



# *Annual Report*

*January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010*





# *Soldiers' Angels*

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*January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010*

### *Mission*

*To provide aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, as well as their amazing families.*

*May No Soldier Go Unloved  
May No Soldier Walk Alone  
May No Soldier Be Forgotten  
Even As They All Come Home*



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## *From Our Founder...*

Dear Soldiers' Angels,

As America enters its 10th year of the war against terrorism, Soldiers' Angels is moving into its 8th year of powerful support for America's heroes. The need and our ability to meet it continue to grow. So many troops and their families are touched by Soldiers' Angels as we work to improve morale and accomplish our mission of bringing aid and comfort to them all.

Soldiers' Angels continues to be there for the military in a myriad of ways, as you will see in this document. We have provided jobs to veterans, given laptops and comfort to the wounded, stood strong with the families of fallen, and so much more. At the same time we have relentlessly sent tens of thousands of care packages to deployed heroes and thousands of backpacks for the wounded to combat support hospitals.

Still volunteer-led, Soldiers' Angels has accomplished these monumental acts of support for America's heroes through patriotism, heart, love and your generous donations.

Looking to the future, we know that the needs of our returning veterans will grow as the number of deployed diminishes. These heroes will need to know that America continues to remember and support them, something Soldiers' Angels will continue to demonstrate, with your assistance. It will take a nation to heal this war.

I remain your fellow faithful American citizen and loyal Soldiers' Angel,



Patti Patton-Bader  
Founder and CEO  
Soldiers' Angels



## *For the Deployed...*



### *Adoptions & Care Packages*

Soldiers' Angels volunteers send cards, letters, and care packages to their "adopted" deployed service members of all American military branches. They support their adoptees with basic comfort items and words of encouragement, providing moments of joy amid the rigors and stresses of deployment.

In addition, Soldiers' Angels warehouses in San Antonio, Pasadena and North Carolina ship welcome packages to all who apply for adoption, and fill large units' urgent requests for general support as well as unique needs.

In 2010, individual volunteers adopted over 21,000 deployed service members themselves, while the reach of Soldiers' Angels expanded to over 83,000 troops through locally-based community projects and warehouse shipments. Angel warehouses spent over \$650,000 in postage while sending tens of thousands of shipments overseas, including over 26,000 pounds of donated gourmet coffee from major retailers.

*“A letter, a care package and some kind words connect us with what is most important to us: our country, our heritage and our families. Thank you for being that harbinger of patriotism and the values we hold so dear... You have done more than you know with your acts of kindness and support.*

*- Maj M, USMC*





## Angel Bakers

Each month, Angel Bakers volunteers send homemade cookies, brownies, and other treats to units identified as needing extra Angel love. These units may have been through an especially difficult experience, be living in unusually trying conditions, or in need of a general morale boost. The team also works with six corporate sponsors who supplement the shipments of Angels' homemade goodies with treats of their own. In 2010, the team's 3032 members supported 131 American military units.

*“To all of you from Soldiers' Angels, thank you all for the baked goods and everything else you have sent to me and my platoon...It's incredible what you do.”*



## Blankets of Belief (Sewing Team)

Blankets of Belief wraps America's deployed service members in hand-tied and hand-sewn blankets that represent the country's support and faith in them. Each blanket sends the message, "We believe in you!" When deployed service members receive a Blanket of Belief, they know that somebody back home labored over a handmade blanket with thoughts of them and hopes or prayers for their strength and comfort. Last winter, Soldiers' Angels sent over 30,000 handmade Blankets of Belief as part of the *Wrapped in Holiday Spirit* project.

Blankets of Belief wraps America's deployed service members in hand-tied and hand-sewn blankets that represent the country's support and faith in them.

*“If only you could have seen the looks on my troops' faces when all those boxes came in! I have never seen such a giddy group of grown men. The blankets were snatched up first.”*



## For the Deployed... (continued)



### Chaplains Support Team

The Chaplains Support Team (CST) provides direct support to military chaplains as they bring comfort and assistance to the soldiers they serve, including supplying Chaplains with requested items related to their mission and hand-outs of letters and gifts as requested.

Because chaplains travel throughout the war zones, working with them helps Soldiers' Angels reach personnel who may be in remote locations while feeling isolated and lonely, or in need of an extra morale boost.

In 2010, team members sent 3252 packages and 1804 cards/letters of appreciation packets. Highlights included: Hanukah letters/cards and care packages were shipped to 248 Jewish service members; young Angel Nikole founded "Swords for Soldiers" and collected over 200 Bibles which were shipped to chaplains; project Santa sent over 7,076 stockings to deployed service members, chaplains and chaplain assistants; Chaps for Children was created to focus on Chaplains' requests for humanitarian aid for local children (school supplies, clothing, etc), and for books and recording media that deployed service members could read and send to their own children.



*“I am the Battalion Chaplain. I am not sure how to say what I feel. All I know to say is, “I love you.” I can’t express what it means to me and to this unit for what you and your organization have done for us... You have selected some fine people to work in your ministry... Your attention keeps us fighting another day.*”



## Cards Plus

The Cards Plus Team supports service members and their families with encouraging or celebratory cards and notes. Cards can be requested for and by deployed soldiers or military families for birthdays, get well, anniversaries, new babies, condolences, welcome home and general morale. In 2010, the team's over 5,500 members filled 15,401 requests for cards and letters.

*“I've gotten more Happy Birthdays from Soldiers' Angels this birthday [deployed] than any other birthday! It really puts a smile on my face because when you're here, you almost forget you're even about to have one.”*



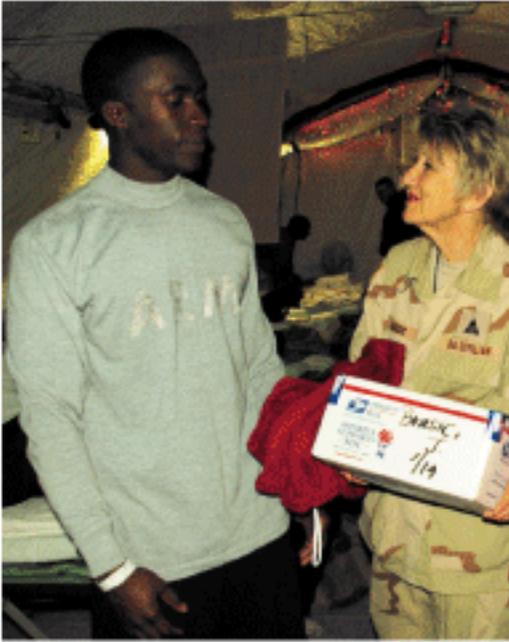
## Cool Scarves and Sand Scarves (Sewing Team)

These little pieces of cotton knit cloth have a big impact on the lucky servicemen and women who wear them. Sand Scarves help keep the fine grit of sandstorms and dust out of ears, nose and mouth, and the evaporative action of a Cool Scarf can cool an overheated service member for days. In 2010, these two teams sewed and sent 6679 Cool Scarves and 2000 Sand Scarves. In addition, individual Angels often use the team's resources to make scarves for their adopted soldiers and their soldiers' buddies.



*“We have to tolerate hot jet exhaust, thick humidity, and summertime temps that have historically reached up to 130 degrees on the flight deck. We will have a bucket of ice water with your scarves in it for the Marines to use. Not only does your package boost morale out here at sea, but it will have a significant effect on increasing safety.”*

## *For the Deployed... (continued)*



### *Deployed (Tactical) Medical Support*

Focusing on the needs of deployed medical units, this flexible team provides support for both medical personnel and their patients, including sending First Response Backpacks for the wounded. Approximately 60 units are supported at any one time by three team leaders with the assistance of a dynamic team membership and donor list.

In 2010, the team sent \$80,000 worth of care packages to deployed medical units, with contents and postage entirely provided by team members and donors. Many youth groups are active on the team, with projects such as over 1,500 pounds of candy collected by Geneva, IL schools and shipped to 50 medical units by the Lombard, IL

Police and Fire Departments; 2,000 Holiday cards made by Geneva schools; 1,000 pounds of supplies collected and shipped by St. Bernadette of Lourdes School of Drexel Hill, PA (in three years); and 500 packages shipped as a result of 26 Eagle Scout projects.

*“Your organization has a tremendous significant and positive impact to their morale. We are very blessed to have you on our team.*

*- Task Force 14th MED*





## *K-9 Support*

The K-9 Support team is the lifeline of Soldiers' Angels to deployed American military dog teams, making sure both dogs and handlers have what they need when they need it. In 2010, the 44 members of this team supported over 25 active K-9 teams. They also sent a number of one-time care package shipments to points of contact in additional K-9 units and pursued canine-related corporate sponsorships.



*“It's good to know there are people like you that haven't forgotten our four-legged soldiers fighting just as hard as the rest of us.”*



## *Letter Writing*

The Letter Writing Team is composed of Angels who enjoy writing and know how important it is to hear one's name at mail call. Some soldiers get no mail at all from back home, so these Angels fill that gap. Team members are assigned the names of deployed service members who are submitted for adoption through the Soldiers' Angels website, providing immediate letters or greeting cards while that service member awaits assignment to an adopting Angel. In 2010, the team's 6,211 volunteers processed over 400,000 letter assignments for deployed service members.

*“It can be hard and lonely here, and every letter helps. They help us pass the time. They help us get our minds out of things for a little. It also really helps with morale, which may be the most important.”*



## *For the Deployed... (continued)*



### *Ladies of Liberty*

The Ladies of Liberty team focuses on the needs of deployed female service members by assisting with supplies for their unique health and hygiene concerns, and helping them experience a few pampering moments to rejuvenate and remember that they are ladies... even in the environment of war. In 2010, the team's 800+ members sent 39,000 cards and letters, and 6700 care packages.

*“I'll just let you know how much we all appreciate everything you have done for us. It's certainly made the rest of this deployment a lot more bearable.”*

## *For the Wounded...*

### *Blankets of Hope (Sewing Team)*

Handmade Blankets of Hope send support and gratitude to America's wounded heroes. Used on hospital beds, wheelchairs, and transport litters on medevac flights, Blankets of Hope bring the message that the wounded service member is loved and remembered. They are included in First Response Backpacks, which are sent to Combat Support Hospitals in the war zones, major medical facilities in Germany where the wounded are first transferred, and other military medical facilities in the United States and around the world.



*“This was the love of a grateful nation laid over a young Soldier who placed his life on the line in defense of freedom. The blanket kept him warm as he healed from his surgery and I know he felt the love.”*



## *For the Wounded... (continued)*

### *First Response Backpacks*

When military personnel are injured or wounded, treatment and transportation occur so quickly that their gear and personal items can't catch up. Their clothing is often damaged in action or removed during treatment and they find themselves without easy access to supplies. To address this problem, First Response Backpacks provide a complete set of comfortable clothing, travel-sized toiletries and accessories, an international calling card, and a handmade blanket. In 2010, Soldiers' Angels distributed thousands of backpacks in both stateside and combat hospitals.



*“When we were evacuated to the emergency center in Afghanistan, our clothes were cut off of us as our treatment began. I came to in the hospital and had nothing. Thank you for taking care of my needs and those of my soldiers. It meant so much to have our dignity looked after by someone.”*



### *Project Valour-IT*

Project Valour-IT provides voice-controlled/adaptive laptops and other technology that assists wounded warriors suffering severe injuries. Items supplied include: voice-controlled laptops to help maintain their connection with the rest of the world; Wii Video Game Systems that increase motivation and speed recovery when used under the guidance of physical therapists; and GPS devices to support self-confidence and independence by compensating for issues such as short-term memory loss and organizational challenges due to TBI or PTS/PTSD.

*“Last night during my weekly visits, I was greeted by our latest laptop recipient with a quick little dance. You made this sergeant major, who has served faithfully for 40 years and is as crusty as they come, do a happy dance in the lobby - PRICELESS!”*



## *For the Wounded... (continued)*



### *Wounded Support Team*

Team members send weekly cards or letters of support, and volunteer at a variety of military medical facilities to provide comfort, care and encouragement for wounded, injured and ill warriors and their families. The type of support offered varies from facility to facility—from weekly hospital visits to taking a warrior and their family off-site for lunch or dinner, to monthly lunches or BBQ's onsite, to just being available to listen.

Wounded Support Teams are also set up at six Warrior Transition Units/Battalions throughout the country. Like the medical facilities, each WTU/B has unique requests and methods of support. For example, the San Diego team sponsors monthly pot luck dinners at Camp Pendleton and Balboa that are greatly anticipated by the warriors. In one case in 2010, a WTU had a large BBQ donated to them that needed to be refurbished, so Soldiers' Angels supplied the materials and unit personnel made the repairs.

*“ Thank you for being a part of his continued healing and recovery.*





## *Wounded Support Team (cont.)*

Two summer highlights in 2010 were the Summer Beach Event in San Diego and a "Jersey Shore" trip for wounded warriors and their families in Washington DC.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) athletes have become increasingly involved with Soldiers' Angels and support for the wounded.

During a Soldiers' Angels spring luncheon sponsored at Walter Reed, MMA stars Matt Hughes (9-time Welterweight Champ) and Tim Kennedy (Army Mixed Martial Arts Champ) spent hours signing autographs, getting their pictures taken, and interacting with the wounded warriors and their spouses and children.

San Diego Naval Medical Center invited Soldiers' Angels to participate in its 2010 *Welcoming Arms* event with a table that sponsored information and giveaways, which was very popular. Many medical personnel staff and their families dropped by and recognized Soldiers' Angels from support received during their deployments.



*“ We cannot even begin to express in words our gratitude towards the Angels for helping our family through this trying time in our life... You all have been instrumental in changing our lives for the better and giving us a second chance in life at peace and happiness after the storm.*”



## *For the Wounded... (continued)*



### *Soldiers' Angels Germany*

Soldiers' Angels Germany supports wounded and ill troops medevaced from the war zones to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Located near Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, LRMC is the largest American military hospital outside the United States. In 2010, LRMC received a total of 10,000 patients from Iraq and Afghanistan, the highest number since 2004.

Volunteers' activities included unpacking, sorting and documenting donations, stocking donation shelves, shopping, hospital staff deliveries, inpatient visits, assisting patients selecting items, and special projects/meals with patients and staff. Approximately 100 patient tracking requests were received from family members or close friends in 2010. Every tracking request was followed up with a personal phone call and additional contact depending on the patient's condition.

In 2010, Soldiers' Angels Germany processed \$296,000 of donations-in-kind, with 8760 onsite volunteer hours and 2000 offsite hours. Volunteers delivered 8150 pieces of clothing, 880 pounds of hygiene supplies, 2950 Blankets of Hope, 3700 phone cards, 500 backpacks for AirEvac carry-on, and purchased \$3000 in groceries to stock the outpatient barracks kitchen.

*“It was an incredible act of love, but to [the volunteer], it is just what she does. She puts the same love into organizing the stock room or folding sweatshirts...I am awed. She and the Angels of Landstuhl do things that I could never do on an ongoing basis. To me, they are legend.*

*- A visitor to Landstuhl*





## For Veterans...

### ***S.A.V.E. (Save a Veteran's Employment)***

The Soldiers' Angels Support Center and warehouse in San Antonio is staffed by veterans, with a special focus on those who have recently returned from deployment and are leaving the military. Staffing it with recent veterans helps provide them with a "soft landing" on their transition to civilian life, surrounding them with like-minded people as they apply their military skills to the corporate and civilian worlds. The facility officially opened in December 2009 and Soldiers' Angels provided S.A.V.E. jobs to seventeen veterans during 2010. Twelve moved on, including those leaving to attend school or move up the career ladder, while five remained on staff.



*“ I was having all kinds of trouble finding employment. They have brought me back into the work force and are helping me get back to school.*



### ***Blankets of Gratitude (Sewing Team)***

Hand knitted and crocheted Blankets of Gratitude help a veteran know that they are remembered, that Americans are thinking of them and are grateful for their past service. These lap robes are made by individual volunteers and distributed to VA medical facilities near the blanket-maker's home at the direction of Soldiers' Angels.

*“ 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!*



## *For Veterans... (continued)*



### *Operation Harmony*

In cooperation with Yamaha Music and Wellness Institute, Operation Harmony uses the special forces of music to give combat veterans and wounded warriors the ability and opportunity to heal and thrive through music. This mission includes providing guitar and keyboard courses to wounded warriors, and supplying instruments to soldiers on military bases throughout the world.

Aspects of the program include the Karl T. Bruhn Memorial Music Center at the Soldiers' Angels facility in San Antonio, TX which was furnished in 2010. It hosts

group music classes using Yamaha's wellness-based piano course, *The Clavinova Connection* and develops music-making opportunities for returning veterans, including performing and recording sessions.

*“ I was suicidal,  
broken into pieces.  
My life was saved by  
Soldiers' Angels...  
They helped me find  
a better way.*





## *Veterans Affairs Support*

The Soldiers' Angels Veteran Affairs Support Team assists patients at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, nursing homes and Stand Downs. This support can range from visiting patients to providing comfort items and clothing, to sponsoring special events like BBQs or assisting VA facilities with large-scale efforts to improve in-patients' quality of life, such as providing full-body Wii video game systems at medical centers.

Across the nation, team volunteers are involved in a variety of activities at VA facilities, including bingo parties, ice cream socials, home-cooked dinners, movie nights and monthly birthday parties. At some facilities, visits are made to residents' rooms to offer company, letter writing assistance and book reading. Soldiers' Angels can be found acting as parking valets at some of the larger hospitals and serving as Executive Board Members on official VA Volunteer Services programs.

In 2010, the VA Team sent approximately 3500 Vet Packs to VA Homeless Stand Downs around the nation, each packed with a clean set of clothing and a full array of hygiene items for homeless veterans. Vet Packs were also distributed for VA facilities to have on hand when patients were admitted or released with only what they were wearing. Other items distributed included phone cards, blankets and towels, Unique requests for help from individual veterans were also addressed.



*“It is the generosity and thoughtfulness of caring organizations such as yours that provide many of the supplementary items, activities and services that would not otherwise be available to our veterans. We are most grateful.”*

*Donna Ruthwicz,  
Providence VA Medical Center*



## *For Veterans... (continued)*



### *VA Crochet & Craft (Sewing Team)*

Members of the VA Crochet & Craft Team use their sewing, knitting, crocheting and other crafting skills to help provide comfort and dignity to hospitalized veterans while showing them that they are loved and remembered. The team makes and sends lapghans (lap blankets), hats, scarves, trach/stoma bibs, catheter bag covers, wheelchair/walker totes and slipper socks to VA medical facilities around the country.

In 2010, the team created and directly delivered 1423 lapghans, 309 hats, 228 Scarves, 229 tote bags, 7 ditty bags, 122 catheter bag covers, 71 baby items (for Operation Top Knot) 26 pairs of slippers and 93 tracheotomy covers. Additional thousands of these items were also sent to the Soldiers' Angels warehouse for distribution.

*“ 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.*”





## *For Military Families...*

### *Living Legends*

The Living Legends team comforts the loved ones left behind when a warrior falls on the battlefield. From sympathy cards and letters for grieving families, to wreaths or live memorial trees and "Remembering" emails on the anniversary of a fallen hero's death, Living Legends volunteers reach out and wrap "Angel Wings" around the families and loved ones who have lost so much in service to America.



Projects include: coordinating with artist Michael Reagan, who works with families to create gift portraits of a family's fallen loved one; working with PatchesKids.org to supply grieving children with special tools to help them cope with and express their feelings; and providing individually-made, quilted memorial wall hangings for families of the fallen with very young or unborn children as a unique expression of the child and the parent they have lost.

The team sent cards, letters and other items to the families of all 1059 American service members killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2010, including 29 wreaths and 118 trees.



*“Knowing we have the love and support of so many has enabled us to get through this difficult time.”*

## For Military Families... (continued)

### Operation Outreach

Deployment doesn't just affect those who are sent; military families serve, too. Operation Outreach thanks them for their service while their loved ones are away. Deployed service members know that while they protect America over there, we will look out for their families here at home. In 2010, OP Outreach sent over 1700 holiday care packages and 103 Easter dinners to military families across the country, in addition to other unique assistance.



*“My wife is still in awe of all the cards, letters, emails and boxes of stuff they have received! She has met so many friends online and has a real connection with some of them.”*



### Operation Top Knot

The volunteers of Operation Top Knot sew, knit, crochet, quilt and design blankets, booties, hats, onesies, bibs and other homemade gifts for expectant military mothers, with particular emphasis on those with deployed partners. They also assemble and deliver gift baskets of baby supplies. In 2010, Operation Top Knot supported over 200 expectant military families directly, and threw three mass baby showers on military bases for over 125 others.

*“I have never had someone or a group of people that I didn't know be so selfless and thoughtful. It is very, very appreciated and calming to my fiancé, knowing that you all are here to help out when he is unable to.”*





## Angels Store

The Soldiers' Angels Store is an online service that provides blankets, care packages, pins, coins, publications, clothing and collectibles for service members, their families, volunteer Angels and veterans. The store format allows people to direct items to troops and their families, and gives Angel volunteers a variety of ways to spread the Angel message of support for the military.

All purchases made on the site are considered donations to Soldiers' Angels, are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law and go directly to supporting our vital mission. The store site also allows donors to make direct donations or sponsor a care package to be shipped by Soldiers' Angels to "Any Soldier" or a hero of the donor's choice.

The Soldiers' Angels Store is located at [www.AngelsStore.org](http://www.AngelsStore.org).



*“Your support means the world to us. Every day we do what we do because we know there are amazing Americans like yourself that help others...you have already filled our needs by doing this and giving us a reason to protect you.”*



## 2010 Activity Highlights



### *Letters for Lyrics*

Partnering with Dodge Ram and Zac Brown Band at over 50 concerts across the country, Soldiers' Angels sent a hand-written postcard from the band's fans to every deployed troop as part of a nationwide multimedia campaign.

### *Creation of Operation Harmony*

A fully-equipped music room and music therapy/lessons program at the Soldiers' Angels Support Center in San Antonio were established through a grant from Yamaha Instruments, including regular classes with trained instructors.

### *Communicause Social Media Makeover*

Services from the MindComet contest win in 2009 were applied in 2010 through creation of a unique Social Media widget, implementation of text-to-donate, Facebook and Twitter makeovers, and setup of Google Analytics to track social media effectiveness.

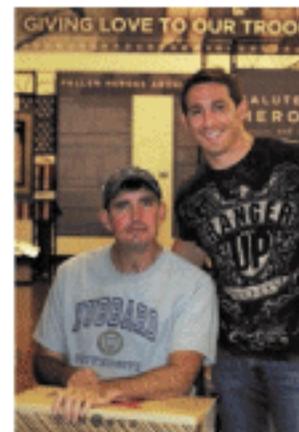


### *Operation Patriot Care Package*

With the sponsorship of BAE Systems, Soldiers' Angels supported Operation Patriot Care Package II, connecting deployed soldiers of the hardest-hit unit in the 101st Airborne with their families for Christmas 2010. The project was created and filmed by Documentarian Michael Slee to chronicle deployment from the homefront to the frontlines, and resulted in extensive cable TV news coverage for Soldiers' Angels.

### *Mixed Martial Arts Partnerships*

Under the influence of military-themed clothing company Ranger Up, a number of stars in the growing sport of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) have championed Soldiers' Angels by wearing our name or logo, participating in Soldiers' Angels events for the wounded and frequently talking about the organization when interviewed. Stars active for Soldiers' Angels in 2010 included Tim Kennedy, Jorge Rivera and Matt Hughes.





### *Gridiron Golf Tournament*

Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchell again made Soldiers' Angels the beneficiary of their annual Grid Iron Golf Tournament, held since 1997 at each Super Bowl location during Super Bowl Week. From a star-studded visit to the Miami VA Medical Center, to the "Immaculate Reception" dinner and golf tournament, the event brought joy to veterans and highlighted Soldiers' Angels among potential major donors while raising funds for the organization.



### *Presidential Citizens Medal*

MaryAnn Phillips of Soldiers' Angels Germany received the Presidential Citizens Medal (second highest U.S. civilian medal) for her tireless work supporting the wounded and their families at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. President Barack Obama honored her for "putting her patriotism into action for our troops and our nation."

### *Corporate Partnerships*

From small online companies to major corporations, Soldiers' Angels continued to form dozens of major partnerships to support the troops while raising the visibility and resources of Soldiers' Angels. Through customer and corporate donations, Harry & David provided 3,000 pounds of Moose Munch™ snacks, and Overseas Services Corporation facilitated Bayer and Glaxo's donations of 5% of their of sales during a high-profile drive in military exchanges. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Green Beans Coffee, Borders Bookstores (Starbucks), and other gourmet coffee companies continued to provide Soldiers' Angels with thousands of pounds of coffee for deployed troops by inviting their customers to donate, and countless other companies in a variety of industries stepped up to join the Soldiers' Angels team.

### *Drum Hike*

Sponsored by Soldiers' Angels, veteran Troy Yocum's cross-country hike in 2010 raised \$37,000 for military families and built awareness for a national Day of the Deployed (Oct 26) by encouraging governors to sign a Louisville Slugger to show their support. The project resulted in extended media coverage for Soldiers' Angels.





## Thank You, Donors!

From the largest grantors and corporations to the smallest individual donor, Soldiers' Angels is powered by thousands of generous Americans and others around the world who have given what they can to ensure continued support for the military and their families. We gratefully recognize the generosity of so many individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations who continue to support America's heroes in these challenging times.

Each of these contributions has enabled Soldiers' Angels to accomplish the mission of caring for our deployed soldiers and their families and honoring our fallen heroes. These gifts have also allowed us to further expand our services to veterans.

Although space does not permit us to list every one of the many individuals and organizations who contributed in 2010, we thank them all for their support, in particular the Singer Foundation for a grant of \$150,000 toward the activities of Project Valour-IT.



*“Thank you for letting me do something to help these brave people. - Ingrid-Heidi, Norway*

## *Internet and Social Media Resources*

As a volunteer community that has grown – and remains connected – through the Internet, Soldiers' Angels continues to stay on the cutting edge of Internet technology by using a variety of platforms.

*Website* - [www.SoldiersAngels.org](http://www.SoldiersAngels.org) is the organization's official face to the world and the main way in which volunteer Angels and soldiers become involved. It provides detailed information on teams and projects, how to become an Angel, and an online store where gifts or supplies for soldiers, veterans or volunteers can be purchased. Visitors can also discover other organizations and companies helping military personnel and veterans, find support groups and resources for active duty personnel or veterans in need, and listings of blogs that cover a wide range of topics of interest to those in the service as well as to their friends and families at home.



*Facebook* - With over 500 million active users, Facebook is a powerful way to reach people around the world and network with those interested in supporting American troops. At the end of 2010, Soldiers' Angels had over 60,000 "likes" indicating individuals interested in Soldiers' Angels, and a very active "page" where volunteers and the general public could brainstorm, ask questions, share information, and learn more about Soldiers' Angels activities and events. Many Angel teams and projects created their own Facebook pages as well.

*Twitter* - A fast, 140-character way to keep in touch via mobile technology such as cell phones, Twitter allows Soldiers' Angels to quickly share information, refer users to specific news or pages on the main website, and encourage donations through Text to Donate. At the end of 2010, over 5,000 Twitter users "followed" Soldiers' Angels.

*Official Angel Blogs* - A volunteer Blog Coordinator was appointed in 2010 to manage the wide variety of official bloggers who highlight state or team/project activities and distribute Angel news, draw in new volunteers and donors, and raise online visibility.

*ApprovedAngels.com* - Overhauled in late 2009 and early 2010, it allows registered Angels to join teams and receive assignments such as their adopted soldier's names, update their contact info and access support resources for their volunteer activities.

*“Just navigating through your site humbles me. Just the concept of how much you do for us brings a tear to our eye. Thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart.”*



## *Volunteers and Organizational Leadership*

Soldiers' Angels is proud to have hundreds of thousands of creative and dedicated volunteers assisting us with our mission. They are the heart of Soldiers' Angels, led by the volunteer Officers and Board of Trustees, and supported by the Soldiers' Angels staff. We extend our deepest thanks to all involved in helping Soldiers' Angels ensure "No Soldier Go Unloved."

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*“This organization is by far the best when it comes to helping soldiers in need. - SPC J*



## *New Board of Trustees Members*

### ***Matthew Currier Burden, Member at Large***



A Gulf War veteran, Matt enlisted in the army at the age of seventeen, becoming one of the youngest jumpmasters ever and serving in the 82nd Airborne, Special Forces and the Defense Intelligence Agency as he moved from enlisted soldier to the rank of major. He founded the influential and award-winning military blog (milblog) *Blackfive* in 2003 after learning that the valorous sacrifice of a friend was unreported by the journalist whose life he saved. In 2006 he edited *Blog of War*, a collection of essays from *Blackfive* and other blogs focusing on the experiences of military personnel and their families in wartime.

Since leaving the Army, Matt has continually advocated for America's service members and their families, maintaining close contacts with active duty personnel, military leaders and policy makers. He is a regular panelist and moderator for military and new media conferences, and a pundit and consultant on national TV and radio news programs. Matt co-founded the Warrior Legacy Foundation and is president of independent reporting and advertising production company SOG Media. He holds an MBA in Business Strategy from the University of Illinois and Masters Degree in Computer Science from the University of Chicago. Matt is currently employed as an IT executive in Chicago, where he lives in the suburbs with his wife and their two children.

### ***Mark Seavey, Member at Large***



A strong advocate for veterans, Mark has worked with The American Legion since 1997 as an Appeals Representative, Assistant Director/Grassroots Coordinator for the National Legislative Commission, and New Media Manager. Prior to and during his Legion employment, Mark served in the Active Duty Army, the US Army Reserve, and the Virginia Army National Guard. He deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1997, then led an infantry squad in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005 that provided security for Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Following his return from Afghanistan, Mark co-founded Vets for Freedom, a nonpartisan organization focused on educating Americans about the importance of success in the War on Terrorism and

today serves on the board of Boys State Virginia, which teaches rising high school seniors about state government.

In addition to blogging for The Legion, Mark runs a personal military blog (milblog) specializing in covering anti-war activities and debunking fraudulent military service claims. Born and raised in New England and currently living in Indianapolis, Mark is a graduate of The Citadel and holds a Juris Doctorate from George Mason University School of Law. He recently passed the Indiana Bar Exam and is married to Caroline, a fellow military blogger.

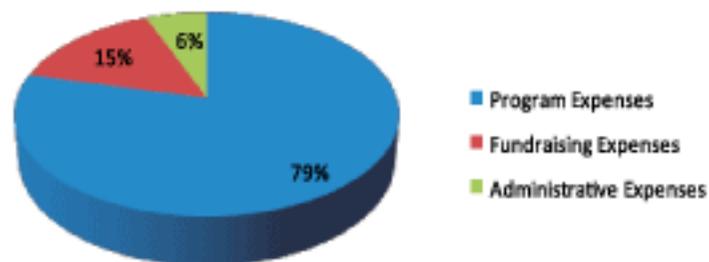


## 2010 FINANCIALS

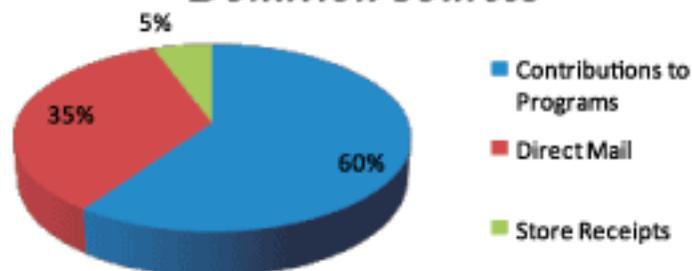
Total Donations: \$12,251,100

Total Assets: \$960,111

### *Organizational Activities*



### *Donation Sources*



A complete audited financial statement can be found at [soldiersangels.org/index.php?page=financials](http://soldiersangels.org/index.php?page=financials)





# Angel Impact

*I wish there were more organizations like Soldiers' Angels in the world. – Major John Walsh*



*It's people like you that keep the fighting spirit in the American soldier. – Specialist D*



*I was overwhelmed with my situation until my Army Wounded Warrior Advocate referred me to you guys. Thank you so much for all the things you've done for me and my family. - Ferdinand & Tracy*



*You all set the example of what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty. – MSGT Phillip Rivera*



*You have no idea how your kindness impacts the morale and welfare of our Marines. There aren't enough words to express our gratitude to you. - 1st Lieutenant Sanchez-Collins*



*You were my family in my time of need - SGT P.W.*



*Without the support of Soldiers' Angels, our mission would be nearly impossible! - MEDEVAC Pilot*



*What you do saves lives and hope. - CSM Fidelito Ordonio*