



SAMANTHA PONDER

2020

# ANNUAL REPORT







*Your CEO*

CLAYTON HUTMACHER

– MAJOR GENERAL, USA, RETIRED

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I reflect on the year we leave behind, the wise words of Booker T. Washington come to mind:

***"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."***

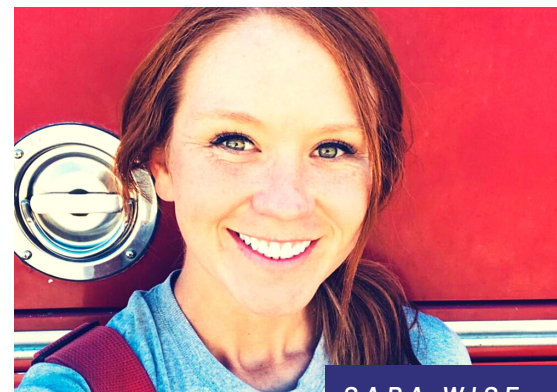
Though 2020 was obviously a challenging year, much good happened, too. Despite the hurdles, 214 of our college students not only continued to persevere but excelled in their educational pursuits. I am happy to share that I sent out over 40 hand-written notes of congratulations and encouragement to our students who achieved a 3.5 or above GPA.

Just prior to Christmas, we learned that Darian Thammarath, daughter of SGT Anibal Santiago, who lost his life in 2010 in Afghanistan, became our 400th college graduate – a landmark moment for SOWF. Despite required changes and restrictions regarding in-class attendance in the spring and fall of 2020, Darian successfully completed all required course work, and earned her degree in Marine Biology from the University of Tampa.

In total, 25 of our students proved their resilience and graduated college in 2020, including Ethan Svitek, who graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Engineering, and Sara Wise, who graduated from Sandhills Community College with a degree in Fire Fighting.



ETHAN SVITAK



SARA WISE

# OFFICERS

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## *Secretary*

Thomas Arthur

## *President/CEO*

Clayton Hutmacher, MG, USA, (Ret)

## *Treasurer*

David Redmond

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BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

# OUR PROGRAMS

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS



In 2020, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary of honoring the sacrifices of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Special Operations Personnel by ensuring their surviving children receive a college education. Additionally, in 2020, the Board of Directors voted to expand eligibility of the educational programs to the children of military personnel awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. SOWF ensures full financial assistance for a post-secondary degree from an accredited college, university, technical, or trade school. In 2020, SOWF provided funding for 214 students in colleges and universities across the country and had 25 students receive their college degree.

## FAMILY OUTREACH



Our educational and family support services go hand-in-hand with our scholarship program. To help each student reach their full potential, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation offers individual academic counseling and programs, including preschool funding, professional tutoring services, college planning services and workshops, college-to-career programs, and educational programs specifically designed for students with special needs. In 2020, with the cancellation of in-person conferences, SOWF provided high school students with an online college planning webinar as well as an incoming college freshman webinar to help students succeed in the transition from high school to college.

## SUPPORT FOR WOUNDED, ILL AND INJURED



We deliver immediate financial assistance to severely wounded Special Operations service members so the family can be bedside and not be concerned with expenses as their loved one recovers. Since 2006, the Foundation has provided \$3.5 million to Special Operations wounded service members and their families.



# ORGANIZATION EXPENSES

415k

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES

772k

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

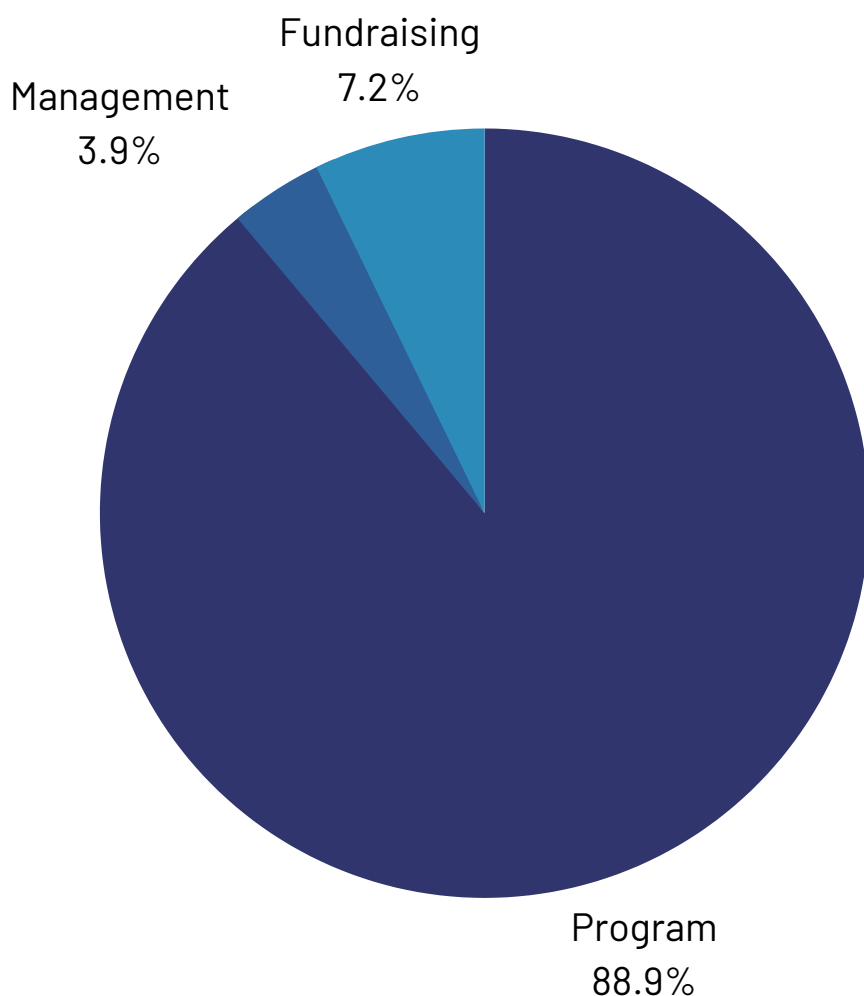
9.5m

PROGRAM EXPENSES

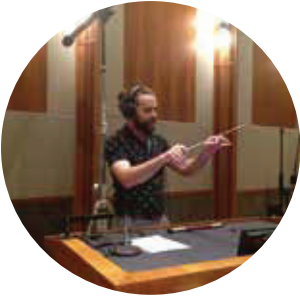
10.7 M

TOTAL EXPENSES

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# 2020 College Graduates



**Andrew Cox**



**Lauren Mallory**



**Samantha Ponder**



**Carson Langmack**

**Steven Beiriger** graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Communications. Steven is the son of Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Bryan Beiriger, who lost his life in 2015 while assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command.

**Kristine Castelo** graduated from Campbell University with a degree in Healthcare Management. Kristine is the daughter of Army Command Sgt Major Fernan Castelo, who lost his life in 2013 while assigned to the 4th Psychological Operations Group.

**Andrew Cox** graduated from the Musicians Institute with a degree in Music Composition for Visual Media. Andrew is the stepson of of Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Bryan Beiriger, who lost his life in 2015 while assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command.



**Dante Matero**

**Kyla Cunningham** graduated from University of California - Davis with a degree in Managerial Economics. Kyla is the daughter of Pararescueman Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, who lost his life in 2002 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron.

**Sharon Hegmann** graduated from Frankfurt University of Applied Science with a degree in Public & Non-Profit Management. Sharon is the daughter of Army Warrant Officer Douglas Vose, who lost his life in 2009 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group.

**Carson Langmack** graduated from Montana State University – Bozeman with a degree in Political Science. Carson is the son of Army Sgt 1st Class Steven Langmack, who lost his life in 2005 while assigned to Army Special Operations Command.

**Rachael Lindenau** graduated from Central Washington University with a degree in Studio Art. Rachael is the daughter of Army Major Robert Lindenau, who lost his life in 2008 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 95th Civil Affairs Battalion.

**Allison Lundell** graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Graphic Design. Allison is the daughter of Army 2nd Lt. Scott Lundell, who lost his life in 2006 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group.

**Lauren Mallory** graduated from SUNY College at New Paltz with a degree in Psychology. Lauren is the daughter of Army Major Robert Mallory, who lost his life in 1993 while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

**Dante Matero** graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a degree in Nursing. Dante is the son of Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Matero, who lost his life in 2002 while assigned to the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

**Maverick Olaes** graduated from University of Phoenix with a degree in Environmental Science. Maverick is the son of Army Staff Sgt. Tony Olaes, who lost his life in 2004 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group.

**Megan Owens** graduated from The American University of Paris with a Marketing degree in Marketing. Megan is the daughter of Army Capt. Bartt Owens, who lost his life in 2002 while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

**Deirdre Piper** graduated from North Shore Community College with a degree in Nursing. Deidre is the daughter of Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Piper, who lost his life in 2005 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group.

**Samantha Ponder** graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Global Studies. Samantha is the daughter of Army Sgt 1st Class James Ponder, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2005 while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.





**Sara Wise**



**Ethan Svitak**



**Mitch Voas**



**Darian Thammarath**

**Andrew Rada Morales** graduated from Fayetteville Technical Community College with a Welding certification. Andrew is the son of Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Rada Morales, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2008 while assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group.

**Curtis Rinehart** graduated from the Academy for Professional Barbers. Curtis is the son of Army Sgt. 1st Class John Rinehart, who lost his life in 1996 while assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group.

**Shaina Shaw** graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Accounting. Shaina is the daughter of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Shaw, who lost his life in 2005 while assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command.



**Shaina Shaw**

**Kade Stewart** graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Cognitive Science. Kade is the stepson of Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Celani Jr, who lost his life in 2017 while assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command.

**Ethan Svitak** graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Engineering. Ethan is the son of Army Sgt. Philip Svitak, who lost his life in 2002 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

**Talia Tapper** graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in Management. Talia is the daughter of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David Tapper, who lost his life in 2003 while assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command.

**Darian Thammarath** graduated from the University of Tampa with a degree in Marine Biology. Darian is the stepdaughter of Army Sgt. Anibal Santiago, who lost his life in 2010 while assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

**Mark Todd** graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Building Construction Science. Mark is the son of Air Force Capt. Mark Todd, who lost his life in El Salvador in 1996 while assigned to the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

**Mitchell Voas** graduated from the University of Tampa with a Marketing degree. Mitchell is the son of Air Force Major Randell Voas, who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2020 while assigned to the 8th Special Operations Squadron.

**Sara Wise** graduated from Sandhills Community College with a degree in Fire Fighting/EMT. Sara is the daughter of Air Force Master Sgt. Christopher Sheaffer, who lost his life in 2000 while assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command.

**Roy Wood** graduated from Mercer University with a degree in Engineering. Roy is the son of Army Sgt. Roy Wood, who lost his life in 2004 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 20th Special Forces Group.



**Allison Lundell**



**Kyla Cunningham**



**Roy Wood**



**Kade Stewart**

# WHAT WE PROVIDE

## YOUR GIFT ENCOMPASSES

Scholarship support includes tuition, books, fees, room and board, transportation and associated miscellaneous expenses at the student's school of choice.

### NEW COLLEGE FRESHMEN RECEIVE A LAPTOP AND PRINTER PACKAGE

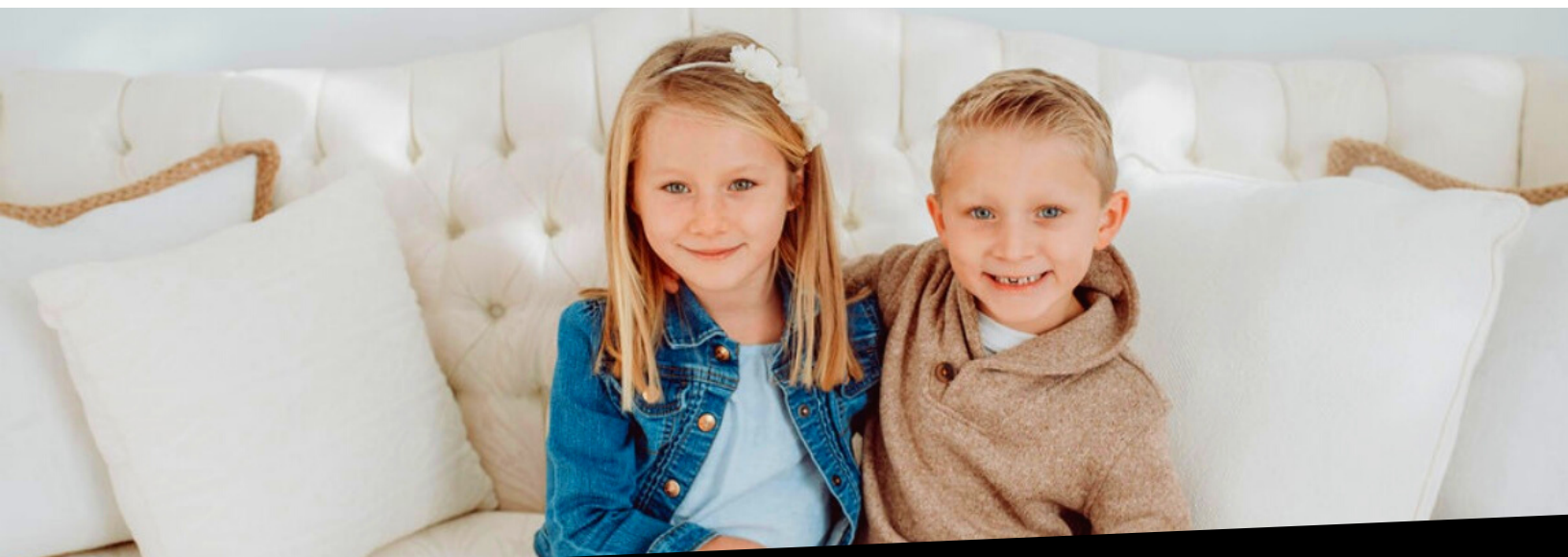
"Cradle to Career" funding includes:

- Preschool programs for children ages 2 – 5 (up to \$8,000 per year)
- Educational programs specifically designed for children with disabilities
- Private tutoring for students of all ages (kindergarten through college graduation)
- Access to online tools for ACT/SAT test preparation
- College planning conference hosted by SOWF for high school students
- Access to online college planning platform, College Success Academy
- College to Career transition program, including funds available for internship relocation and opportunity to study abroad

**If you, or someone you know, may be eligible for our programs, please email SOWF at: [scholarships@specialops.org](mailto:scholarships@specialops.org).**



**DARIAN THAMMARTH,  
OUR 400TH COLLEGE GRADUATE!**



# YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS



*We were honored to receive our 15th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. This honor demonstrates solid accountability and sound financial health – less than 1% of nonprofits have maintained a 4-star rating for 15 consecutive years.*