



What an amazing 2022!

After some rough years as a country, we all teamed together and made a huge impact for our heroes. I am continually amazed by your steadfast commitment to give back to those who serve.

Your generosity impacted heroes across the nation and around the world this year. Here is just one of the stories that shows the power of what we are doing together through the work of Stronger Families:

"We were done. We fought all the time. Our kids were being impacted by our tension and we were miserable. As a leader, I wasn't willing to reach out for help and I was ashamed, if I'm honest. Then someone told me about the OXYGEN seminar that was coming on base. We went and to say it helped is an understatement. We are signing up now to go again to the seminar. We realized we had been raised in families with very unhealthy communication and we were doing those exact same things in our family. We do weekly date nights now and go through the curriculum to stay strong. Stronger Families is the reason we are together today still." ~ Sergeant, US Army

Thank you for jumping in to give back to those who serve.

In July of 2021, the Stronger Families Board of Directors challenged the staff to think bigger. A great vision was born. We are on a mission to serve 200,000 Military and 48,000 First Responder families within 5 years.

#### Because of your phenomenal generosity in 2022, we were able to crush our goals:

- We had our best Hope for Heroes Gala ever. We acquired over 300 new donor partners in the mission (individuals and companies) and raised 20% more than 2021.
- Our goal for 2022 was to serve 8,750 families. Your support allowed us to reach 10,058 families with our retreats and workshops.
- We set out to serve 940 First Responder couples. Your next-level support allowed us to serve 2,369 heroes in the First Responder community alone--a 252% increase in our impact over the previous year.

Karissa and I, and the Stronger Families team, are honored to stand alongside you as we push forward to rally around our heroes and their families.

The work of Stronger Families is saving lives, healing relationships, and restoring families across our nation and around the world. Families are together today that were broken, because of you. Heroes that were struggling found hope, because of you. We could not do this work without your support.

Thank you!

We are just getting started.

For Our Heroes,

Moel Meador

Noel Meador President & CEO



We had an exceptional year at Stronger Families. Once again, you helped us serve heroes throughout the nation and changed the lives of heroes, their spouses, and their children. We impacted departments and battalions both in the US and abroad.

I feel an immense pride when I share what Stronger Families is doing. Some aspire to do great things and have great ideas and visions. At Stronger Families, we put our mission into action and are committed to changing lives. We are boots on the ground.

Under Noel Meador's leadership, we continue to reach our lofty goals and strategic vision to reach 20% of the military and 5% of the First Responder community before 2026. This year we officially brought Karissa Meador onto the staff as our Chief Development Officer. In just 11 short months, she and her team increased our development funds by 20% over the prior year. The entire team at Stronger Families gives all that they can to push this mission forward with their time and talent. Thank you to the staff of Stronger Families for making the mission happen.

As we head into 2023, I end my term as Board Chair. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this dynamic team and crucial mission. My daughter is a police officer in Hillsboro, OR. This cause is very close to my heart. Stronger Families is not only helping those who serve in their relationships and families but also, helping with mental health struggles and isolation. Stronger Families creates curriculum and creates environments that help our heroes feel less along. These professions are not easy. I say that as my own child was hurt in the line of duty and I have walked through a year of helping her heal.

There are few organizations that help First Responders, Veterans, and Military members negotiate the divide between the stress at work and the demands at home—Stronger Families is doing just that. And we are not only helping heroes; we are saving lives.

Thank you for your support of Stronger Families.

Proud to support our Heroes,

Doug Sackville, Board Chair



## YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

**AT A GLANCE** 

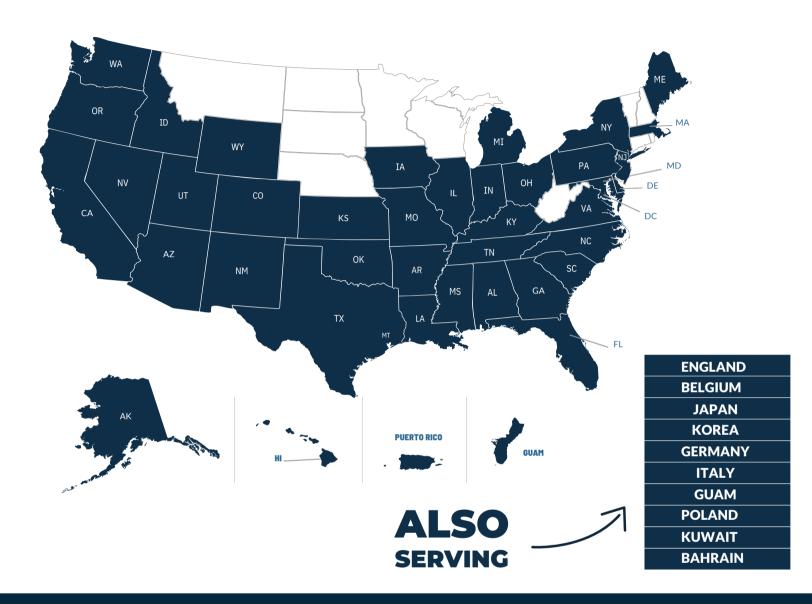
**172** OXYGEN EVENTS

259
FACILITATORS CERTIFIED

10,058 HEROES SERVED



### HEROES SERVED



VISION: Healthy relationships and strong families in every Military, Veteran, and First Responder community.



259

OXIGEN FACILITATORS
CERTIFIED IN 2022



71,711

LIFETIME BENEFICIARIES



Ш

COUNTRIES



10,058

**HEROES SERVED** 



1,913

OXYGEN EVENTS
SINCE 2011



42

STATES /
TERRITORIES

#### **PAYING IT FORWARD**

#### Military and First Responder Family: Pete and CJ Lawrence

As a combat Veteran and a Police Officer, Pete Lawrence has seen his share of trauma. He began his journey in the Marines. During that time, he experienced an attack on his convoy and witnessed firsthand the tragic loss of one of his best friends. An IED exploded and the vehicle behind him was blasted above the telephone poles and came back down. The Humvee was aflame, and his friend was trapped inside—Pete was unable to get to him to help. He helplessly watched as his friend died in that fire. **After this moment, Pete was left with deep wounds mentally and emotionally.** 

After this tragedy and Pete's military career ended, his passion to help others led him to become a Police Officer. Yet, all the years of witnessing danger, death, and trauma began to take their toll. Many symptoms of PTSD began to show themselves: nightmares, sweats, numbing out, isolation. But he wasn't initially aware that this was what he was struggling with.

CJ, Pete's wife, felt like it was her. She didn't understand what was happening to her husband and why their marriage was suffering. Pete became more withdrawn and less available. He was fighting his own war inside. A war that left him feeling like he was drowning. CJ wondered if she was the problem. Both were hurting and felt alone.

**Pete and CJ Lawrence were invited to a Stronger Families OXYGEN retreat in Bellevue, WA. This weekend was life-changing for them.** They received tools to help their relationship and to communicate through the pain. Light bulbs went off. Through the curriculum and conversations at the OXYGEN retreat, communication and connection began to be restored in their marriage. They found hope.

Pastor Rick Warren once said, "Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you. Don't waste your pain. Use it to help others."

The Lawrences have chosen to do just that. They have jumped on as volunteers with Stronger Families and share their story of healing regularly at OXYGEN retreats across the country. Their pain has become their purpose.

Many see those who serve as valiant warriors for our country and community. Yet, we can forget the battle they face when they head home. And, the battles they fight inside. When they leave the service, the purpose they once had as a service member is gone. Many feel lost. Their spouse watches a movie unfold that they were never given the script to. Warriors and spouses can feel very alone. Many couples feel lost and alone in their struggle.

Your support of Stronger Families is not only offering hope, healing, tools, and skills to help heroes and their partners navigate the work/home struggle—it is saving lives. We have had testimonials of individuals who had considered ending their lives before they came to one of our events. Their relationship struggles were a part of their internal war and they felt completely alone. **Through your generosity in 2022, heroes were given HOPE and COMMUNITY. You gave them the best gifts— connection and healed relationships.** 

Pete and CJ are one of 75,000+ couples we have impacted together to date through the work of Stronger Families. You make this possible. **Thank you for paying it forward to those who serve and protect our communities and country.** 







### BY THE NUMBERS

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS 2022**

Individuals \$919,775
Corporations \$134,549
Program Revenue \$305,340
Foundation/Grants \$289,000
Gift-In-Kind \$213,205

Total Contributions \$1,861,869

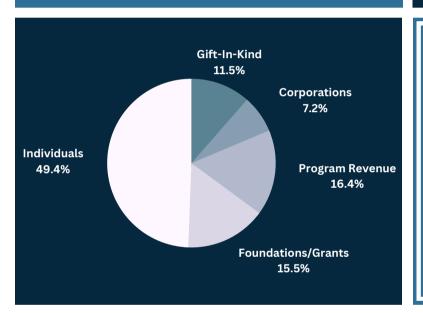
#### **EXPENSES 2022**

Program Services \$1,823,240 Fundraising \$143,993 General/Administrative \$60,842

Board Approved Funds from Reserve\*

-\$236,334

Total Expenses \$1,791,741



90% OF DONATIONS WENT DIRECTLY TO HEROES IN 2022

### YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK



















First Responders | Atlanta, GA

Corrections Officers | Anchorage, AK

### YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

















Police | Spokane, WA

First Responders | Bellevue, WA







## THANK YOU











There's nothing more gratifying than giving back to those who commit their lives to support others. First responder and military families need us; when we help them we help everyone. Stronger Families is greatly impacting those who serve and it is an honor to join with them and support their mission.

Carmen Best
Director of Global Security Risk Operations for Microsoft;
Former Seattle Police Chief

### SAVE THE DATE: 2023 HOPE FOR HEROES GALA October 28th | Hyatt Bellevue

Sponsorship and Table Host opportunities available! Contact: Ellie.Calquhoun@StrongerFamilies.org









#### YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES.

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. At all the times you can. To as many as you can. As long as you can."

~ John Wesley





#### **CHEERS TO GIVING BACK TO OUR HEROES!**











Stronger Families is an organization we care deeply about. Our family is so important to us. We believe the family unit is the foundation for a happy and healthy life. Supporting Military and First Responder families with tools to build successful relationships and families does not only help them, but society at large. Stronger Families is an amazing organization that works tirelessly to support those who serve. We are proud supporters.

> **Eric and Randi Johnson Stronger Families Board Members**



#### PLATINUM (\$20,000+)

Brett and Teresa Smith Chad Duncan Diane Bundrant Don and Melinda Nelson Eric and Randi Johnson Jim and Dr. Shannon DuBois John Meisenbach Joe and Mary Bundrant Kelly Jarrett
Kemper and Betty Freeman
Kerry and Kathy Olin
Romac Industries, Inc.
Steven Blair
Team Nelson
The Bellevue Collection
Trident Seafoods

# OUR HEROES CIRCLE Protecting the Families

Protecting the Families of those who Protect Us



#### **GOLD** (\$10,000 - \$19,000)

Acorn Advisors
Adam and Amanda Wray
Bruce and Alisha Kelso
Chris and Kristina Shaffer
Cory and Tammi Myron
Bubba and Cindy Cathy
Dru and Christine Solberg
Hope Village Church
Jason Molitor
Jim and Barb Larkin
John and Lauren Kutschka

John Nitardy
Kent and Christel Vanderweide
Luke and Tenneall Madsen
Nintex
Paul and Susan McBride
Larry and Monica Keatts
Quest Events
Russell and Patty Lowell
Steve and Deborah Enos
Steve and Michelle Boone
Tim Shoultz

#### **BRONZE** (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Alan and Jennifer Heuberger **Brent and Teri Paylor** Brian and Erin Huong Brian and Lynn Magnuson Brian and Julie Webber Caleb and Kerri Kraus Carmen Best The Walls Winery Charles Stanton Chris Lobet Chris Scotchler **Connor Mac Studios** Craig and Heidi Elston Dave and Jane Cable **David and Tricia Burnett** Dean and Gail Douma Derek and Moni Nelson Dori and Suzanne Monson Doug and Jill Gardner Doug and Rose Marie Wrung Drew and Fmma Davies **Dustin and Shannon Duke** East West Bank Ed and Marsha Harper **Eric Emans** 

Fire Department Coffee Garv and Nicole Hartnett **Geoff Hunt** Gilles Nicault Gretchen Stengel His Foundation Jim Murphy James and Debbie Blodgett Jason Smith Jay and Judy Turney Jeff and Sandy Torrey Jerod and Paige Curley Joel and Erin Gallion Joemarie Rodriguez John and Kelly Ólerud John and Nicolle Curley John Bagge John Flavin John Fowler John Moodie John Score Jonathan Vossler Keith and Erin Dahlenburg Kevin and Lori Jenkins Kirk and Maria Andonian

### **SILVER** (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Dr. Adrian Mayers Ben and Amy Brewer Bob and Jodi Olson Brandi Kruse Chris and Karen Randall Craig and Evon Hartmann Darin and Shannon Jensen Dawn Sullivan Dennis and Jeanne Trittin Dominique and Stephanie Ruybal Ed and Cindy McCahill Eric and Kathryn Stelter Gordy and Cheryl Granger Greg and Anne Hurley Heritage Bank Joe and Tami Trieu

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Rob and Ali Seibly Roger and Terri Blier Roger Evdt Ron and Kim Vachris Ron and Nuri Vitiello Ross and Diane Meador Sean and Donna Martin Sean and Sarah Sanberg Spencer and Shelby Esau Steve and Bridgit Griessell Teri Forst Tim and Marcia Jones Tom and Ingrid Matos Tom and Kathy Absher Tom and Marianne Leonard Troy and April Pollock Uncommon James - Kristin Cavallari Vitali and Natalie Agapov Zach and Terra Vallspinosa Zadart

#### **GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS:**

- M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- **BNSF Railway Foundation**
- Costco

- Kalispell Tribal Economic Authority
- Spokane Rotary Veterans Group

Richard Derham

- Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
- Rockwall Women's League

### THANK YOU LEAD SPONSORS



































As a journalist for more than a decade, I've witnessed the selflessness that officers display every single day – and the toll that it can take on those who love them. Especially in today's political climate, first responders and their families need to know they have a place to turn to when the stressors of the job come home with them. I am proud to support Stronger Families, both personally and through the [un]Divided Podcast, because our heroes need to know we have their back.

Brandi Kruse Host of [un] Divided



2022

STRONGER FAMILIES®
Oxygen for Your Relationships

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