foundation is rallying a nation to ensure no family gets left behind in the fight to preserve American freedom. Through educational scholarships and other assistance, Folds of Honor gives back to the spouses and children of soldiers killed or disabled in service to our country.

## APPENDIX B

### Knights of Heroes Foundation Sponsors and Donors, FY-2016

Three levels of sponsorship are currently listed: Platinum, Gold, and Silver. While there are other smaller amounts donated, all of which are deemed important and appreciated, we would like to recognize the following individuals for their generosity:

#### PLATINUM DONORS (\$10,000 or higher):

Freewheel Foundation (Ride430)  
Southwest Airlines  
Strive Lending  
Mercy Medical Angels  
Rodan & Fields (Team GiVe)  
Valerie Lacroix  
FCI Constructors  
Kenney and Company  
Trey Christianson  
Sweetwater Family Foundation  
Whiteman Foundation  
My Lineage Inc.

#### GOLD DONORS (\$5,000-\$9,999):

Applied Network Solutions  
Carol and Frank Infusino  
Hansen Family Foundation  
John C. Sapp  
LH and EJ Haynes  
Robert Haynes  
Scott Fawaz  
Stephen M. Seay Foundation

#### SILVER DONORS (\$1,000-\$4,999):

Amanda Smeeding  
BBL Heating and Plumbing  
Catholic Comm. Foundation/Schmidt Family Fund  
DECAMS Foundation  
Emily and John Stuart Rowe  
Erik Kapchus  
Gary Kelly  
Henry Huber  
J.H. Edmondson Foundation

Jackson Smith  
Jason and Kristen Cockrum  
Jim and Mary Jane Rudy  
Jim Ravella  
Jon Rudy  
Josh and Bridget Eickmeier  
Julie Cannon  
Kenneth Jones  
Kevin and Kay Glover  
Kevin Armstrong  
Liza Bergmann  
Marc Nichols  
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.  
Miller Family Foundation  
Minot OSC  
Nancy Huntington  
Patrick Malackowski  
Pioneer Valley USO  
Rich Terry  
Robert Craig  
Robert Winn  
Ronald Sheffer  
Stephen Wolborsky  
Stuart and Emily Rowe  
Thomas A. Biddle Foundation  
Toyota Dealer Match Program  
Tracy Grogan  
Triple S Sales, INC  
USO Council of Pioneer Valley  
Ventress Family Foundation  
Volunteer Impact Grants  
Warren Family Foundation  
Whitney Rooker  
William Doughty



## APPENDIX C

### Listing of Members of the Board of Directors and Background Information



**HARROLD, Steven**

Executive Director

Steve retired from the United States Air Force in 2015 and is a paramedic/firefighter with the Colorado Springs Fire Department. He is an avid outdoorsman. Steve has been married to Suzanne for 22 years and has two boys, Jake and Tanner.



**HARTWICK-DOUGHTY, Kerri**

Secretary of the Board

Kerri's husband, CW3 Michael L. Hartwick, Jr., was killed in Iraq on April 1, 2006. Kerri, along with her two children Haley and Tanner have attended camp every summer since 2007 either as participant, mentor or support staff. Kerri remarried in 2010 to Bill and is blessed to be a full-time mom to her two children and four stepchildren. Kerri loves traveling, outdoor activities, and making memories with family/friends. She is thankful to God for carrying her through life's trials and showing her blessings that come from the storm (one being the KOH foundation).



**OGLESBY, John**

Treasurer

John graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1992. After serving 12 years active duty in the navy as an F-18 pilot, he flew F-16s with the Air Force Reserve until retiring in 2014. He has done four tours of duty in Iraq and now works as a pilot for Southwest Airlines. John tries to maximize his time with his wife Holly and two sons Matthew and Cosmo.



**EATON, Eric**

Member-at-large

Eric has a passion to guide people to live a better adventure. He is an author, speaker, and coach recently releasing his latest book *The Raging Sloth*, which helps people live an extraordinary life in the midst of overwhelming challenges. Eric enjoys spending time with his wife Erica, and their children; Dylan, Jude and Presley. They reside in Crested Butte, Colorado where they enjoy any outdoor activity that they can find. Eric is the co-founder of the Knights of Heroes Foundation.



**AUDEMORE, Jason**

Member-at-large

Jason is a Dallas based First Officer for Southwest Airlines and a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve stationed in Fort Worth, Texas. He loves spending time with his wife Sara, and their daughters Savanna and Siena. They reside in Dallas, Texas and enjoy getting together with nearby family and exploring all of the activities the region has to offer.



**HUBER, Charles**

Member-at-large

Charles is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve and a First Officer at Southwest Airlines. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas with his wife and two young daughters. He is a 1997 Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and holds a Master's Degree in Leadership. Charles enjoys spending his time outdoors hiking, fishing, camping, and skiing.

**KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDATION  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT  
FY-2016**

**OPERATING INCOME**

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Balance Carried Forward (FY-15)      \$472,338  
 Donations and Fundraising Activities      \$628,707

**OPERATING EXPENSE**

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Fundraising Activities      \$7,896  
 Administrative Costs      \$6,535  
 Program Expenses      \$190,484  
 Property Renovations      \$228,166

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TOTAL 2016 Funds      \$1,101,045

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TOTAL Expenses      \$431,081

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\*BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD      \$667,964  
 (Includes in-kind contributions)

*The Knights of Heroes Foundation accepts donations of funds and other gifts which can be used to sponsor boys and girls to the KOH programs. Donations are tax deductible and are used strictly for the benefit of the children of the fallen and their families. To make a donation, the following address can be used:*

KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDATION  
 13395 Voyager Parkway Suite 130, PMB 106  
 Colorado Springs CO 80821  
[www.knightsofheroes.org](http://www.knightsofheroes.org)



## KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDATION



*Knights of Heroes 2016*

Special thanks to



Knights of Heroes Foundation  
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