



FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

Impact Statement

Since 2012, Friends of Freedom has strategically supported morale, transition, and empowerment initiatives serving America's Heroes and their families. Through direct program funding, logistical coordination, board participation, and strategic partnerships, the organization has delivered measurable and sustained impact.

Program Support & Strategic Partnerships

Salute to the Troops (sttfoundation.org)

Friends of Freedom annually supported the transportation and hosting of wounded service members and their families from Walter Reed/Bethesda to Las Vegas over Veterans Day weekend. In collaboration with The Gary Sinise Foundation, American Airlines Veterans Initiatives, and the USO (2009–2021), the program provided four days of morale support and workforce reintegration education.

Impact: 1,500+ Heroes and family members served.

Music Therapy Program (Launched 2018)

Friends of Freedom launched and funded a music therapy initiative providing each participating Hero with a new guitar and instructional support to aid recovery from invisible war injuries. Conducted in partnership with Heartstrings Guitar Foundation (heartstringsfoundation.org) and Fender Guitars.

Snowball Express (www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express)

Friends of Freedom co-sponsored this national program for 15 years alongside the Gary Sinise Foundation, American Airlines Veterans Initiative, and the Air Power Foundation. The initiative annually supports 1,000–1,800 children who have lost a parent in combat.

Impact: 19,000+ children served across 48 states.

Kilimanjaro Warrior Ascent (www.kilimanjarowarriors.com)

In February 2014, Friends of Freedom provided program support and resources enabling nine amputee warriors to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the African continent.

Operation Canyon Rising (www.operationcanyonrising.com)

Friends of Freedom supported 14 disabled veterans completing a Rim-to-Rim Grand Canyon expedition by providing arrival coordination, lodging assistance, and departure logistics over a four-year period.

Choosing to See Expedition (www.choosingtosee.org)

Friends of Freedom provided embedded logistical and resource support for a blind veteran's TransAmerica Trail (Florence, OR to Virginia Beach, VA) and Continental Divide cycling expeditions, reinforcing the principle that disability does not define capability.

Veteran Overland Expeditions (www.veteranoverland.com)

Friends of Freedom supported therapeutic multi-day outdoor excursions serving 50+ veterans and families by providing food, fuel, supplies, and board participation, leveraging outdoor engagement to promote mental and physical well-being.

Arizona Trail VETS (aztrail.org/programs/vets/)

Friends of Freedom supported 75+ veterans participating in service projects along the Arizona Trail. A \$15,000 grant funded certification of five Heroes as Wilderness First Responders and supported project resource needs.

Freedom Trek Expeditions (freedomtrekexpeditions.org)

Friends of Freedom contributed \$5,000 to outfit 10 Heroes for participation in structured hiking and camping expeditions designed to promote connection, resilience, and post-service transition.

Operation Barbecue Relief (<https://operationbbqrelief.org>)

Friends of Freedom provided operational assistance during the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, contributing to the delivery of 22,000 meals over a 17-day response period.

Camp OBR (<https://operationbbqrelief.org/our-impact/camp-obr/>)

Friends of Freedom annually sponsors five Arizona Hero families to participate in Camp OBR, a structured healing environment focused on reconnection and resilience.

The Heroes Journey (theheroesjourney.org)

Friends of Freedom hosted and supported workshops enabling 25 Heroes to address Post-Traumatic Stress through structured storytelling modalities that benefit both the individual and family system.

Sustained Organizational Impact (Since 2012)

- 150,000+ service members, veterans, and families supported through morale initiatives
 - 500+ Hero families assisted through emergency housing, vehicle repair, and utility support
 - 13 mobility devices delivered (aggregate value: \$120,000)
 - 1,400,000+ morale-support items delivered to deployed and stateside service members
 - Career Expo sponsorship resulting in 1,000+ veterans interviewed by 72 companies
 - Patriot Day programming, 25-resort weekend retreats (380 families served), and Freedom Fest serving 475 Army and Air Force families
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2026 Mission

Since its inception, Friends of Freedom has addressed service gaps impacting America's Heroes. In 2026, the organization will prioritize strategic investment in the **Heroes' Families**.

Families frequently experience relocation, prolonged separation, psychological trauma, and secondary stressors associated with military service. Despite their critical role in sustaining the Hero, they often receive fewer targeted resources.

The stability of the Hero is directly correlated to the strength of the family unit. When that foundation is unstable, vulnerability increases — including increased risk of isolation, psychological distress, and preventable loss.

2026 Strategic Objectives

- Facilitate structured family reintegration through shared experiential programming
- Provide professionally supported workshops that create safe environments for family engagement
- Develop initiatives that strengthen communication, cohesion, and resilience
- Expand access to comprehensive support networks for family members

Friends of Freedom remains committed to measurable impact, disciplined stewardship, and mission-driven growth. Continued community partnership enables the organization to strengthen families, reinforce stability, and preserve lives.