

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018 marked Luke's Wings 10th anniversary of supporting wounded heroes and veterans. Please join us in reflecting on a wonderfully commemorative year.

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#### The building blocks of Luke's Wings

### MISSION STATEMENT

To support wounded, ill, and injured service members by providing families with the means to visit during their recovery an rehabilitation through the gift of flight.

# 10 years of history

In 2008, Sarah Wingfield met Luke Shirley, a wounded service member, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Like many, Luke was taken to a hospital that would best suit his recovery needs, not the geographical location of his loved ones. As a result, his family and friends did not have the means to travel back and forth to visit him. The Wounded Warrior Transportation Assistance Program was born from that very conversation and continues to grow and support families in need of not only travel assistance, but of the emotional and physical support that comes with being present during the recovery process.

### AN EVOLVING IMPACT

When a service member is injured, the government will sponsor just three flights for immediate family to be bedside in the first critical moments. After those flights are exhausted, usually in the first few days of recovery, families are on their own for continuous travel. This is where Luke's Wings steps in, providing families with complimentary airfare throughout the entirety of their hero's recovery. These flights bring emotional and physical support, familiarity, as well as comfort in their greatest times of need.



"It would have been easy to quit, but the wings behind Luke's Wings has helped me soar again, and I would just like to say thank you. Thank you, Luke's Wings."

> - U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT F. (RET.)

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect back on 2018, I am humbled by the generosity of our donors, by the love of country from our service members and by the overall faith in our organization to safely, reliably and continuously transport our wounded warriors and military families around the world.

As it has been 17 years since 9/11, and because no organization can grow when they refuse to adapt, I am proud of Luke's Wings natural evolution in real time, to real needs. Our largest change in 2018 was adapting our mission from "combat injured" to "wounded, ill and injured." This adaptation came after we realized that our original mission prevented us from supporting the many American heroes who are developing and fighting cancer and those sustaining injuries in non-combat zones. With this change, we also realized that not all veterans in need of our services were still active duty and thus expanding to include post 9/11 medically retired or honorably discharged veterans in need of follow-on care.

We have ebbed and flowed through both triumphs and tragedies – as is natural in this line of work. However, as we look forward to 2019 and celebrating ten years as an organization, please know that we stand firm, well-funded and ready to support wherever the needs may take us. We thank you for being a part of our mission and we hope you will continue to support us in whatever way you can- money, time, encouragement and feedback are all welcomed as we continue to grow. Please learn more about our programs and beneficiaries at www.lukeswings.org.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Gill Executive Director Luke's Wings



Luke's Wings was excited to announce the addition of four new members to the Board of Directors.



JASON SICKELS



U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JAMES PIERCE (RET.) CHAIRMAN



FLETCHER GILL



CHASTINE BOBBITT

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11 These are friends, beneficiaries and loyal supporters who will bring a unique perspective on each of our stakeholder groups. With their support, we can continue to look forward to supporting our wounded, ill and injured for years to come.

- LINDSAY GILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LUKE'S WINGS

PAGE 5 "I wish you could have witnessed the excitement and joy your gift of travel brought... without you and your amazing mission, this NEVER would have happened. Thank you so very, very much."

#### - Melissa M., spouse of U.S. army staff sergeant jonathan M. (ret.)





PROGRAM LINES

Luke's Wings proudly serves all generations of veterans, and has expanded as needed along with the change in military community.

#### WOUNDED WARRIOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (W.W.T.A.P.)

Luke's Wings provides flights to wounded warriors and their loved ones so that they may remain connected during recovery and rehabilitation.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (S.O.T.A.P.) Luke's Wings provides flights for the families of our Special Operators who are injured on special missions through the Special Operations Care Coalition.



VETERANS IN HOSPICE CARE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (V.T.A.P.) Luke's Wings flies the loved ones of veterans in hospice care saying their final goodbyes as a last salute to their service.



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON MISSION

#### Luke's Wings has established multiple partnerships to better serve our community.

#### AIRLINE PARTNERS

Luke's Wings partners with these two major airlines in efforts to book as many flights for military families in the most cost-efficient manner.

#### SPIRIT AIRLINES

Since 2013, Luke's Wings has partnered with Spirit Airlines to provide flights to military families, free of cost! With over 380 flights donated overall, Spirit has helped make countless memories for military families.

#### DELTA AIRLINES

For the 6th year in a row, Luke's Wings was named one of 15 Delta SkyWish Partners. Through this partnership, individuals donated countless miles to keep our families flying.

#### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Luke's Wings partners with these great organizations to provide flights and enhance their mission of supporting the military community.







"Luke's Wings helped us just focus on surviving. These experiences have changed me as a person but I don't think I have changed. I think I'm more of who I already was. So when I dive deep inside myself, I love it. I love what I see. When I look at you, if I see any differences, I keep looking further until the differences disappear and I see the same thing inside of you and I love you just the same. Let's help Luke's Wings create moments for people just like us. Thank you."

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Luke's NGS

Heraes Gala

- GUNNERY SERGEANT EDWARD S. (RET.)

## **10th anniversary highlights**

Take a glance into our commemorative year filled with accolades and notable moments.



Wounded Warriors: 431 Special Operators: 139 Veterans in Hospice: 33 Cancer: 66 Other: 41



In November 2018, Luke's Wings Co-Founder & CEO, Fletcher Gill, received the Patriot Award, the highest honor the USSOCOM can bestow on benevolent organizations and their representatives for their exceptional and enduring assistance.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The TGR Foundation, with the support of long-time supporters, Lockheed Martin, selected Luke's Wings as the 2018 Military Charity of the Year. Luke's Wings accepted this honor at a special luncheon with Tiger Woods himself, beneficiaries and supporters.



#### FLIGHT MILESTONE

As of August 2018, Luke's Wings has provided over 4,000 flights to wounded warriors, special operators, veterans in hospice care, and their loved ones to bring emotional and psychological support in their most needed time.

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"Thank you, Luke's Wings, for everything. You helped make our Christmas spectacular! It truly meant the world to have our kids come and visit us over the Holidays. I wish you could have witnessed the excitement and joy your gift of travel brought... without you and your amazing mission, this NEVER would have happened. Thank you so very, very much."

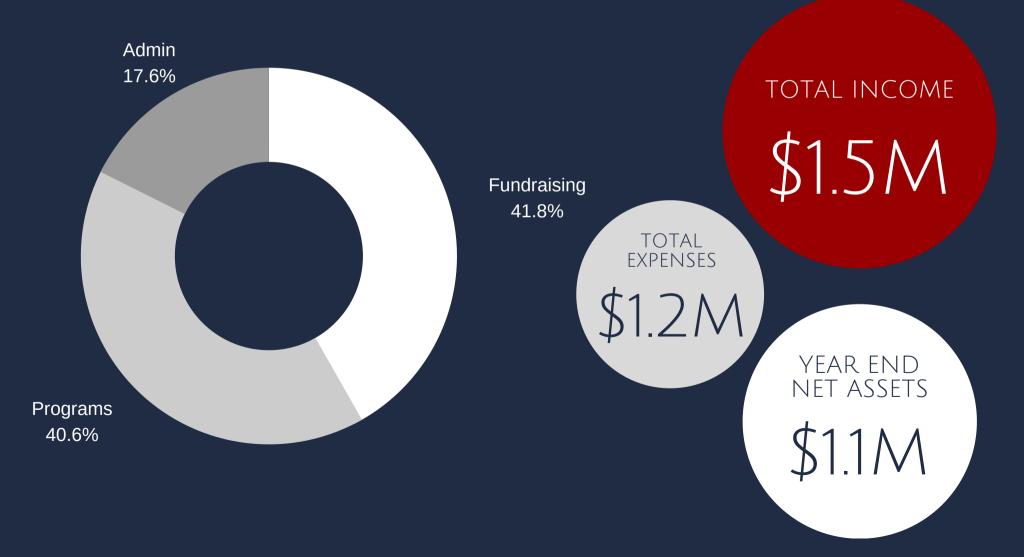
> – DANA S., MOTHER OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ORLANDO S.



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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Below you will find a breakdown of all Luke's Wings fiscal information.





# CAPTAIN'S WINGS SPONSORS

Luke's Wings Captain's Wings Sponsors are those whose annual contributions are \$25,000 or more.

SRS DISTRIBUTION INC. SRS RAISE THE ROOF FOUNDATION DELTA AIR LINES JOHN STIGER FERRY FOUNDATION VETERAN ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS INC. E-9 CORPORATION RUMSFELD FOUNDATION ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMBINED INSURANCE



"My husband's mother has a great fear of flight and for your organization to allow us to fly to see her prior to his surgery has us in the greatest state of gratitude. We thank you so much for this opportunity!"

- MILENA M., SPOUSE OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LIZANDRO M.



# REFLECTING ON OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

In our founding year of 2008, we provided just 19 flights. Ten years later, we are proud to have provided a total of 710 flights in 2018. Below, please enjoy a snapshot of our 2018 and all of the wonderful times we had!

