

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Erielle and Jalyn joined the SOWF family in 2009, when their step-father, US Army Sergeant First Class Christopher Shaw, lost his life in 2009 while serving with the 1st Special Forces Group.



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Message from the President & CEO



Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our mission.

As we celebrated our 43rd Anniversary on April 24, 2023, we reflected on the inception of our

Foundation and what has occurred since 1980. The original battlefield promise made is enduring and our commitment continues in earnest to the surviving students, surviving spouses and families we rally around. Through donor involvement, we are privileged to continue to add new educational programs and build momentum, all in the best interests of those we serve.

Regarding 2022, 85 children were added to our SOWF programs, 46 of whom are children of Medal of Honor Recipients. We added several new programs including, Private School Tuition Assistance, Home School Assistance, a High School Summer Enrichment Program - and SOWF now covers the cost of five college applications (up from three), while increasing our college visit stipend to \$5,000. In addition, we expanded eligibility for educational programs to include active-duty Special Operations Personnel who lose their spouse, done in recognition of the critical role spouses play in our Special Operations families.

Our Scholarships and Family Outreach Team (SFO) works deliberately with students and families every step of the way to ensure all are aware of, and utilize, the assorted programs and services SOWF provides. Under the guidance of SFO's team this past year, 43 students enrolled in post-secondary schools, with 88% of those

students attending four-year schools. In 2022, SOWF had 210 students in college, and funds raised in 2022 were applied to tuition, room and board, books, and miscellaneous college expenses. We are pleased to report that a total of 36 students graduated from college in 2022. And it is important to note that approximately 81% of our surviving children attend college, a university, or a trade school, well above the national average in this demographic.

In a relatively short period of time, we have gone from 800 children being eligible for college educations to over 1,000. Invariably, there will be more fatalities in the years to come and we need to be ready to respond.

With respect to our severely wounded, ill, and injured Special Operations Personnel program, which was added in 2006, over 1,200 have received beneficial stipends since it began. This effort, that provides immediate financial assistance to the individual and their respective families, saw 36 Special Operations Personnel participate in 2022, up 25 from the previous year.

SOWF was awarded our 16th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, meaning we take our stewardship seriously - a sincere thanks for trusting us with your contributions and joining us in the process. This teamwork approach has amounted to much student success, quite a testament to all involved.

Best,
Clay

CLAY HUTMACHER, PRESIDENT & CEO

- Major General, USA, Retired -



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Programs

Educational Programs

Special Operations Warrior Foundation ensures full financial assistance for a post-secondary degree from an accredited college, university, technical, or trade school. The array of programs now includes Preschool Funding, Private Tutoring, Support for Students with Disabilities, Private K-12 School Tuition Assistance, College Planning, College Scholarships, and College-to-Career transition support. In 2022, SOWF provided funding for 210 students in colleges and universities across the country and 38 students received their college degree.

Family Outreach

Our educational and family support services go hand-in-hand with our scholarship program. Our dedicated staff proactively contacts every family of fallen Special Operations Personnel at the earliest appropriate time and then remains in steady communication through the years. In 2022, we reached out to the surviving families of 28 fallen Special Operations Forces Personnel. To help each student reach their full potential, SOWF offers individual academic advocacy, programs, and services to all eligible children beginning in preschool. SOWF's advocates are there to ensure that each student is on track to reach their goals. To help celebrate their special days, personalized birthday cards are sent to children and students of all ages. And, whenever the Scholarships and Family Outreach Team travel, our staff always make a point to connect with as many students as possible over lunch or dinner to spend quality time with each and their respective family.

Support for Wounded, Ill, and Injured

SOWF provides severely wounded, ill, or injured SOF warriors with a financial stipend, up to \$5,000, to relieve the burden of unexpected expenses when hospitalized. Additionally, SOWF sends an iPad to help the service member communicate with family and friends. SOWF provided stipends to 25 wounded, ill, or injured SOF warriors in 2022. Since 2006, the Foundation has provided \$3.2 million to Special Operations wounded service members and their families.





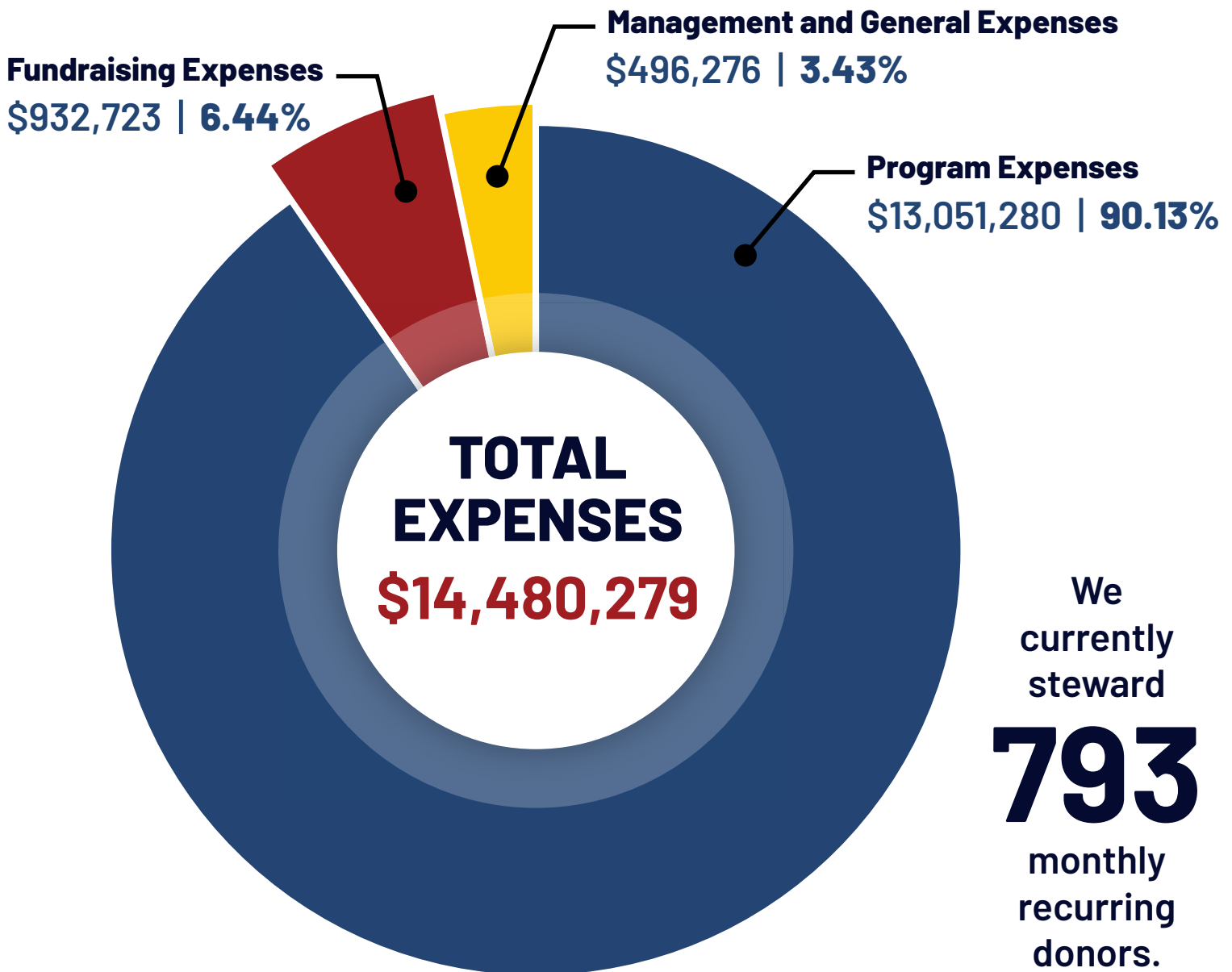
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Organizational Finances

Through private donor and corporate support, third party and signature events and activities, and external grants, 2022 was a:

FANTASTIC YEAR!

Grand Total Funds Raised: \$14,905,817





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By the Numbers

WARRIOR FATALITIES

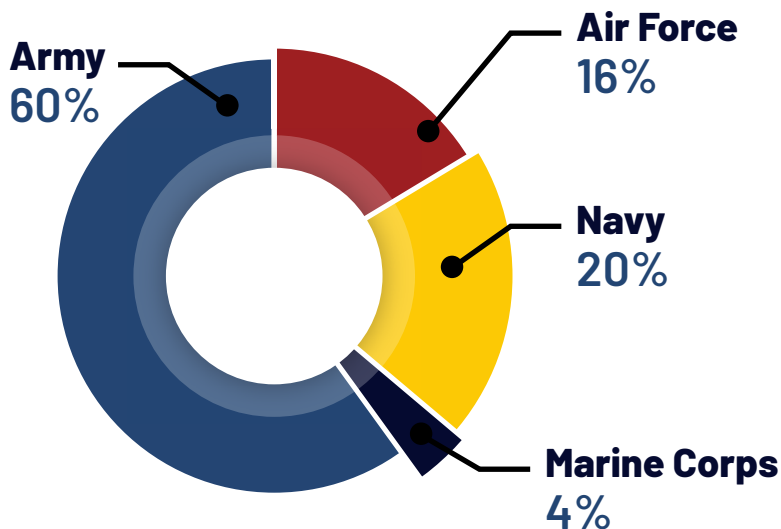
January - December 2022

1,218

since 1980

26

through 2022



1,023

Children currently eligible

422

Laptop Packages provided since 2007

476

College graduates since 1980

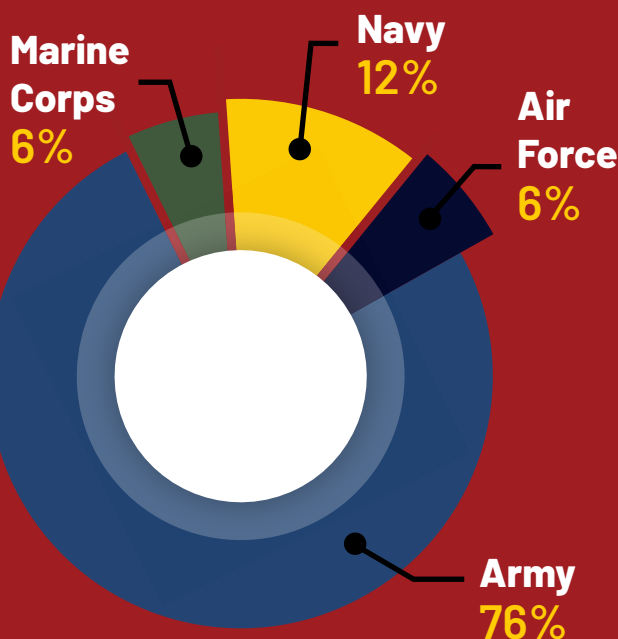
SEVERELY WOUNDED, ILL & INJURED

1,204

since 2006

36

severely wounded, ill & injured through 2022, including four who received a 2nd stipend



222

Students enrolled in post-secondary schools at year-end

81%

of our current students attending post secondary education are enrolled in four-year institutions



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2022 College Graduates



LAUREN FRITZ

Lauren Fritz graduated from Belmont University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Lauren is the daughter of U.S. Air Force Major Gregory Fritz, who lost his life in 2002 while serving with 15th Special Operations Squadron.



BRANDY SNAPP

Brandy Snapp graduated from University of the Cumberland with a bachelor's degree in Applied Health. Brandy is the daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Lance Cornett, who lost his life in 2006 while serving with USASOC HQ.

Jaina Houston graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder with a bachelor's degree in Integrated Physiology. Jaina is the daughter of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (SOC) Kevin Houston, who lost his life in 2011 while assigned to the NSW DEVGRU.

Decoda Kolath graduated from Columbus Technical College with an associate's degree in Cybersecurity. Decoda is the son of US Army Sergeant First Class Obediah Kolath, who lost his life in 2005 while assigned to USASOC HQ.

Tanner Speer graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. Tanner is the son of US Army Sergeant First Class Christopher Speer, who lost his life in 2002 while assigned to USASOC HQ.

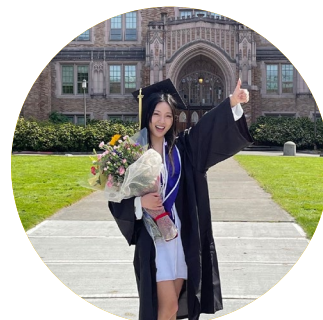


NIKOLE HALLADAY-METH

Nikole Halladay-Meth graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Nikole is the daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Carlo Meth, who lost his life in 2008 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group.

Barrett Ratzlaff graduated from the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in Chinese Language and Culture. Barrett is the son of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (SOC) Thomas Ratzlaff who lost his life in 2011 while serving with the Naval Special Warfare Command.

Bailey Taylor graduated from Waldorf University with a bachelor's degree in Communications. Bailey is the son of US Army Sergeant First Class John Taylor, who lost his life in 2003 while serving with the 3rd Special Forces Group.



NIYA KYONG-PARK

Niya Kyong-Park graduated from University of Washington - Seattle Campus with a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Medical Informatics. Niya is the daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Dae Park, who lost his life in 2011 while serving with the 1st Special Forces Group.

Breanna Bohle graduated from Connecticut College with a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Neuroscience and Philosophy. Breanna is the surviving daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Bradley Bohle, who lost his life in 2009 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group.



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2022 College Graduates



HANNAH GRESSETT

Joshua Johnson graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute with a certification in Welding and Metal Fabrication Technology. Joshua is the son of US Army Sergeant First Class Allen Johnson, who lost his life in 2005 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group.

Leif Retzer graduated from EdX Courses with a certification in Introduction to Python Programming. Leif is the son of U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Thomas Retzer, who lost his life in 2003 while serving with the Naval Special Warfare Command.

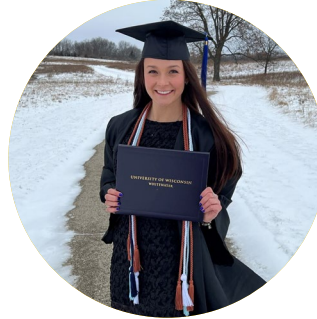
Hannah Gressett graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Hannah is the daughter of U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant David Gressett, who lost his life in 2004 while serving with the 16th Special Operations Squadron.

John Valentine graduated from Sonoran Desert Institute with an associate's degree in Firearm Technology. John is the son of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (SOC) Thomas Valentine who lost his life in 2008 while serving with the NSW DEVGRU.

Brendan Dacus graduated from Lone Star College with an Associate in Arts. Brendan is the son of US Army First Sergeant Erika Dacus, who lost her life in 2016 while assigned to USASOC HQ.



JOHN VALENTINE



ADELIA MAHAFFEE

Adelia Mahaffee graduated from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management. Adelia is the daughter of US Army Captain Shane Mahaffee, who lost his life in 2006 while serving with the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Ryan Walton graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Ryan is the son of US Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin Wise, who lost his life in 2012 while assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group.

Sean Sweeney graduated from the Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Sean is the son of US Army Staff Sergeant Paul Sweeney, who lost his life in 2003 while assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group.

Jordan Ferguson graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Jordan is the son of US Army Master Sergeant Richard Ferguson, who lost his life in 2004 while serving with the 10th Special Forces Group.

Erielle Smith graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Erielle is the step-daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Christopher Shaw, who lost his life in 2009 while serving with the 1st Special Forces Group.



ERIELLE SMITH



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2022 College Graduates



CARMELA HAYDON

Carmela Haydon graduated from McGill University with a bachelor's degree in International Development. Carmela is the daughter of US Army Major Joseph Haydon, who lost his life in 2005 while assigned to USASOC HQ.



LAUREN GIBBONS

Lauren Gibbons graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in Pre-Veterinary Studies. Lauren is the daughter of US Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas J Gibbons, who lost his life in 2003 while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Declan Murray graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. Declan is the son of U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Murray, who lost his life in 2014 while serving with the Air Force Special Operations Command.

Nolan Svitak graduated from George Mason University with a bachelor's degree in Economics. Nolan is the son of US Army Sergeant Philip Svitak, who lost his life in 2002 while serving with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Alexandria Walden graduated from Delaware Valley University with a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science. Alexandria is the daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Bret Walden, who lost his life in 2005 while serving with the 5th Special Forces Group.



CAROLINE WOOD

Rees Dunn graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in English. Rees is the daughter of US Army Major Guy Barattieri, who lost his life in 2006 while assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group.

Caroline Wood graduated from Middle Georgia State University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Caroline is the daughter of US Army Sergeant Roy Wood, who lost his life in 2004 while assigned to the 20th Special Forces Group.

Greyson Gilbert graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in Health Science. Greyson is the son of U.S. Air Force Major Troy Gilbert, who lost his life in 2006 while supporting USSOCOM.

Zachariah Wheeler graduated from Sandhills Community College with an Associate in Arts. Zach is the son of US Army Master Sergeant Joshua Wheeler, who lost his life in 2015 while assigned to USASOC HQ.

Tyler Jefferson graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. Tyler is the daughter of Air Force Technical Sergeant William Jefferson, who lost his life in 2008 while serving with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron.



TYLER JEFFERSON



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2022 College Graduates



EMMA MCLAURIN

Christopher Walsh graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Christopher is the son of U.S. Navy Captain Thomas Walsh, who lost his life in 2017 while serving with USSOCOM.

Madison Steinman graduated from Beautiful You Skincare Academy with an Esthetician License. Madison is the step-daughter of US Army Sergeant First Class Keith Martel, who lost his life in 2017 while serving with the 10th Special Forces Group.

Emma McLaurin graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology. Emma is the step-daughter of US Army Master Sergeant Sean McClure, who lost his life in 2015 while serving with the 7th Special Forces Group.

Emily Louk graduated from Nashville State Community College with an associate's degree in Administrative Professional Technology. Emily is the daughter of US Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Weeks who lost his life in 2006 while serving with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Grace Walsh graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Grace is the daughter of U.S. Navy Captain Thomas Walsh, who lost his life in 2017 while serving with USSOCOM.



GRACE WALSH



SYDNIIE LUBBERS

Sydnie Lubbers graduated from the University of Tampa with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Sydnie is the daughter of US Army Sergeant Major William Lubbers, who lost his life in 2012 while assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group.

Brian Coke graduated from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy with his certification in Basic Law Enforcement. Brian is the son of Navy Petty Officer First Class Robert McRill who lost his life in 2007 while serving with SEAL Team 10.



BRIAN COKE



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What We Provide

YOUR GIFT ENCOMPASSES:

Scholarship support, including 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.

Declan is the surviving son of US Army Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock, who lost his life in 2016 serving with the 19th Special Forces Group.



Our fully funded college educations and additional educational opportunities, "cradle to career," include:

- Preschool programs for children ages 2 - 5 (up to \$8,000 per year)
- Private school tuition assistance (up to \$5,000 per student, per year, kindergarten - through 12th grade)
- Educational programs specifically designed for students with disabilities
- Unlimited private tutoring for students of all ages (kindergarten through college graduation)
- High school summer academic, leadership, and professional programs
- Access to online tools for ACT/SAT test preparation
- College planning conference (Operation E.P.I.C.) hosted by SOWF for high school students
- Access to online college planning platform, College Success Academy
- College tuition, room & board, and miscellaneous college expenses
- College-to-Career transition program, including funds available for internship relocation and an opportunity to study abroad

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY:

- Expanded eligibility to include active-duty Special Operations Personnel who have lost a spouse - this recognizes the critical role spouses play in the lives of our families. These children will now receive the same benefits as all other children in SOWF's educational programs.

If you or someone you know may be eligible for our programs, please email SOWF at: scholarships@specialops.org

36 enthusiastic high school students
at our 2022 Education Planning Information
Conference (E.P.I.C.).

