



Soldiers' Angels Annual Report

January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Patti Patton Bader
Founder

Soldiers' Angels
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www.soldiersangels.org

Tax ID: 20-0583415



Annual Report

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Soldiers' Angels

Soldiers' Angels' mission is to provide aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard and their amazing families.

*May No Soldier Go Unloved.
May No Soldier Walk Alone.
May No Soldier Be Forgotten.
Until They All Come Home.*

Our motto describes the motivation behind Soldiers' Angels. By working together and sharing a common vision of service, the volunteers of Soldiers' Angels provide care to deployed soldiers and their loved ones at home.

Soldiers' Angels™



www.soldiersangels.org

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Table of Contents

Letter from Patti Patton Bader, Founder	Page 3
History of Soldiers' Angels	Page 4
Achievements of Soldiers' Angels	Page 5
Programs for the Deployed	Page 7
Programs for Wounded Warriors	Page 12
Programs for Fallen Heroes	Page 14
Programs for Veterans	Page 15
Soldiers' Angels Internet Resources	Page 16
Soldiers' Angels Store	Page 17
Answer the Call	Page 18
Thanks to Our Generous Supporters	Page 19
Letters From Our Heroes	Page 20
Soldiers' Angels Code of Ethics	Page 27
Summary of Financial Results	Page 28
Volunteer Angels	Page 29



These airmen and their K-9 partners are poised here at-the-ready for their next mission.

Photos provided throughout this report come from our troops and our supporters. Many have captured the moment on their cell phone cameras.

Our goal is to share these moments with you.

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Dear Angels,

This has been an extraordinary year for Soldiers' Angels. From formal recognition for all the great work Angels do, to big changes on the frontlines for the heroes we support, it has been a time of growth and change.

In 2008 we saw Iraq calm down and stand more strongly on its own, while the fighting in Afghanistan showed the continuing need to support our troops. We saw heroes returning with Post-Traumatic Stress and other wounds, and Soldiers' Angels proactively reached out to address their needs through personal support, partnerships with medical facilities, and creative solutions to challenges big and small. And on a personal note, my son Brett returned from Iraq and reported he encountered the loving support of Soldiers' Angels while he was so far from home.

Looking forward, our future plans include a program to assist veterans moving into civilian careers, while continuing to meet the needs of the deployed and wounded and their families. We will need the contributions of every Angel who takes what they have and applies it to supporting the troops by writing letters, manning information booths, donating snack packs, offering their expertise, or sending their dollars. It all adds up, allowing Soldiers' Angels to continue supporting our heroes and their families.

The loving acts of our amazing Angels always leave me in awe. I am so grateful to be part of a nation that continues to staunchly support the military men and women who stand for our freedoms, even in the midst of a financial pinch. From milbloggers to radio hosts, grandmas to kids, Angels are standing strong with their heroes.

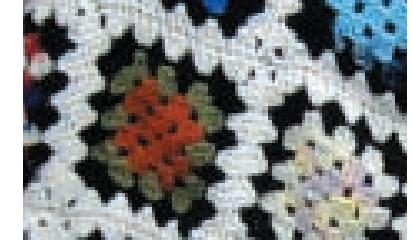
On behalf of Soldiers' Angels, please accept my deepest thanks to all who have volunteered so tirelessly to ensure "No Soldier Go Unloved."

Wingtip-to-Wingtip,

Patti Patton Bader
Soldiers' Angels



Today's soldiers have many roles; from security to humanitarian missions they are called upon to provide many professional services for that they have been specifically trained for.



History of Soldiers' Angels



Many angels throughout the U.S. and abroad contribute their talents towards a common cause that enables our services members to be connected to their country in ways that are not offered by any other agency.

Soldiers' Angels was started by Patti Patton Bader, a self-described ordinary mother of an ordinary young man turned hero, Sgt. Brandon Varn. Brandon was deployed in Iraq in 2003 and during the summer he wrote to his parents and expressed his concern that some soldiers did not receive any mail or support from home. Being a caring and loving mother, Patti felt the call to help. She quickly contacted a few friends and extended family to ask if they would write an encouraging letter to a soldier or two. Within a few short months, Soldiers' Angels went from one mother writing a few extra letters to an internet community with thousands of volunteers worldwide.

Today, Soldiers' Angels is a national, volunteer-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation with over 200,000 volunteers. These Angels can be found in all fifty states, Puerto Rico, Europe, and several other countries, providing support to our brave men and women in uniform wherever we raise the flag of the United States of America.

2008 Achievements of Soldiers' Angels

Soldiers' Angels had its most productive year in 2008, primarily due to the increased financial contributions and tireless volunteer efforts of over 140,000 committed individuals from across the nation. All totaled "Angels" were able to accomplish the following:

The Adopt a Soldier program grew by 22,045 new soldiers, bringing our total adopted to date to over 85,000.

Angels sent over 250,000 care packages, distributed 100,000 scarves, and purchased 60,000 phone cards for our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Soldiers' Angels supplied 2,139 First Response backpacks with donated Blankets of Hope to wounded heroes in Landstuhl, Germany and at Combat Support Hospitals.

By December, 2008, the Valour-IT program, has distributed 3,800 laptops to wounded heroes to keep their spirits high and aid in their recovery.

Over 100 airline tickets were given to families or service members to visit their children, spouses or other relatives during times of emergency.

Soldiers' Angels Ladies of Liberty begins assistance to deployed female service members in May.

Over 75,000 presents were sent, along with 60,000 stainless steel coffee mugs, and 38,000 Blankets of Belief.

Over 140,000 Christmas cards (one to the soldier and one for the soldier to send back home) were mailed to deployed troops.

Soldiers' Angels provided \$4,500.00 in Walmart gift cards to be distributed to families during the 2008 holidays to help with food, gas, and children's presents.



Angels find numerous ways to participate from fund raising activities to collecting of useful items like magazines, coffee, DVD's, and CD Rom's for our deployed service members.



Achievements of Soldiers' Angels^(cont.)



Every letter, phone card, care package, scarf etc. that a service member receives reminds them of the gratitude we have for the important work that they are doing, and that they are not being forgotten.

Soldiers' Angels is honored to have received many certificates and awards for our work since our humble beginnings in 2003. Each award is a testimonial to the dedication and generosity of the American citizens who have been brought together by Soldiers' Angels to cherish and assist our nation's soldiers. On behalf of the organization, Patti Patton Bader has received acknowledgement from some of the nation's most respected governmental and humanitarian agencies, including:

AMES C VAN ZANDT CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), August 2008

"As founder of Soldiers' Angels, her extreme generosity, benevolent care and ardent concern for America's troops, along with her tenacious dedication, have truly made her an inspiration for countless others, thus in keeping with the highest standards of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." - From the Award Citation

Patti Patton Bader was also named America's Favorite Mom in a primetime NBC television show on Mother's Day 2008, sponsored by Teleflora and hosted by Donny and Marie Osmond. The large cash grand prize Ms. Bader received was donated to Soldiers' Angels this past summer. She has also donated the set of household appliances she received to nonprofit Homes for Our Troops, where they will be added to a home to be constructed for a quadriplegic wounded soldier.

Please see our website at www.soldiersangels.org to review archived articles or interviews. To arrange an interview with Patti Patton Bader, or to receive a press kit, contact Shelle Michaels, Media Relations, at (615) 676-0239.

Programs for the Deployed

Adopting a Soldier

Adopting a Soldier is the foundation of Soldiers' Angels. It is Soldiers' Angels belief that soldiers who are adopted have less stress, lower incidences of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other health issues, along with making smoother transitions from the battlefields back into their communities at home.

Accessing Soldiers' Angels' website, individuals apply to become an Angel and adopt an active duty service member. To ensure the highest level of programmatic quality, each new Angel applicant is carefully screened by Soldiers' Angels' adoption unit prior to being matched with a soldier. Angels commit to providing their soldiers with at least one letter a week and at least one package a month while they are deployed in service to our country.

The average duration of each adoption is between six to fifteen months depending on the length of each soldier's deployment. In 2008, Soldiers' Angels volunteers adopted and sent letters and packages to 42,807 military contacts, reaching over 100,000 deployed troops.

Letter Writing Team

This team is made up of registered Angels who enjoy writing to our heroes, particularly to those who would like to receive extra support. In 2008, approximately 250,000 letters were sent to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by Angels on the Letter Writing Team. Birthdays, anniversaries, promotions and other important milestones were recognized by the Cards Plus team members, who sent over 20,000 cards to deployed troops.

Cooling Scarves Team

These Angels sew cooling scarves and sand scarves to keep active personnel comfortable when they must endure extreme conditions. In 2008 100,000 scarves were mailed to deployed soldiers.



People in war-torn areas have so little and have been through so much. The children need food, clothing, school supplies, and personal hygiene items. SOS Kids helps by addressing these needs.



Programs for the Deployed (Cont.)



A moment of prayer is provided just before the arrival of a wounded warrior.

Chaplain Support Team

The Chaplain Support Team provides support to non-denominational chaplains as they provide direct assistance and comfort to soldiers in the field. Soldiers' Angels supplies requested chapel items, special appreciation letters, and small gifts from home that the chaplains give to their soldiers as they provide them with comfort and reassurance. Through this program, Soldiers' Angels reaches those soldiers that may be in remote locations, feeling isolated and lonely, or in need of a morale boost.

SOS Kids

SOS Kids sends humanitarian relief through shipments to American soldiers for distribution to children in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other areas where our heroes are deployed. People in war-torn areas have so little and have been through so much. The children need food, clothing, school supplies, and personal hygiene items. By reaching out and helping to meet some of their needs, our soldiers can also develop the friendships, trust, and intelligence sources they need to help keep our troops safe and secure.

Angel Bakers Team

The Angel Bakers are a group of highly dedicated Soldiers' Angels who bake homemade treats for our deployed military heroes. Each month the Angel Bakers send specially-made cookies, brownies, and other treats to units identified by Soldiers' Angels as needing extra Angel love. They may have been through an especially difficult experience during their deployment, living in especially trying conditions, or in need of a morale boost for a job well done. Our aim is to show our heroes how much people back home appreciate and care about them.

Programs for the Deployed (Cont.)

Operation OutReach

Many heroes worry a great deal about how their families are going to get along while they are away. Soldiers' Angels adoptees often request items not for themselves, but for their loved ones at home. Our troops will tell you, deployment doesn't just affect those who are sent; military families serve, too. Some military families have few resources and limited family assistance local to them. These families give so much to all of us, and we want to thank them.

The Operation OutReach team helps the families of deployed soldiers by providing cards and letters of support, or by donating gifts to help make birthdays or holidays special. Operation Outreach coordinates with Angels in specific geographic areas to provide ongoing support, link military families with "e-pals" or pen pals who know what they're going through, and also provide limited financial assistance in cases of emergency. In 2008 Operation Outreach provided 600 Easter baskets to children of deployed service members, gift cards to 100 families and 167 children for Christmas.

Operation Top Knot

Operation Top Knot is a team of Soldiers' Angels volunteers who provide support to expectant mothers and their babies. Some talented Angels knit, crochet, sew, quilt, and design blankets, booties, hats, bibs, and other homemade gifts to welcome newborn babies. Other creative Angels assemble wonderful baskets full of goodies such as bottles, diapers, pacifiers, washcloths, grooming kits, and more. Operation Top Knot also remembers new fathers by sending "It's a Boy!" or "It's a Girl!" bubblegum cigars to wherever he is stationed. In 2008, Operation Top Knot welcomed 223 children of deployed service members into the world.



Letting go of a loving embrace before deployment is a challenge for our military men and women. Operation Outreach works to extend that embrace until our service members can be reunited with their loved ones.



Programs for the Deployed (cont.)



Ladies of Liberty was brought under the tender care of Soldiers' Angels on May 16, 2008.

Ladies of Liberty

The Ladies of Liberty team of Soldiers' Angels focuses on the needs of deployed female service members. Angels assist with supplies for their unique health and hygiene needs, and help them experience a few pampering moments to rejuvenate and "be good to themselves." The Ladies of Liberty Team has sent 40,000 letters and 5,000 care packages since its inception in May, 2008. Additionally, it has shipped 500 holiday stockings filled with candy; weekly shipment of 25 dozen donuts to a large female unit to share with comrades in a high needs/support mission; 300 electric blankets; 500 pairs of flip-flops donated for a children's mission; 50 pairs of jammies/slippers for mountain unit; 200 bottles of toner/astringent for skincare sent to unit in high maintenance needs; and 200 bottles of face cleanser sent to unit in high maintenance needs. Ladies of Liberty has ten teams that support approximately 1,500 deployed females at any given point through the volunteer efforts of over 1,000 Angels.

Hero Flights

Hero Flights' mission is to serve our heroes and their families in times of great need by providing airline flights and other travel accommodations. When our deployed troops need to get back home immediately because of a death or serious family illness, Hero Flights is activated. When a spouse or parent of a wounded service member needs to get to the hospital where their loved one has been transported, or our fallen heroes need to get to their memorials, These men, women and families have made great sacrifices for us, and we stand ready to assist them at all times.

In 2008, Hero Flights provided over 1,080 flights, as well as lodging for numerous service members and families, and transportation for three units to go home on their pre-deployment leave.

Programs for the Deployed (cont.)

K-9 Support Team

Military working dog teams are very special, highly-trained units. The dogs perform important duties such as sniffing out explosives and weapons, chasing down bad guys, and alerting their handlers to danger.

The most important thing the K-9 Team does is adopt military dog teams, just like Angels adopt service members through the regular adoption process. That means sending a letter a week and at least one care package a month. The difference is, the care packages are for both the dog and the handler: packages can include a chew toys, treats, and hygiene items plus the regular snacks and goodies for a service member.

Operation Birthday Cake

Thanks to a cooperative project between Soldiers' Angels and Bake Me a Wish!, deployed service members can receive birthday cakes from patriotic Americans. For every Freedom Cake purchased on Bake Me a Wish!, a birthday cake will be sent to a service member in the customer's name. Bake Me a Wish! will generously donate their delicious birthday cakes, and Soldiers' Angels will send each one on its way.

In 2008, 928 cakes were sent to deployed service members by Operation Birthday Cake, with a total of 1,381 having been sent over the short life of the program.

Operation Phone Home

Time with loved ones is one of the most treasured things for a deployed soldier and family. With that in mind, Soldiers' Angels has partnered with AT&T to create special Soldiers' Angels/AT&T Global PrePaid Calling Cards. AT&T calling cards are the most widely-accepted phone card in the Middle East, and in some areas they are the only brand that can be used. These special cards include a recorded message of thanks from Soldiers' Angels, and can be used from wherever service members are stationed around the world, on land or at sea.

In 2008, 60,000 phone cards equaling 6,300,000 minutes were provided by Soldiers' Angels to deployed service men and women.



This soldier is the happy recipient of a "Bake Me a Wish!" birthday surprise.



Programs for Wounded Warriors



Since the First Response Backpacks program started, this partnership has resulted in the distribution of more than 15,000 backpacks for the wounded.

Approximately, 15,000 blankets of Hope are distributed per year.

Wounded TLC Team

The Wounded TLC Team is made up of registered Soldiers Angels who want to make a difference and lend support during the difficult time when a hero is ill or wounded. Team members send weekly cards or letters of support to these members of our military who after sometimes suffering catastrophic injuries need to know they are not forgotten.

First Response Backpacks

A First Response Backpack is filled with necessary personal items like a toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, shampoo, soap, and articles of clothing and undergarments that a wounded soldier needs upon waking from surgery or during recovery. A phone card is included so that the soldiers can call their family members while they recover. First Response Backpacks are delivered directly to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, our military's busiest combat hospital, for distribution to our deserving heroes. This program has been so successful that Soldiers' Angels has begun to implement it at other U.S. combat hospitals. The team sent 2,139 First Response backpacks

in 2008, adopted 68 medical units for Christmas and shipped 112 packages in response to special requests from medical units.

Blankets of Hope

To let our wounded heroes know we care, Soldiers' Angels adds a Blanket of Hope to each First Response Backpack. These blankets are handmade by volunteer Angels and are designed to provide comfort and warmth to our heroes in recovery. Doctors, nurses, and family members have written to Soldiers' Angels to describe the healing powers these blankets have had on their patients and loved ones.



Programs for Wounded Warriors (cont.)

Soldiers' Angels Medical Support

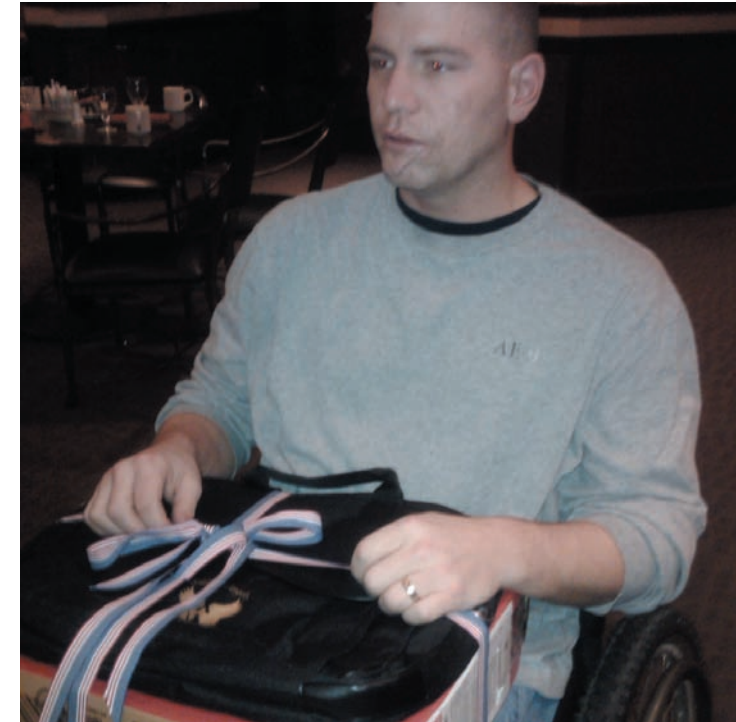
Soldiers' Angels provides support to our wounded and ill service members throughout the medevac process—beginning with field hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan continuing all the way to our nation's many VA facilities.

In 2008, Soldiers' Angels supported medics, surgical units, and field hospitals in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. First Response Backpacks were sent to medical personnel for their patients.

Each year, thousands of service members are medevaced to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for treatment and evaluation before being sent on to the US for further care or, in some cases, returned to combat. In 2008, \$201,909.00 worth of donations in kind were made to patients at Landstuhl, over 275 onsite volunteer service days accrued, and 1,500 off site volunteer hours accrued.

Soldiers' Angels is active at all of the major US military hospitals such as Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Centers, and the Bethesda and Balboa Naval Medical Centers.

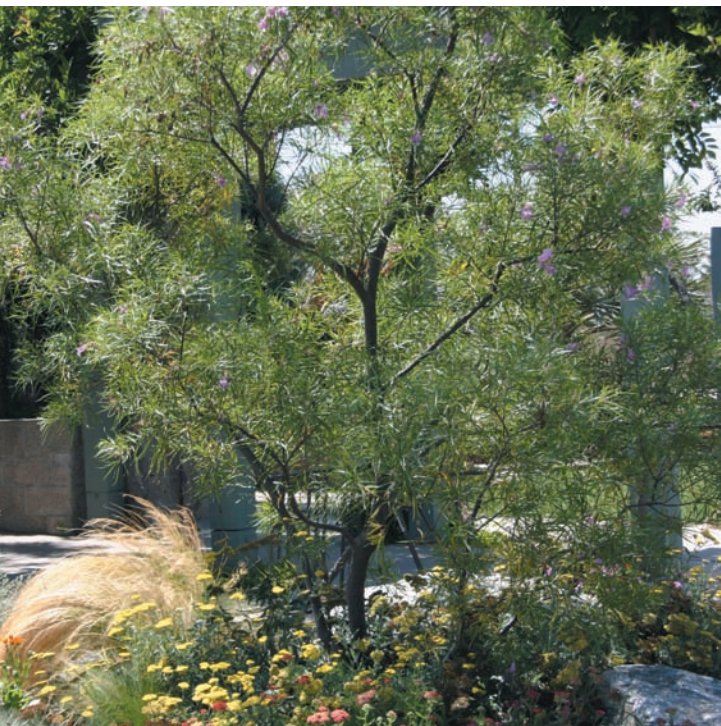
The Tactical Medical Support Team sent supplies, in 2008, to 130 American Medical units in the Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Kuwait and Krygyzstan. On average it actively supports 80 to 90 units at any one time. The team coordinates with the medical units to provide the First Response Backpacks, blankets, sheets, towels, laundry and cleaning supplies, toiletries, snacks, coffee, hot chocolate, DVD's, books, magazines and other items. The team sent 2,139 First Response backpacks in 2008, adopted 68 medical units for Christmas and shipped 112 packages in response to special requests from medical units.



Since its inception in 2005, the Soldiers' Angels Valour-IT program has awarded a total of 3,800 laptops with voice-activated software to severely injured service members to the of 2008.



Programs for Fallen Heroes



Living memorials are sent to families and friends of Fallen Heroes hoping that each tree will grow and flourish as a monument to remember the honor and bravery of their loved one.

Living Legends

Living Legends began in May 2005 with a very small team of seven dedicated Angels. The team lets the families and friends of fallen heroes know that Soldiers' Angels is here to support them and to honor their loved ones. This team has grown tremendously and it works hard to maintain a high level of dedication and sensitivity. Members are trained volunteers who carry out a very difficult mission for Soldiers' Angels.

Members of this special team send sympathy cards to convey our compassion and our heavy hearts to families who have lost their loved ones. Through this program, Soldiers' Angels provides a "Living Tree" to the family of each fallen hero. It is our vision that these trees will grow and flourish as living testimonials to these fallen heroes' bravery and patriotism. Living Trees have been proudly planted at parks, schools and city halls throughout the nation.



Programs for Veterans

Soldiers' Angels is a nationally-recognized Veteran Service organisation. Our Veterans Affairs Team (VA Team) is proactive in reaching out to all Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Directors and works to develop a positive relationship with them to coordinate our services to veterans.

In 2008 the VA Team provided the following items to Veterans Hospitals: 900 Vet Packs; 3640 Toiletry Kits; 1637 Pair of Socks; 810 Pair of Underwear; 2640 T-Shirts; 200 Toothbrushes; 200 Toothpaste; 200 Deodorant; 47 PJ Pants; 50 Baseball Caps; 130 Pair of Gloves; 1227 Knit Caps; 90 Pair of Flip Flops; 318 Combs; 342 Brushes; 540 Nail Clippers; 4 Boxes Denture Cleaner; 96 Denture Adhesives; 104 Slipper Socks; 250 SA Brochures; 1815 VA Brochures; 340 SA Coins; 475 Angel Pins; 10 Boxes Thank You for Service; 511 SA Coffee Cups w/lids; 150 Pair of Reading Glasses; 3260 Empty Backpacks; replaced all cable televisions boxes in waiting rooms for Overton Brooks Medical Center-Shreveport.

In addition, VA Team volunteers help raise funds for items most needed by homeless veterans, and participate at VA Stand Downs. Stand Downs are events reaching out to homeless veterans to provide much needed medical services, benefits information, clothes, food, and a warm shower.

Blankets of Gratitude

This winter, thousands of veterans will spend time in a VA hospital or facility, away from the warmth of home, family and friends. Since we can't visit them all in person, our goal is to wrap 25,000 of these Veterans in lap robes, representative of our support and appreciation, called "Blankets of Gratitude." When a veteran receives a Blanket of Gratitude, he or she will know that somebody remembered them, that somebody labored over a handmade robe with thoughts of them and hopes or prayers for their health and comfort.



Through the Soldiers' Angels Tank Support Program. Veterans can get help filling their gas tanks so that they can get to their important doctors appointments.

The VA Team stocks VA centers and hospitals with VetPacks to assist the veterans at the facility, or for distribution to homeless veterans through their Homeless Veterans program. VetPacks include personal care items, clothing, calling cards, and a card thanking the recipients for their service.



Soldiers' Angels Internet Resources



Angels frequently provide information about the organization as well as opportunities to participate during local community events.

Items from the Soldiers' Angels Store are available for purchase.

Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer community that has grown, and remains connected, through the Internet. Our organization's website is our face to the world, and the main way in which our volunteer Angels and soldiers become involved with our mission. At www.soldiersangels.org one will find detailed information about our programs, how to become an Angel, and an online store at which one may purchase gifts or supplies for soldiers, veterans, or oneself.

Our website is also a community service of Soldiers' Angels. Through our site, the public can discover other service organizations and companies helping our active troops find links to news agencies covering the war on terror and international events, find support groups and other resources for soldiers or veterans in need, and listings of blogs that cover a wide range of topics of importance to those in the service, as well as to their friends and families at home.

Soldiers' Angels' website also features a job listing service for members of the Military Community network. Here, military friendly employers from across the nation post positions suitable for those returning home after a tour of duty.



Soldiers' Angels Store

Soldiers' Angels Store is an online service that provides blankets, care packages, pins, coins, publications, and collectibles for our soldiers, their families, volunteer Angels, and veterans. All purchases made on this site are considered donations to Soldiers' Angels. These contributions go directly to supporting our vital mission, and are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. To shop at the Soldiers' Angels Store, please visit our website at www.angelsstore.org.

Publications

Published in 2007, *May No Soldier Go Unloved* is the first book in a series that chronicles the history of Soldiers' Angels. Written by Jeff Bader, husband of Patti Patton Bader who founded Soldiers' Angels, this book centers on how the organization started and the mission it set forth. It is available for purchase at the online Soldiers' Angels Store.

Soldiers' Angels also published *May No Soldier Be Forgotten* in 2007. This book is a collection of letters of gratitude sent by staff from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Fisher House Foundation, and related veterans associations from throughout the nation. The letters are a testimonial to the impact being made by Soldiers' Angels at medical centers, hospitals, and most importantly in the lives of those who so bravely served our country. Copies of this publication are available through the Soldiers' Angels online store.



Since February 2007, Soldiers' Angels has shipped over 229 presentation canes for the Eagle Cane Project nationwide, as well as several boxes of therapy canes for use in rehabilitation facilities.

Soldiers' Angels Camouflage Bears are perfect for the children of our heroes, or for our female soldiers on mother's day. They are available online at the Soldiers' Angels Store.



Answer the Call

Soldiers' Angels has many opportunities available for you to get involved in supporting our troops. Adopting a soldier through Soldiers' Angels is a great way to get personally involved in supporting our troops. In addition, Soldiers' Angels has quite a few teams that specialize in fulfilling a specific need for our troops. By joining one or more of our teams you too can get involved in sending handmade blankets to the wounded, supporting our military chaplains, helping our soldiers distribute toys and clothing to children in Iraq and Afghanistan, sending special cards to soldiers and much more. Visit our website at www.soldiersangels.org to learn more about what you need to do to get started today.

You also can help Soldiers' Angels fulfill the goals of our many projects and operations by making a donation. Each donation, no matter how large or small, will help provide comfort and aid to our troops. Along with financial donations you can also donate stock, your cellphone, air miles, care package items and much more. Visit the donations page on our website for more information.

Our success comes from the culmination of spirit, goodwill and the need to help those who are very deserving.

Anyone who wishes to contribute in any form, will receive in return the knowledge that they are part of a significant, successful and giving organization.



Thanks to our Many Generous Supporters!

Soldiers' Angels gratefully recognizes the generosity of the many individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations who gave gifts. Each of these contributions has enabled Soldiers' Angels to accomplish our mission to care for our deployed soldiers and their families, as well as to honor our fallen heroes.

These gifts have allowed us to expand our services to veterans throughout the year.

Although space does not permit us to list the many individuals and organizations who contributed, we wish to thank them for their support.



On behalf of our Servicemen and Women we know that any gift, no matter how small, is truly appreciated.



Some Letters From Our Heroes



Everyday Soldiers' Angels receives numerous letters and certificates from our heroes expressing appreciation for all that our Angels do throughout the year. Each letter, certificate and memento received is read, appreciated and sent to the Soldiers' Angels museum for proper displaying and archiving.

Throughout the year, Soldiers' Angels is humbled by the amount of letters thanking our angels for all that they do and most importantly, for all their love and support. The following is a small sample of what we receive.

Letter writing Team—

I had never heard of Soldiers Angels before my friend signed me up for it, but after receiving five letters in one day I have to say I'm incredibly touched. I never imagined there were so many caring individuals who would take time to write to people they've never met. It's been interesting reading the letters people have sent, giving me a peek into their lives. One woman wrote of her journey to get fit, culminating in a bike ride through the Great Smoky Mountains. One shared how she and her grandson are mapping where soldiers are from and how much they enjoy the project. One woman even served herself, retiring in the second highest rank! It's all everyday stuff, but I feel special knowing it's been shared with me. - Connie D

Angel Baking Team—

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The generosity you've all shown to me and my Airman has been nothing short of miraculous. Over the past six months we have been pampered by all of our Angels. The gifts, cards, snacks, cookies...don't let me get started on the cookies-cakes-brownies-treats!

I have been an Air Force 1st Sergeant for more than five years and have been all over the world. Our American Airmen have been welcomed and appreciated in every corner of this globe, but I cannot remember when the support from home has been as overwhelming as it has been since Soldiers' Angels and Angel Bakers stepped in. You helped me do my job, taking care of my Airmen, in a way in which I could have NEVER done by myself. I love you for all you've done for me and especially all you've done, and will continue to do, for my Airmen.

- SMSgt Mann

Adoptions Team—

*When I get a box (or anyone else gets a box) its hard to describe. You find a nice quiet corner and everyone knows not to bother you. You sit there and look over the box as if you had never seen anything like it before. You read who it's from, and a smile crosses your face—you recognize the name. You might already know what's inside, but it does not matter. Some tear it open as fast as they can, others take their time and enjoy every second of it. Once inside, you go through it, every little item once, twice, sometimes three times. It's a very delicate process. You breathe it in and you think of the person who sent it to you. You think of home, family, cars, summer—everything all at once. And for a very short time, you are there away from this SH*T hole. You are grateful. Then you look around and there's always a buddy who is down or having a bad day. You share your box—sometimes just with the one guy, sometimes with everyone—and it's electric. Everyone catches that feeling, and we start talking about home, about things we miss, things we are going to do when we get back, and the heaviness of the day lifts and it's not so bad.*

...It's not the "things" that are sent that matter to us, it's the thought. That's the power ALL of you have who take the time to send things. You can change the worst day into the best day, in a split second. - MP in Iraq

Operation Mary Kay—

Thank you for your generous donation of Mary Kay sun care products. They have been flying off the shelf. We provided our resident Medical Clinic with a box and they have run out. Your donation arrived at a perfect time, during the heat of summer. I am one of the lucky ones who conduct the majority of my business inside an air-conditioned building. As soon as I walk outside the heat slaps me in the face. We have offered these products to our mechanics and troops conducting patrols and they are eagerly accepted.

I am the Chaplain Assistant for the 1st Battalion 64th Armor Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division stationed out of Ft Stewart Georgia. We are currently serving in Iraq. This is significant because our unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for being the 1st unit to invade Baghdad in 2003. As part of the "surge" we plan to continue the tradition of doing remarkable things here in this region.

Thank You so much for the wonderful package. I was surprised to see Mary Kay products, which are my absolute favorite. Thank you so much for ?thinking of us and keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. We are so very honored by our Soldiers' Angels. Everything that you sent was wonderful. I don't think I have received such a wonderful care package before—with all really great necessities, and of course girl scout cookies, which are a great hit with all of our Soldiers. ??You have brought a little extra sunshine to my day today. Being a female over here it is really hard to get the nice girly things like Mary Kay Products and be able to enjoy the little things in life that I know I take for granted when we are home. Thank you so much for all of your support through your gracious gift!

May God Bless and keep you may his face shine upon you today and everyday!

Thank You,, SGT GATZKE 02/2008



Ladies Of Liberty—

I cannot thank you enough for the amazing boxes of surprises and multiple letters I've received from your incredible organization. With each letter and box I am so overwhelmed with emotion that someone I don't even know can express such kindness towards me...With profound heartfelt gratitude, Major Bower, U.S. Army

You are all doing great things for us, in The States. We really appreciate all of your support. People like you are why we serve and protect. - CW3 Graves

I have been receiving the most wonderful packages for over a month now from Soldiers' Angels and I just wanna say that it truly is a blessing to open the cards and the letters and all of the boxes. I love the letters.They make me soo happy. I even got birthday cards for my 19th b-day in the mail! It almost brought me to tears. I was so thankful, so I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of the Angels for all of their wonderful support, and if i could take pictures I would.Thank you soo, soo much. - PVT Cassandra

Thank you sooo much for the care package.The lotion and Chapstick are amazing; the air is so dry here it is unbelievable!The whole package was amazing. I can use all of it.The BX is all geared around males. When we were working on Ladies of Liberty I knew it was important, but I have a whole new appreciation for it.Being on this side and waiting for the mail to arrive, and receiving the letters from all the Soldiers' Angels is the highlight of my day.It definitely makes a difference. I love every single letter I get! It makes being separated from family and friends a lot less heartbreaking. - Megan

You are indeed the true essence of what our country stands for.You have supported me and my fellow comrades with your wonderful gestures of kindness and words of encouragement. I have no doubt that your support carried not only me, but my entire team through this deployment. With each card or box that arrived it reminded us that the fight we fight is not in vain, that our efforts do not go unnoticed. It is my prayer that you are blessed for all that you do for your military men and women in uniform, for you have truly been a blessing to us.As we head back to our homes and families in the coming weeks you will remain in our heart, thoughts and prayers and forever a part of our military journey.Take care and Thank you. - Kea

Scarves Team—

I just received a huge box of sand scarves and socks, how awesome is that - I want to thank you all for your well-wishings, your support and your cards, it really means a lot to us that so much of America is supporting us.Thanks so much, and Happy New Year. (those sand scarves are so awesome!!!!) - MSG Randy

The Scarves Team makes Sand Scarves and Cool Scarves for our troops deployed to the "Sandbox." These scarves protect the wearer from the elements, increasing their comfort level, safety and ability to focus on their work. They are simple and easy to create, but soldiers who receive them report that they make a huge difference!

Wow! More cooling ties/scarves. I love it!!!!!!! You are making so many troops feel so cool in this hot weather we have. Believe me, I am the proudest Soldiers' Angel ever.You all are so great! - Msgt Bob



Would like to thank you for the shipment I received with the coffee pots and sand scarves. My entire unit sends their thanks as well. We received the shipment last night and immediately put the sand scarves to use. It was a blessing being able to work on our aircraft without eating sand. I would have never thought of this resource had you not mentioned it, so again I would like to thank you for all you have done to make life a little easier while we are away from home. On behalf of my unit and myself, we truly appreciate everything you have done for us. Thank you. - AEI Under

You all have sent me the perfect package. I have never received a pack like the one I got from you. I would like to first say thank you very much it means so much to my Soldiers and me. I am a squad leader in the [military police]. I have 12 Soldiers that fall under me that I share all care packages with.The neck coolers were a great idea, and already being used so early in the deployment. It is getting hot here quick. If you can send more boxes like these, it would be perfect....To all of you who make this possible,Thank You. From all of us here in Iraq, God bless you. - SSG Robert

Operation Birthday Cake—

AMAZING. I do not know HOW you did this BUT my son got a cake on his birthday!!! ...We did talk through Instant Messenger and he told me HE GOT A CAKE...Thank you so much for making his 22nd birthday a special one. Plus, he said the cake was really good!!! Regards, Rene (SPC Jonathan's Mom)

I was very surprised when I got the package in the mail. Unfortunately I did not get any pictures to send you because I made the mistake of opening the gifts in front of a room full of hungry Airman. Needless to say for a brief time I was very popular.And for that time we all were in heaven eating the great cake you sent me. But the most important thing is that we all felt that people remember us and care about what we are trying to do here...People like you back home are making a huge difference for us by doing what you do. I can not thank you and everyone involved enough.You definitely made my Birthday one to remember over here.

Thank you. - Edward

I want to thank you for your service to me and all the Soldiers I serve and serve with. I have been a Soldier for more than 23 years and I am on my second tour to Iraq. I am on a Transition Team that Advises the Iraqi National Police. [My wife] and I have been married for more than 19 years. This cake was one of the most thoughtful things she has ever done for me; she went out of her way to make my day a little better, it was a lot better. I know it seems like a little thing, but it was really a big thing to me. We don't live on a FOB (Forward Operating Base); we live on a small camp with 400 Iraqis in the Southwest sector of Baghdad called Douraor East Rasheed.The cake was delicious. I shared with my team, my interpreter and my counterpart, Colonel Assim of the Iraqi National Police. Again, thank you for what you do for me and all the Service members. Respectfully, Major S.



Operation Outreach—

I don't know what to say. I'm at a loss for words. I don't know how to thank you enough for the things you have done to help my family... [My wife] received two packages from you all and she was extremely happy when I got off the phone. Being apart is hard and it is great to have people that understand that the families of soldiers go through as much if not more than we do....Thanks for everything! - DT

Thank you for giving my address & e-mail out to such wonderful people!! Yesterday I received a letter from J and an email from M. It is funny how I got both on the same day. I emailed M back and like I told her, she is the first military wife I ever had contact with. She gave me great info and a personal look about what military families go through once the spouse gets. Hearing from these two wonderful ladies was like a blessing.. I am so thankful I came across your way!! - NC (a military spouse)

Hey! I talked to my mom today. She said someone contacted her about the soldiers' angels. She said that would be really neat. She doesn't know any other people who have a soldier in the military. Now she can have people to talk to about her situation. Very cool. Thank you again. - MM

...I wanted to thank you so much for helping make my family's Easter so great. My wife is still in awe in all the cards, letters, emails, and boxes of stuff they have received! She has met so many friends on line and have a real connections with some of them. One lady's husband happens to be in my career field which is really small! So thank you so much!... - Todd

Operation Top knot—

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Receiving your baby care package in the mail was such a surprise. It brought a tear to my eye, and a smile to my face to know that such an extraordinary group of crafters is thinking of our troops and their families. Thanks for your continued support. -Amy and Baby Cort

We had just moved here, and didn't really know anyone around here or have family close by, before my husband left for Iraq. Opening the mailbox and finding a package from someone you don't know, but cares enough to think about you, is one of the best feelings. We had a beautiful baby girl, that can't wait till she gets the chance to meet her daddy, hopefully soon. I'm a proud army wife, and very thankful that there are people who can take a stranger and fill their heart with such warmth. - Nikki

I just want to thank you so much for all you did while I was pregnant with our little bear and after he was born. The delivering Doctor dropped my son right when he was born so he had & has some issues. My husband was in combat and it was a horrible time for our family. But low and behold God's sparkling twilight shone upon our family with cigars sent to my husband in Afghanistan and gifts showing up at our door step for our new baby boy! During one of the most horrible times of our lives, which should have been the best, your group made it fun, exciting and helped us keep our smiles and appreciating all of our blessings. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!!! - M



Please tell all those that are in the Soldiers' Angels organization that I greatly respect them, and greatly appreciate what they have done for me and my family and for all the soldiers of all branches. You and people like you help remind us everyday what and why we are fighting for. I can't express enough in words how happy and grateful I am for the crib you sent to me. All I can say is that it brought tears to my eyes that American People that I have never met stand behind me and support me even though they have never met me. Thank you so very much, and when the baby comes I'll send you a picture of her. - Andrew

THANK YOU so much for all the wonderful gifts you sent my son! My husband is overseas...It was amazing to go out to the mailbox and get such wonderful, thoughtful gifts from people who didn't even know us but wanted to recognize my family's sacrifice! It was such a great feeling to know that you all thought we were special enough to get recognition! Thank You so much! - KG

K-9 Support Team—

Thank you and all my love to your organization for the love and support you all have sent to me, my husband, his working dog, and all our soldiers and working dogs here at FOB Warhorse, Iraq. Time goes by, but you all stick in our minds for what you do for us...We have gotten things to make the working dogs smell better, their teeth brighter, books I handed out to my fellow soldiers, letters that just make our days. I love to get them and I love to send them, and I have made some wonderful friends, just wonderful. I adore them...thank you for all you ALL do for us. It take big hearts from strangers to make all this make sense to us. - SPC Julie

Thank you very much again for all of your support that you have provided, and will provide in the future. It's good to know there are people like you that haven't forgot our four-legged soldiers fighting just as hard as the rest of us.

I do not know how I've never run across the Soldier's Angel Website before. I'm a member of the Patriot Guard and a father of a K-9 handler stationed in Baghdad, Iraq...He is on his 5th trip to the middle east and 2nd trip into combat. I just wanted to say how I appreciate your efforts in supporting the K-9 troops in combat. Thanks for your effort and support.

Cards Plus—

Thank you for your support for the past year...Letters and packages from you and your organization have helped to make my time here more bearable, knowing someone at home appreciates what people like me sacrifice by leaving our families to fight for what we believe. Please continue to support the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines that are deployed around the world. You are part of the reason we wear our uniforms with pride for our great country. May God Bless You All! - Vern D (in Iraq)



I am PFC Kristopher K and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards you have sent me while I was deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2007. Over the months I have endured much and after news got back to me that I would stay in Iraq for another three months, it was a tough pill to swallow. However, I would like you to know that your efforts in aiding not only me but others as well who found themselves in a similar position as I have brought a great benefit and relief to know that even though we found ourselves in a dangerous and unfamiliar land, there were people back home who were thinking of us. While they may not have been known family or friends, I personally am grateful for the expression of thanks and concern brought forth by your efforts and others who back in the United States.

Thank you again for you dedication and best wishes. With Warm Regards, Kristopher K

VA Crochet & Craft Team—

I am sitting here all toasty and warm because someone cared enough to make these booties. I love the lap blanket and booties I was given in the VA hospital. The idea that someone sat and made those items means the world to me. Thank you so very much. - Charlotte

I received one of your beautiful red crochet blankets while I was in the VA hospital. I'm a Knitter; could you send me a knitting pattern for a blanket? The blanket was such a comfort to me while I recovered from surgery. The lady who knitted it was named Marie. Thank her for me. - Chris

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful lap robes your members have sent to Virginia Veterans Care Center!...Just wanted you to know how much we appreciate your gifts and how happy it made our guys!!! Thanks again and God bless! - Patti

On behalf of the hospitalized veterans and medical staff of the John D. Dingell V A Medical Center, I would like to extend our warmest thanks to you for your devoted support of hospitalized veterans.

Operation Phone Home—

Thank you for your recent shipment of calling cards. Nothing boosts the morale of our soldiers like phone cards. Thank you so very much for your commitment to supporting our troops. - Chaplain (Major) Bob Phillips,

Hero Flights—

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all of your help, I really do appreciate it. Our grandson was killed by an IED in Iraq and we wouldn't have been able to attend his services if it wasn't for the Angels. May God bless you, and thank you again. - PVT M's Grandparents

I can't thank you enough for working so hard to help my husband get home to his mother. It means so much to him to be able to hear his mother's voice one last time before she undergoes surgery to remove her voice box. The gift is so precious. We both sincerely thank you!! - CPL J's Wife

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, Thank you, Kassie and Soldiers Angels. I do not know how I ever can thank you enough for what you have done for our Soldiers ready to leave for Iraq. You all made a lot of Soldiers and family members happy.....

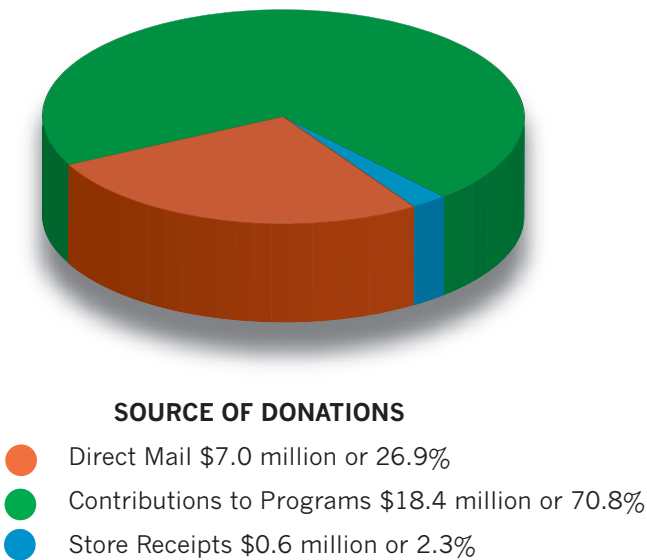
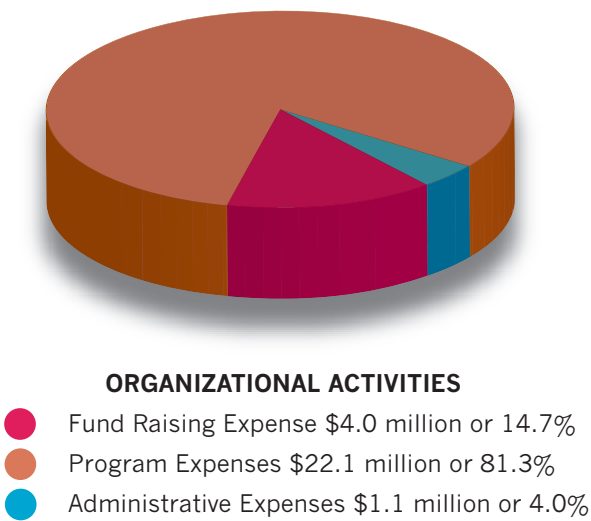
Soldiers' Angels Code of Ethics

- 1. Personal and Professional Integrity: Soldiers' Angels Board Members, Officers, and Volunteers shall act with honesty, integrity, truthfulness, and adherence to an absolute obligation to safeguard and protect the public trust bestowed upon the organisation.
- 2. Mission: Soldiers' Angels mission is to provide aid and comfort to the members of the United States military and their families. All programs and projects of Soldiers' Angels shall support this mission and shall be oriented toward supporting the image of the members of the United States armed forces, their missions, their jobs, and their role as members of the United States armed forces, and their families.
- 3. Governance: Soldiers' Angels shall have an active governing body, the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for setting the mission and strategic direction of the organisation and oversight of the finances, operations, and policies of Soldiers' Angels.
- 4. Legal Compliance: Soldiers' Angels will be vigilant and in compliance with laws, regulations, and applicable conventions that govern and regulate the organisation. Soldiers' Angels is a not for profit organisation established in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service and, as such, it shall comply with the rules and regulations prohibiting Soldiers' Angels from participating in or contributing to political events or organizations.
- 5. Financial Stewardship: The Board of Trustees, the Officers, and the Volunteers of Soldiers' Angels view the fiduciary responsibilities placed upon Soldiers' Angels, as a not for profit organisation, to be of preeminent importance and as a result shall manage its funds responsibly and prudently. Soldiers' Angels shall ensure that all funds donated to it are spent in accordance with its mission and are subject to the appropriate administrative and accounting procedures.
- 6. Openness and Disclosure: Soldiers' Angels shall be dedicated to openness and transparency and shall provide comprehensive and timely information to the public, the media, and donors. Soldiers' Angels will be responsive, in a timely manner, to all reasonable requests for information. Basic informational data about the organisation, such as the Form 990, reviews and compilations, and audited financial statements will be posted on the Soldiers' Angels website and otherwise available to the public.
- 7. Program Evaluation: Soldiers' Angels shall regularly review the effectiveness of its programs. Soldiers' Angels is committed to improving program and organizational effectiveness and shall develop mechanisms to promote learning from its activities and the field. The organisation is responsive to changes in it's field of activity and is responsive to the need of it's constituencies.
- 8. Inclusiveness and Diversity: Soldiers' Angels shall have a policy of promoting inclusiveness throughout all levels of the organisation to reflect diversity and it shall not make use of prohibited or illegal discriminatory practices.
- 9. fund raising: Soldiers' Angels shall raise funds from the public and from donor institutions and shall be truthful in solicitation materials. Soldiers' Angels will respect the privacy concerns of donors and expend funds consistent with donor intent.

Summary of Financial Results

Total Donations: \$25,981,000
Total Assets: \$635,000

A complete audited financial statement can be found at: <http://soldiersangels.org/index.php?page=financials>



Volunteer Angels

Soldiers' Angels is proud to have over 140,000 volunteers assisting us with our mission. We would like to thank our Officers and Board of Trustees for their commitment to the organization during the last fiscal year.

Officers

- Patti Patton Bader – President/CEO
- Mark J. Concialdi - Treasurer
- Robin Bateman – Secretary
- Laurie Marie Martin – Vice President
- Lisa Nyberg - Vice President
- MaryAnn Phillips – Vice President
- Lynette Roncin – Vice President
- Caren Vink- Vice President

Trustees

- Patti Patton Bader
- Matt Burden
- Mark J. Concialdi
- Richard John
- Richard Lowe
- Ana-Marie Smith
- Col. James Riley (Ret.)

Major Gifts

We wish to extend special thanks to both The San Antonio Area Foundation and The Dallas Foundation for their generous support of heroes in Texas with large scale grant funding from the TRIAD fund.

We also wish to thank the many angels who secured successful employee grants on our behalf from corporations like Verizon, Qwest and Las Alamos.