

# KNOW THE COST. HONOR THE SACRIFICE.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# Table of Contents

Mission

The Crisis We're Tackling

Our Programs

The Impact We're Making

Why Your Support Matters

Meet Robert

Get Started

# Our Mission

The Robert Irvine Foundation supports and strengthens the physical and mental wellbeing of our service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. We provide these heroes with life-changing opportunities that unlock the potential in their personal and professional lives through food, wellness, community, and financial support.

[▶ Watch Our 2024 Impact Video](#)

# The Crisis We're Tackling

**Mental Health.** Many veterans and first responders experience PTSD, depression, and anxiety due to the traumatic experiences encountered during service.

**Loneliness.** Many veterans don't feel they have the support system needed to get through hardships.

**Reintegration.** Veterans often feel unsupported and forgotten after returning home to civilian life.

**Family Strain.** The impact of service-related issues can place significant strain on family relationships.

**Veteran suicide rate is 57% higher than national average.**

Dear Friends,

Writing this message for our inaugural annual report, I'm filled with gratitude for your support.

The milestones of the past year have marked an important chapter for the Robert Irvine Foundation and I feel immense pride for how much our programs have grown, thanks to you.

I started the Foundation in 2014 to provide grants for heroes in need. I was also traveling the world, visiting military bases, veterans homes, and meeting with Gold Star Families. With every hero I met, I became more and more motivated to help. In 2020, we began launching our own support programs and providing resources directly to our service members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

With this new mission, we're supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of our nation's heroes inspired by my life's passions—food, wellness, and community—while continuing to provide critical financial support.

As a veteran, I've always had a passion for supporting our nation's heroes and their families. I've seen a father empowered to parent his children while using his IBOT, I witnessed veterans reunite with an emotional embrace after decades of losing touch, and I've heard service members exchange battle stories while enjoying a special meal prepared just for them. Moments like these are a testament to our impact. They inspire us. They propel us forward.

I want to thank you for being part of our mission. We're on a journey together with a shared vision and unwavering commitment to supporting our heroes.

There's no limit to the lives we'll change. Let's get to work.

**-Robert Irvine**  
**Founder, Robert Irvine Foundation**



Dear Friends,

This past year, we've been able to count on your support when our heroes needed it. For that, I am so grateful. And it's now my privilege to share some of the accomplishments you made possible with your generosity.

We reconnected over 2,200 veterans, their families, and Gold Star Families through our Reuniting the Brave program. We served over 40,000 meals at Breaking Bread With Heroes events. And it was our privilege to visit over 32,000 service members and families on military bases all over the world.

Our board is also growing. We added Ramón 'CZ' Colón-López, a 33-year veteran of the Air Force and a former Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the most senior enlisted service member in the U.S. Armed Forces. We also added JoAnne Bass, an Air Force veteran of over 31 years. A trailblazer and role model, she was selected as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the first woman to become the highest senior enlisted leader in any military service.

In all of our accomplishments, we remain dedicated to ensuring that your dollars make it to our heroes in need as efficiently and sustainably as possible. Which is why I'm proud to report that our fiscal responsibility earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Platinum rating from GuideStar.

And that's just the beginning. You'll find so much more in the pages of this Annual Report.

Thank you for being part of the Robert Irvine Foundation family. Together, we'll continue to honor those who have given so much for our nation.

With my heartfelt gratitude,

**-Judith Otter**  
**President, Robert Irvine Foundation**



# FOOD

## PROGRAMS

We often overlook the fundamental aspect of our health: nutrition. Yet, what we eat profoundly influences not just our physical health but also our mental wellbeing. Research consistently demonstrates the intricate connection between food and mood, emphasizing the critical role of nutrition in supporting mental wellness.

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FOUNDATION**



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IRVINE  
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## BREAKING BREAD WITH HEROES

Food also has an extraordinary ability to transcend boundaries, spark conversation, and foster connections. Whether it's gathering around a shared meal or collaborating in the kitchen, the act of breaking bread together is a universal language that brings people closer.



# 40,000+

**Heroes and their families served meals at  
Breaking Bread With Heroes**

**“We’re so grateful...it makes us feel  
important. It communicates in a real way the  
gratitude the Robert Irvine Foundation has  
for our service members...it is tangible, and  
we really appreciate it and our families  
appreciated it.”**

**-Service Member**

**BBWH participant at Fort Hamilton**



## FOOD INSECURITY

The food insecurity crisis within the military is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts to provide assistance to those who bravely defend our nation and their families. It's our moral responsibility to honor the service of our military personnel by ensuring that they have the support they need to thrive, both during and after their service.

# 200+

Military family members received support for their Thanksgiving meals to help combat food insecurity during the holiday season. A grant also was distributed to military families to help combat food insecurity.

**“We’ve got incredible volunteers here today helping give out food to our military families in need... To serve our military families that are underserved in the food category, food insecurity is such a huge problem especially in the military community. This is so important.”**

-Robert Irvine, Meal Handout Event

# WELLNESS

## PROGRAMS

Our service members sacrifice their physical and mental well-being in defense of our nation. However, their journey doesn't end on the battlefield. Through our Wellness Programs, we help heal the visible and invisible wounds they incurred while serving our country, and empower them to break through boundaries and fulfill their potential.

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## IBOTS AND MOBILITY DEVICES

Mobility devices and IBOTs not only provide physical support but also serve as symbols of resilience and adaptability. By restoring mobility and independence, these devices empower service members and first responders to navigate the challenges of daily life with dignity, reducing feelings of helplessness and improving overall mental well-being.



# 9

## **iBots Provided To Injured Veterans And First Responders Along With 4 Mobility Devices**

**“The IBOT restored Jason’s dignity and independence.. He’s able to see people at their eye-level. He’s able to resume a lot of activities he couldn’t in a normal manual chair.. And it’s nice to be able to stroll down the street hand-in-hand again.”**

**- Courtney**

**Spouse of IBOT recipient**

## SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs offer companionship, emotional support, and practical assistance to veterans and first responders personally coping with physical and psychological wounds. These loyal companions provide comfort during times of distress and mitigate symptoms of PTSD and anxiety, while promoting a sense of security and connection. Ultimately these dogs enhance the mental resilience of their hero.





# 3

## Service Dogs Matched With Their Heroes

**“When I first met Menji, he jumped up on my lap to lick my face and we had an instant connection. He has changed my life for the better - crowded places would induce panic or stress - he breaks down those heighten levels so I can live my life a way a never thought I could before.**

**- Veteran Mike M.  
Service Dog Recipient**



## REUNITING THE BRAVE

Reuniting the Brave brings together service members and their families who shared a unique experience, offering an opportunity for camaraderie, validation, and healing. These gatherings provide a safe space for veterans from the same unit to share their stories, process trauma, and find solidarity among peers who understand their struggles firsthand. By fostering a sense of belonging and understanding, this program plays a vital role in promoting mental health.

# 2,200

Veterans, Gold Star Families, and military family members  
participated in Reuniting the Braves

**“I’ve never been around a closer family, even my  
own, than this group of men and women.  
Meeting people my son served with, it’s a new  
family and it means everything.”**

**- Father of fallen hero  
Reuniting the Brave Participant**



## MEDEVAC PODCAST

A podcast dedicated to veterans and first responders provides a platform for these individuals to share their unique experiences of service, injury, recovery, resiliency, success and failure fostering a sense of solidarity and understanding within the community. Hearing personal stories from fellow veterans and first responders can offer support to those who may be struggling with similar challenges, reducing feelings of isolation and stigma surrounding mental health issues.

# 44

**Veterans, Service Members, and Civilians  
Interviewed On The Medevac Podcast**

**“I hope people hearing this story will help  
other veterans to reach out to one another  
like Ryan and I did. This was so great. From  
the bottom of my heart, thank you.”**

**- Veteran, Bernie  
Medevac Podcast participant**

# COMMUNITY

## PROGRAMS

Having community-focused programs is crucial to build peer support networks for veterans, service members, first responders, and their families while uplifting one another. New friendships and lasting memories are made through bonding experiences and resiliency-building events. By promoting collaboration and resource-sharing, these programs contribute to the overall well-being of our heroes and their loved ones.

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# RESILIENCY EXPERIENCES

Resiliency Experiences are important for service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families as they offer opportunities for healing, connection, and personal growth. Together, these individuals are encouraged to share their stories and learn coping strategies. Our heroes may arrive feeling alone, but they walk away with a renewed sense of family.





# 17,800+

Heroes Impacted At Resiliency Experiences

**“I’ve never met these individuals, but out here in the first nine holes... the things we’ve shared with each other, it’s like we’ve known one another already... it’s been phenomenal and really given us an opportunity to connect.”**

**- Veteran  
Golf Tournament Participant**



## BASE VISITS

When Robert visits the military on base, he brings a sense of home. It provides a morale boost, lifts spirits, and offers a break from the rigors of military life. These visits also serve as a reminder that their sacrifices are appreciated. Beyond creating memorable experiences and sparking joy, Robert always makes time for important dialogues about what it means to serve, sharing his insights on food, nutrition, and fitness which in turn inspires service members to persevere through challenges with renewed motivation and resilience.

**“I’m about to board onto the deck of the USS Eisenhower that will be heading to Israel. One last goodbye before they deploy - we’ll do some cooking, give some talks to lift morale... this is what our Base Visits are all about.”**

**- Robert Irvine, Base Visit**

**32,700+**

**Service members and military families  
were visited on military bases.**

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Less than .04% of the American population serves in the military. Community Education events are raising awareness about the ever-changing needs of those who protect our nation and their families by bringing local communities together for special events that inform and inspire. By bridging the gap between the military and civilian sectors, these events facilitate collaboration and strengthen the support network available to military members, veterans, first responders, and their loved ones.



# 334,000+

Heroes and civilians attended Community  
Education events since 2022

**“We have a crisis when it comes to veteran suicide. Talking about it doesn’t make it worse, it only helps and everyone in this room can be part of that solution.”**

**-Robert Yarnall  
Veteran and Robert Irvine Foundation  
VP Development & Impact**



6

Ambassadors  
Joined the Team

## AMBASSADORS

Robert is one person and knows he can not make a difference on his own. That is why he's created an outstanding team of veterans, military families, and caregivers to raise awareness about the Robert Irvine Foundation. These friends volunteer their time to help Robert spread his vision. As Foundation representatives, they provide program updates and share their stories at speaking engagements and events.

# FINANCIAL

## SUPPORT

The sacrifices made by our military personnel and first responders extend beyond their own lives - they impact their families profoundly. By providing financial support to these communities, we can alleviate stressors, bolster resilience, and ultimately enhance the mental wellbeing of the individuals and families receiving help.

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## GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Financial support for Gold Star Families is crucial as it provides a lifeline during a time of profound loss and transition. By alleviating financial burdens, this assistance allows these families to focus on healing, honoring the memory of their loved ones, and rebuilding their lives.



# 200

Gold Star Family members impacted by grants

**“Thank you for choosing us! My son is special needs, caring for him just got a little easier. I was able to purchase a special adaptive electric chair for the bathroom for Christmas this year!”**

**-Gold Star Mom & recipient  
of a Robert Irvine Foundation grant**

## RELIEF FUND

When the unexpected happens – emergencies, natural disasters, health crises – we’re providing support to our heroes and their families to help relieve the financial burdens. These grants offer a vital safety net. They help individuals overcome financial obstacles and access necessary resources, ultimately promoting their well-being and resilience.



# 4

Relief Grants Distributed

**“The hurricane came fast, everything was floating. My focus was to keep my dog above the water. This relief grant allowed me to get help. I was able to hire people to help me pull out the carpeting and furniture and was able to get a storage pod to put my things in. I’m just thankful, it really saved my life.”**

**- Judy J.**

**Veteran & Relief Grant Recipient**



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community grants are vital within the military and first responder communities as they facilitate local initiatives that directly address the unique needs of these groups. This support is the fabric of the community, enabling collaboration, resource-sharing, and mutual support among service members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

# 19

Community Grants Distributed



Scholarship Grant Distributed  
To Support Military Children



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Children of military families sacrifice alongside their parents. We're providing scholarships so they can learn, study, and prepare for their futures without financial stress. These grants empower military children to pursue their academic aspirations, while honoring their family's service to the nation.

**“I am grateful to receive this scholarship, as it not only eases the financial burden of my studies, but also helps me maintain my focus on what truly matters.”**

**- Military Child**

**Robert Irvine Foundation Scholarship Recipient**

## MEET CHEF ROBERT IRVINE

Robert Irvine is a renowned chef, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He's received civilian honors such as Honorary Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy and the Bob Hope Award from the Medal of Honor Society for his charitable work and USO tours.

As an accomplished author, he's penned four cookbooks and recently wrote an entrepreneurial book: *Overcoming Impossible*. He is the owner of two restaurants, Fresh Kitchen by Robert Irvine in the Pentagon and on Joint Base Andrews. He's the owner of FitCrunch, Robert Irvine Foods, Boardroom Spirits, and Terra Arma. A portion of proceeds from all his businesses go to the Robert Irvine Foundation.

The Foundation supports veterans, first responders, and their families. By 2023, it achieved top ratings on Charity Navigator and GuideStar for financial efficiency and transparency.



*Robert Irvine*

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Robert Irvine**

World-class chef and entrepreneur, and a tireless philanthropic supporter of our nation's military.



**Gail Kim**

A legend in professional wrestling, she is a retired star of TNA Wrestling.



**Dave Jeffries**

Dave has been practicing business law for 30 years, and working with Robert for the last 10.



**Justin Leonard**

Justin currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for Chef Robert Irvine.



**Scott Sonnemaker**

Scott Sonnemaker served our nation in the US Navy. He was on Active Duty from 1985-1990.



**Pam Swan**

The Sr. Director of Military Relations & Business Development for Veterans United Home Loans.



**Ramón Colón-López**

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) Ramón Colón-López is a United States veteran who served in the Air Force for 33 years. In December 2019, he became the fourth Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the most senior enlisted service member in the U.S. armed forces. He retired in November 2023.



**JoAnne Bass**

JoAnne Bass served in the U.S. Air Force for over 31 years. In August 2020, she was selected as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the first woman to become the highest senior enlisted leader in any military service, making her a unique trailblazer and role model to hundreds of thousands of men and women, both in the Air Force and in other branches. She retired from that position in March 2024.

# ADVISORY COUNCIL



**John F. Campbell**

General (Retired) John F. Campbell retired from the U.S. Army in May 2016 after 37 years of active duty service. He was most recently the Commander of the U.S. and NATO Forces in Afghanistan from August 2014 to March 2016. He also served as the 34th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army; the second highest ranking officer in the 1.1 million US Army.



**Peter Clarke**

Peter Clarke is a Senior Director at Roberts & Ryan, focusing on Equity, Debt Capital Markets, and Corporate Development. Mr. Clarke has over 20 years of experience in financial services. He has previously held positions at DLJ, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Fidelity & Trust. Mr. Clarke holds SIE, FINRA Series 7, and 63 licenses.



**Ellyn Dunford**

Growing up in the Boston area, Mrs. Dunford graduated from Simmons College with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and moved to northern Virginia, where she met her husband, Joe Dunford. They have been married for 38 years, through 20 homes, six states, three children, and numerous deployments in peacetime and war.



**Ryan D. McCarthy**

Ryan D. McCarthy was confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate and sworn in as the 24th secretary of the Army and served in the role from September 2019 until January 20th, 2021. In August 2017, he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate and appointed as the 33rd Undersecretary of the Army.



**Sean Perseo**

Sean Perseo served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1990 to 1994, with deployments in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Restore Hope. A highlight was dining with General Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in Somalia. Since 2003, Sean has worked at Sunbelt Rentals, where he is now Ambassador of Outreach Programs.



**Marc Roberge**

As frontman for multi-platinum alt-rock band O.A.R., Marc Roberge has performed for sold-out crowds at iconic venues worldwide, building a devoted global fanbase. Now on their tenth album, *The Arcade* (2022), the NYC-based singer/songwriter/guitarist has also built a solo career over the past decade.

# Robert Irvine Foundation

## Statement of Financial Position

As of 12/31/24

### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$844,218
Receivables	\$327,500
Other Assets	\$770,823
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,942,541</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$280,690
Net Assets	\$1,661,851
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,942,541</b>

# Robert Irvine Foundation

## Financial Information for Annual Report

FYE 12/31/23

### Statement of Activities

#### Revenue and Support

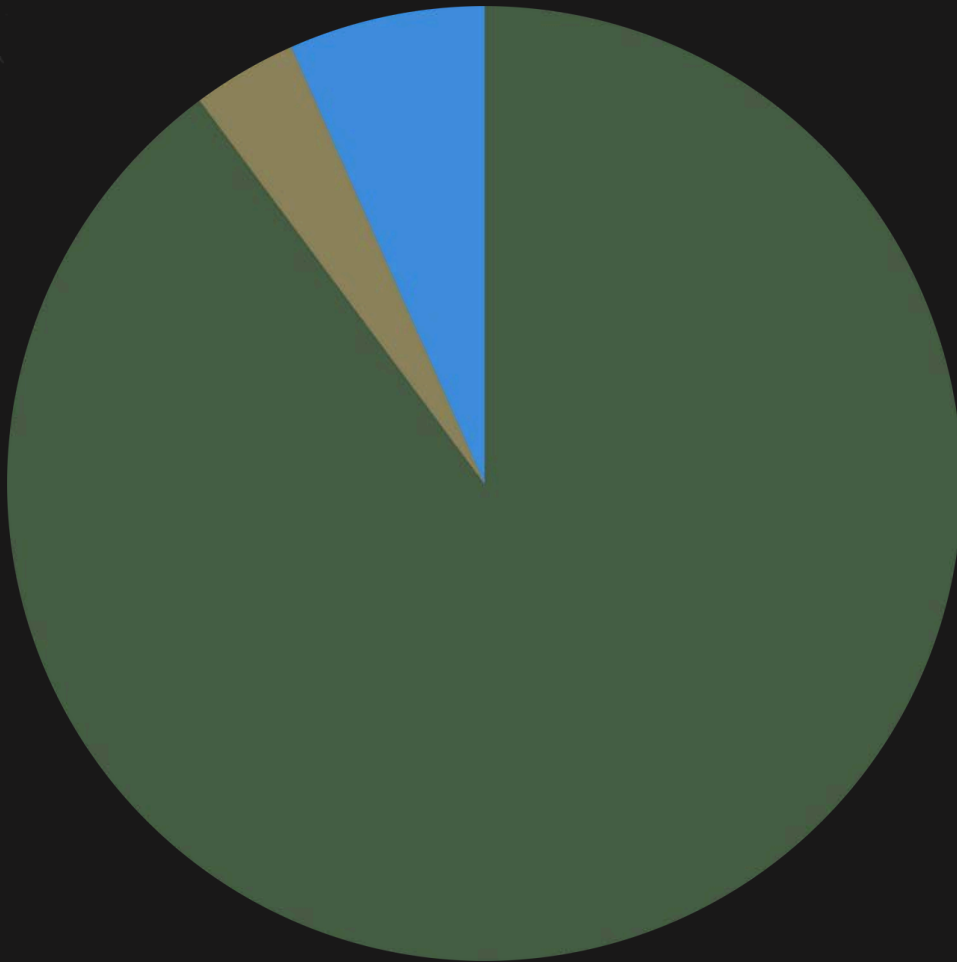
Corporations	\$1,224,629
Foundations	\$1,056,661
Individuals	\$512,459
Indirect Public Support	\$32,222
In-kind Contributions	\$1,000,675
Other Revenue	\$66,652
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$3,893,298</b>

#### Expenses

Empowerment and Community	\$1,259,057	
Financial Support	\$432,755	
Food Programs	\$349,490	
Wellness & Health	\$1,062,913	
<b>Total Program Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,104,215</b>	<b>90%</b>
Management and General	\$122,469	4%
Fundraising	\$229,216	7%
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$351,595</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,455,810</b>	

# 90¢

90¢ of every dollar directly supported  
our programs and outreach



Program Expenses	89.83%
Management & Admin	3.54%
Fundraising	6.63%



# JOIN US

Becoming a supporter of the Robert Irvine Foundation is a powerful way to serve our mission of aiding veterans, service members, first responders, and their families, while showcasing your commitment to community and service.

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## CONTACT US

[donor@robertirvinefoundation.org](mailto:donor@robertirvinefoundation.org)

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Learn about the ways you can support Robert Irvine Foundation.

**[Ways To Give](#)**



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[RobertIrvineFoundation.org](http://RobertIrvineFoundation.org)