



KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDATION AND SUMMER CAMP

KNIGHTS
OF
HEROES
FOR EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT



PREFACE

The Knights of Heroes Foundation was a product of successes emanating from an outdoor camp for boys. Those campers had a common bond—each had a father who made the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life while serving with the United States military whether in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom), in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), or from other incidents wherever assigned.

The Foundation's continued sponsorship of a summer camp for boys has resulted in an outgrowth of love and support demonstrated by many. One of the major purposes of the camp is to provide boys with an opportunity to connect with adult male mentors through rigorous activities in a safe, inviting outdoor environment. Further, it allows the campers to develop lasting friendships with boys from various parts of the country. The camp was founded on Christian faith; however, it is not a Bible camp and it welcomes boys of all beliefs and every background.

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 shall be at 15455 Gleneagle Drive, Suite 130, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921. Funding and an annual budget are reliant upon individual, organizational, and corporate donations, including in-kind contributions equivalent to monies, materials, or services. Further, there currently exists six (6) other non-profit “partner” organizations (see Appendix A) which work with the Foundation.

Governance & Bylaws

This non-profit Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors that was first appointed by its founder, LTC 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 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 throughout the calendar year, at the Marine Corps Marathon, and special (electronic) called meetings when needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Tim Swenson, Executive Director
Parker, Colorado

Eric Eaton, Member-at-large
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Steven Harrold, Founder & Treasurer
Osan Air Base, South Korea

Chad Weikel, Member-at-large
Arlington, Virginia

Eric Little, Member-at-large
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dylan Tete, Member-at-large
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chris Coulter, Secretary
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A JOINT LETTER FROM THE KNIGHTS OF HEROES FOUNDER AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers:

The Knights of Heroes Foundation was created in memory of United States Air Force Major Troy Lee "Trojan" Gilbert. At the time of his war death, he was a faithful servant of God, husband, and father of five beautiful children. Not only did Troy's family endure his ultimate sacrifice to our great Nation, but there have been thousands of other families that have experienced the same grieving circumstances since the beginning of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a country and as members of this Foundation, we must all remember that we owe our freedom to these brave men, women, and their families.

The young boys who participate in the Knights of Heroes family have lost the most influential man in their lives. Among the goals of the Foundation is to provide male mentorship to these incredible young men and walk with them in their journey toward becoming men of God. We hope to instill these simple yet crucial tenants: be responsible, be proactive, be transcendent, be bold, and become leaders.

An unanticipated benefit of this program has been the impact it has had on the mothers and daughters of the campers. The program has created a venue for friendships to flourish and lifelong bonds to be established. Further, it has created an opportunity for these remarkable women to share their stories and find comfort in the company of each other.

Unfortunately, there are many boys in the United States who are in need of programs similar to the Knights of Heroes. As these numbers continue to grow, it is our hope to be able to expand and to serve more families. Future plans include the acquisition of the organization's own property in order to have a program with fewer and less restrictive boundaries.

There are not enough words to express the gratitude to our generous donors, volunteers, and other supporters. Without them, the programs and services would not be possible. Their monetary gifts and support allow expenses to be covered including airfare and lodging for campers and other family members. The Board of Directors each sends a heartfelt thanks to those who have provided for this worthy cause.

Let us never forget the sacrifices of those who have given their lives that we may be free. Please honor their families and show them our appreciation by standing by them and welcoming them into our family.

God bless,

LTC Steve Harrold, Founder & Treasurer

Tim Swenson, Executive Director



THE KNIGHTS OF HEROES SUMMER CAMP

Historical Beginnings

The Knights of Heroes first camp in the summer of 2007 was conceptualized by a USAF fighter pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Harrold. 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 oldest two of the children were boys.

The first camp held near Colorado Springs, Colorado had 16 participants. It was funded by donations from many generous individuals and companies (see Appendix B) across the Nation; therefore, each boy was invited to attend at no expense to him or his family. This included transportation to and from their residence to the camp; food and lodging; and costs associated with weeks' worth of daily activities. Several volunteers also contributed their time and energy to the first camp's success.

Mission, Purposes, Vision, and Values of the Summer Camps

Statement of Mission:

The Knights of Heroes empowers boys who lost their fathers during military service by providing positive male mentorship, character development, and lasting friendships forged during a wilderness adventure camp.

Major Purposes:

- 1.) To provide mentorship to boys 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 instill lasting friendships among participants;
- 3.) To host families with common losses in order to share experiences and build relationships; and
- 4.) To increase public awareness and ensure that families with losses are not forgotten with the passage of time.

Vision:

Many of the challenges facing youth today is the absence of a positive male mentor. The vision of the Knights of Heroes is to re-energize men around the world to engage with young men in their communities. As stated in the Book of James, 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts is pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Values:

In concert with the mission and vision are values for which the Knights of Heroes aspire. They want the boys to be responsible, proactive, transcendent, bold, and to exercise leadership. Congruently, they want them to reject immorality, substance abuse, infidelity, and a sense of entitlement.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal #1: Expansion

Objective: To increase participation for up to 35 campers, host 2 camps beginning in 2012 and thereafter through 2014, and establish multiple camps by the year 2015.

Goal #2: Property Acquisition

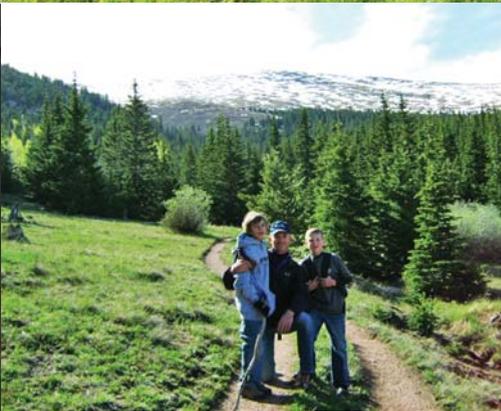
Objective: To identify, fund, purchase, or have property gifted for a permanent camp location.

Summer Camp Activities

Since 2007, summer camp activities have included numerous programs and services. Without volunteers and considerable planning, much of what has been accomplished would not have been possible. While most of the activities have combined physical and mental challenges, there have been opportunities for the campers to simply talk with mentors about their feelings, their accomplishments within the communities where they live, and their future plans.

The camp director arranges for each boy to reach his potential with various outdoor activities. The activities are designed to build greater individual confidence in ability and a sense of trust and belonging among the campers. Arrangements are made for boys to safely test their physical abilities and build confidence through rock climbing, hiking, fishing, shooting, archery, horseback riding, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, white water rafting, and wilderness survival skills.

While the boys are attending the camp, their mothers/guardians and sisters are afforded lodging and opportunities to visit nearby sites such as Garden of the Gods, Glen Eyrie, Seven Falls, Focus on the Family Headquarters, and Pikes Peak.



APPENDIX A

Knights of Heroes non-Profit Partner Organizations

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.

Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in responsibilities of citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

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.

High Hopes for Teens

High Hopes for Teens provides professional flight orientation, training, and mentorship to youth in situations where positive experiences such as flying would be beneficial. The program is offered to any camper who meets the age requirements and demonstrates a desire to pursue a career in aviation.

Journey Chapel

Journey Chapel is a non-denominational church located in Colorado Springs, Colorado and is committed toward making disciples. Its mission is to help people discover God and others, deepen in their relationships, and to deploy to serve others in Christ by being salt and light to the community.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

TAPS is the 24 hour, 7 days per week tragedy assistance resource to anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstances for the death. TAPS is the largest military survivor network and is able to provide recommendations to the Knights of Heroes Foundation for families that would benefit from its program.

APPENDIX B

Knights of Heroes Foundation Sponsors and Donors, FY-2009

Four levels of sponsorship are currently listed: **PLATINUM**, **GOLD**, **SILVER**, and **BRONZE**. While there are other smaller amounts donated, all of which are deemed important and appreciated, for this publication only those names qualify:

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

Air Compassion for Veterans
Schwan's Home Delivery

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

Adolph Coors Company
ASMBA Star Foundation

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

Aspen Coatings
Curtis Daily
David Kern
Dawn Rowe
Dennis and Valerie Mason
Focus on the Family
Gary and Pat Coulter
Iron Workers Association
J.S. and M.J. Rudy
Northrup-Grumman
Smokey Hill Rotary Club
Southwest Airlines

BRONZE DONORS (\$500-999):

Brad Cleveland, Bird Dog BBQ
Brian Tucker
Chris and Sandy Coulter
Community of Grace
Dale Agner
Journey Chapel
Julie Markow
John Roach
Jon and Julie Rudy
Kay and Lee Harrold
Kelly Roach
Knights of Columbus
Mildred Tomkinson
Randy and Sandy Swaim
Royal Order of Jesters
Steve Fiscus
The Nevills
Tom Elder
Trish Johnson
457th Fighter Squadron

APPENDIX C

Listing of Members of the Board of Directors and Background Information



COULTER, Chris Secretary of the Board

Chris is currently the executive director of construction management. He served seven years as an active duty Air Force civil engineering officer. Upon separation from military service, Chris has worked for Alltel Communications and now is in the construction industry building schools for the Academy District 20 in Colorado Springs. He enjoys time with his family which includes two children who he coaches in team sports activities. His wife, Sandi, assists with the bookkeeping and with mothers and siblings services of the Foundation.



EATON, Eric Member-at-large

Eric presently serves as the pastor of the Journey Chapel located in Monument. Prior to the ministry, he was a business consultant and project manager for various companies. His passion is to see lives transformed through God's teachings. Eric also has a passion to see men reach their full potential and become the men that God has created them to be. As an outdoor camp volunteer, he enjoys multiple activities that lead youth and others to reach for challenging, but attainable goals. He is married to Erica and they have three children, Dylan, Jude, and Presley.



HARROLD, Steven Founder & Treasurer

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and a fighter pilot, Steve was the founder of the Knights of Heroes. He did so based on his association and friendship with Major Troy "Trojan" Gilbert who was killed while flying a combat mission in Iraq in November of 2006. Following his death and because Gilbert held strong Christian beliefs, was a loving husband and father of five children, Steve developed the summer camp and mentoring program to honor Troy. Steve has 16 years of active duty military service and holds a master's degree in counseling and leadership. Suzanne, his wife, conducts the mothers and siblings program associated with the summer camp.



LITTLE, Eric Member-at-large

Eric has served in the United States Army for 16 years, is an aviator, holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and is the Space Operations Officer at Peterson AFB. As a camp mentor and board member since its inception, Eric also is an active parent of three children with a passion for soccer and baseball.



TETE, Dylan Member-at-large

Dylan graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2000 and served five years in the infantry that included one year in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom). Upon completing his military duties, he moved to New Orleans and assisted with the City's reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Dylan worked with a non-profit agency called "Helmets to Hardhats" which is an organization that helps military veterans start new careers in the construction industry. He currently has a position with the New Orleans Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness division.



SWENSON, Tim Executive Director

Tim has an eleven year work history with the Boy Scouts of America located with the Denver Area Council. His extensive background in fundraising and youth development through outdoor high adventure activities lends itself to many of the Foundation's summer camp events. As a trainer for the National BSA Camp School Staff and a camp director, his planning and other skills are invaluable to the Foundation. Tim had a Marine Corps background and held the rank of Sergeant. He and his wife, Kacey, are the proud parents of three sons.



WEIKEL, Chad Member-at-large

Chad volunteers his time with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) as well as a consultant to the group, "Dare Mighty Things." He has extensive experience working with grieving youth and adults. His brother, Captain Ian Weikel, was killed in Iraq in 2006. Chad's hobbies include many outdoor activities including hiking, snowboarding, rugby, and travel.



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