



EVENTS PER YEAR SINCE INCEPTION

YEAR	EVENTS
2012	0
2013	6
2014	7
2015	10
2016	10
2017 office open	26
2018 to date	16

MORE IN 2017

Addition of:

- 4 families (1 west coast)
- 13 new registered children
- 51 children total in WoHF
- 13 new children in 2017
- 7 children aged out since start
- 26 new children participated in events in 2017 since WoHF start
- 72 Mentors total in WoHF
- 37 new Mentors in 2017
- 34 new Mentors participated in events since WoHF start



Newsletter Volume V



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Who will keep the promise?
We will!



SHEP ENJOYS A LIFE SKILLS EVENT AT THE NEW OFFICE.

NEW OFFICE EXPANDS OUR REACH

Word of Honor Fund’s new Support Site opened its doors on February 1st of last year. Measurable changes were noted in 2017 and have continued in 2018. By reorienting its playing field, Word of Honor Fund (WoHF) was able to build on its strengths and focus on the community by having a local Support Site.

Historically, WoHF’s events were driven by family interest. Since the opening of the office, the focus has shifted toward creating activities at the local level. Families have responded favorably to the new approach and to the physical location. The steady flow in activity shows that intra-office communication and workflow boosted the number of Child-Mentor activities and events. The Support Site provides a convenient location for the WoHF team to meet with families and plan. The increase in hired staff in 2017 has contributed to the continuity and steadfast workforce.

WoHF’s events have increased not only in quantity but also in quality, as evidenced by feedback from the children, mentors, and mothers. In 2017, WoHF’s support activities increased by 435% compared to its first year of events in 2013, quadrupling its efforts to support our special operations community. By mid-June of 2018, WoHF will have reached 160% of the total number of support activities completed in the year prior to the office opening. Without a doubt, our Support Site in Virginia Beach is expanding our reach!



JUNE 2017—JUNE 2018 EVENTS

CORNERSTONE

AUG 23-27, 2017 — BOSTON RED SOX / SALEM WITCH TOUR, MA

A grandfather, two Gold Star Children and one Mentor enjoyed an on-field Boston Red Sox experience and a great summer game. Just north of Boston, the group took part in a fun “witch tour” showcasing the spooky history of Salem, MA.

NOV 17-19, 2017 — NOTRE DAME VS. NAVY FOOTBALL, IN

Notre Dame provided two Gold Star Children and two Mentors the history of the Irish during a tour of the locker room tour and the grotto. The participants enjoyed a tailgate and pep rally and came home with game gear and memories to last a lifetime.

JAN 20, 2018 — MONSTER JAM / GROUP EVENT, VA

Monster Jam is an amazing monster truck show that ten Gold Star Children and eight WoHF Mentors attended. This show is one of a kind and always brings a smile to all who attend.

MILESTONE

JUNE 29-JULY 3, 2017 — SAN DIEGO SURF EVENT, CA

One Gold Star Child traveling with her Female Companion and Mentor continue to develop an appetite for action sports. These action sport skills translate well for child development and bonding with the Mentor. After surfing, they toured the facility where the Child’s father earned his trident.

AUG 18, 2017 — DOLPHIN QUEST, HI

Three Gold Star Children, their Mentor, and Mother attended this interactive, aquatic experience where they swam with dolphins. This activity expanded the children’s knowledge about marine mammals, conservation, education, and science.

OCT 21-22, 2017 — PORTLAND TIMBERS SOCCER, OR

This sporting event helped build relationships between a Gold Star Child, his Mentor, and a Coach. The Timbers allowed the child to enjoy a one-of-a-kind, on-field experience prior to the game, which elevated the child’s understanding of professional soccer.

NOV 21-22, 2017 — FOUR SEASONS CULINARY, NV

Alongside the Executive Chef of Four Seasons at Mandalay Bay, one Gold Star budding chef, his Grandmother, and Mentor prepared a meal

for a special guest Veteran. To the family’s surprise, the Veteran they served was the former teammate of the fallen father and is now the child’s new Mentor.

FEB 13-15, 2018 — SNOWSHOE RESORT, SNOWSHOE, WV

On the slopes of Snowshoe Resort in West Virginia, one Gold Star Child and her Uncle Mentor (a Navy SEAL and brother of the fallen) strengthened their familial bond while learning how to snowboard and ski.

FEB 15-19, 2018 — SNOWBOARDING, SUN VALLEY, ID

WoHF’s close-knit community of Sun Valley welcomed this Gold Star Child and Mentor to four fun-filled days of snowboarding, local fare, and beautiful mountain scenery.

FEB 16-20, 2018 — SNOWBOARDING, WINTER PARK, CO

Two Gold Star siblings and their Mentor embraced the exhilarating challenges offered by the Colorado mountains. Snowboarding became a Milestone this year, with goals that were met with fun and brotherly love.

APRIL 14, 2018 — BOWS AND BOW TIES SCHOOL DANCE , SC

For the second year, WoHF was pleased to support a Gold Star Child and her Mentor Grandfather. The ability to travel for events allows Mentors the opportunity to continually connect with the children. The fallen hero’s parents flew in to attend the daddy/daughter dance at their granddaughter’s school. The Grandmother was welcomed by the school to attend as a female companion.

APRIL 28, 2018 — BMW DRIVING COURSE, SC

At an instructional course known to be a place of enjoyment to the father, this Gold Star Child and Mentor experienced the activities in which the child’s father was passionate about—high-performance automobiles.

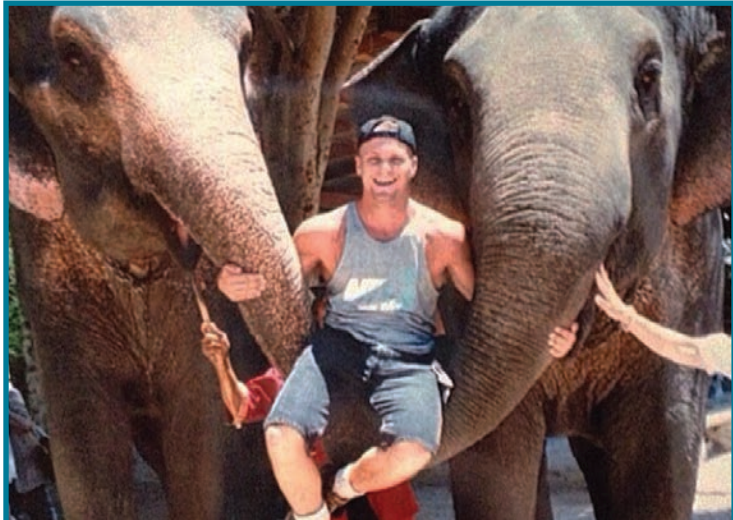
JUNE 16, 2018 — MOTOCROSS NITRO CIRCUS, VA

One Gold Star Child and two Mentors enjoyed the backstage tour and motocross demonstration of Travis Pastrana’s professional “action sport collective.” His Mentor and motocross instructor were able to discuss technique, safety, and equipment while enjoying this high-energy show.

CAPSTONE

MAY 29-JUNE 9, 2018 — THAILAND, PHOTOGRAPHY

Two Gold Star Siblings and their Mentor had a picture-perfect trip by replicating a photo of their Father taken 30 years ago. This opportunity with indigenous wildlife was not just exciting but also an incredible bonding experience for the sisters.



LIFE SKILLS

FEB 10, 2018 — LOVE TO LEARN / LIFE SKILLS CAR MAINTENANCE, VA

Twelve Gold Star Children and eight Mentors took to tire and oil changing—life skill staples! They learned safety and basic car maintenance at American Do-It-Yourself Garage, owned and operated by a USN (Ret) SEAL, Steve Cauffiel. Simultaneously, younger children delved in a DIY slimy science experiment, decorating cakes and creating handmade Valentine cards for their moms at the VB Support Site.

MAY 19, 2018 — MOTHER’S APPRECIATION / BASIC ETIQUETTE, VA

For the first time in a classroom setting, WoHF facilitated an etiquette course for thirteen Gold Star Children and three Mentors. The life skills demonstrated are building blocks for the children, giving them the confidence and grace that is important in all social environments.

LOCAL OUTREACH

JULY 17-30, 2017 — ADVENTURE, WATER, AND AMUSEMENT, IFLY & ROCK GYM, VA

This local event was inspired by the visit of a Gold Star Family with four children. Their two Mentors were able to provide events that challenged them physically and emotionally during their stay.

AUG 19, 2017 — NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE, HI (COVER PHOTO)

Three Gold Star Children, their Mentor, and a female companion enjoyed paddle boarding under the magical Maui sunset. This adventure allowed time for bonding, discussion, and learning.

OCT 27, 2017 — ADVENTURE PARK / ZIP LINE, VA

One Gold Star Child and her Mentor enjoyed fun-filled excitement high in the treetops. The zip line course required using both physical and mental agility.

NOV 30, 2017 — WINTER WRAP / MENTOR LEAD, VA

Nineteen Gold Star Children and eight Mentors took to Lynnhaven Mall to purchase holiday gifts for Mothers and Veterans. Some participants crafted holiday ornaments as a fun and stress-relieving alternative.



DEC 1, 2017 — BMBC VIRTUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT, NC, MD, VA

This premier online fishing tournament was developed to inspire all anglers in the advancement of WoHF. This year, four marinas from Maryland to North Carolina participated in catching striped bass, with the winner from Anchor Yacht Basin in Turkey Point, MD.

JAN 6, 2018 — AFC WILD CARD PLAYOFF, KANSAS CITY, MO

With warm hearts, one Gold Star Child and his Mentor enjoyed a chilly day at the 50-yard line cheering on their favorite football team.

JAN 21, 2018 — VET HOUSE / MENTOR LEAD, VA

Ten Gold Star Children gave back to Virginia Beach’s Homeless Veteran community by donating Christmas gifts and serving dinner to others. This annual event for these children and the seven Mentors warms the heart of all who participate.



MARCH 7, 2018 — BIG 12 BASKETBALL, MO

Two Gold Star Children and two Mentors enjoyed a NCAA College Basketball experience by attending a Big 12 Tournament game. Hanging out with their dad’s college buddies made it an extra special day.

MARCH 24, 2018 — ACADEMI DRIVING SCHOOL, NC

Two Gold Star Children and two Mentors completed a professional driving course to learn techniques for safe driving and accident avoidance. The course instructor was a former teammate of both fallen fathers of the children. He taught them that safety and responsibility are critical to their success on and off the track.

APRIL 15, 2018 — MARVEL SUPERHEROES LIVE SHOW, VA

Nine Gold Star Children and five Mentors enjoyed this live, action-packed show. This local event provided opportunities for young members and their mentors to build relationships.

MAY 5-6, 2018 — TEXAS FATHER-SON CAMP TRIP, TX

This Father-Son camp was attended by a Mentor (Godfather) and a Gold Star Child, allowing participation and enjoyment in activities and time well spent.