



## Operation Support Our Troops-America *Case for Support 2021*

### Statement of Mission

*The mission of Operation Support Our Troops-America is to support the morale and well-being of American military forces by providing comfort, resources, and education to them and their families both while they are deployed in harm's way and after their return.*

### Statement of Vision

*We endeavor to demonstrate to all members of the military that the people of the United States respect and value their sacrifice. This outreach, not just from families and friends, but thousands of people the troops don't even know, helps to support them and their families in their commitment to our country, both on the battlefield and when they return home.*

### Our Programs

Comfort and care packages sent to active-duty service members deployed in harm's way. For these military members we send packages filled with everyday necessities including hygiene products and snack items. Most items sent are donated to us, and we raise the funds to cover the cost of postage.

The Veterans Assistance program helps veterans by providing one-time grants to help with expenses in a veteran's time of financial crisis to provide a hand up and not a handout. Typical expenses covered include rent, utilities, major home system repairs, and car repairs.

G.I. Yoga is modified yoga free to veterans and their families. The practice of yoga helps participants release stress, sleep better, ease aches and pains, and improve overall health and is taught by a certified yoga instructor.

Leap of Faith is a three-day grief seminar for Gold Star families, in this seminar a full day is spent on how to "stay in the river of life" and two days of activities. Family members experience a tandem parachute jump with either an active duty or veteran parachute jumper or participate in dolphin or equine therapy, depending on the location of the seminar.

### Program Services - 2020

Perhaps the best gauge of our fundraising success is the impact of the proceeds on the programs of OSOT-America. In 2020, donations:

- Provided financial grants to veterans in need, offering a hand up – not a handout, helping 10 veteran families with \$12,604 in financial grants through our Veterans Assistance Program.
- Shipped over 2,028 comfort packages (42,617 pounds) of items to serve approximately 20,280 troops. During the holiday season 4,175 Christmas stockings were shipped with total shipping costs at \$70,595.
- Conducted one Leap of Faith Seminar to help Families of the Fallen service members learn grief coping skills with 30 participants at a cost of \$725 per person.
- G.I. Yoga has conducted five weekly classes at four DuPage County, IL locations per week (when allowed during the pandemic). A YouTube channel was added to conduct classes virtually.

### Since Inception:

OSOT-America has had an average program/admin ratio of approximately 90%. This means that nearly 90¢ of every dollar donated goes directly to support the programs of OSOT-America.

### Conclusion

**Operation Support Our Troops-America is entering its 19<sup>th</sup> year of operations while our country faces growing threats around the world. By engaging our sponsors and donors, being good stewards of our resources, and actively participating in the military and veteran community we continue to be able to meet these needs.**

*Operation Support Our Troops-America consistently receives the highest ratings from charity evaluators for our transparency, program effectiveness and utilization of resources. You can be sure your donation is being put to good use.*

### Covid-19 Pandemic Impact

The global pandemic has caused substantial economic hardship for OSOT-America, both financially and with volunteer assistance. Support is vital to help us sustain our critical mission at a time when our deployed military, veterans and their families' needs have increased due to this unforeseen circumstance. Our Program Services numbers reflect 60% of what we normally accomplish in a year because of the effects of the pandemic.



*Providing Comfort and Care at Home and Away*

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