



SEAL FAMILY
FOUNDATION



TAKING CARE OF THEIR
FAMILIES WHILE THEY
PROTECT OURS

2017
HIGHLIGHTS

A woman wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and sunglasses is smiling warmly. She is holding a young child with curly hair. In the foreground, another child is seen from the side, holding a yellow pencil. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with other people. The image is overlaid with a large yellow circle on the left side, which contains text.

SUPPORTING FAMILY RESILIENCY

“Taking care of their families while they protect ours” is at the very core of what we do. When our Warriors are called to duty, their focus must be 100% on the mission at hand. There is a peace of mind that comes with knowing the SEAL Family Foundation is back home looking out for their families – Taking Care Of Their Families While They Protect Ours.

Throughout the year, we support family resiliency by providing tools to assist the family as the SEALs train and deploy. Whether emergency financial support is needed or their child can be helped by one of our ongoing programs, we want our Operators and their families to rest assured we are here when they call. The Naval Special Warfare community makes extraordinary sacrifices, raising their hands to be there for us time and again. It is our mission to do the same for them. For those who have supported this mission, we thank you.

Dear Stakeholders,

The pressure on Special Operations, and specifically our U.S. Navy SEALs, continues to remain at some of the highest levels in history. Today SEALs are operating in over 70 countries with the simple intention of protecting our freedom. Often our SEALs and their Special Operations partners pay a high price for this great work. One often-overlooked aspect of this pace and price is their family who helps create the conditions for our Navy SEALs to execute effectively. Our continued objective is to take care of the families of our operators to help them maintain focus and resilience in order to improve their probabilities of success in their work. In addition, we continue to take care of the operators beyond the limits of the military's capabilities. Below and in this year's annual report you will find an overview of the great year the SEAL Family Foundation had measured by the support we were able to provide the operators and their families, and solely built off of the support you have provided to the organization.

We remain "Families First," and from a program perspective, we executed our full array of family-centric programs. From direct support of our SEAL Teams' Family Readiness Groups, the family introduction through Naval Special Warfare events, our private Sisterhood gatherings, children's tutoring and counseling programs, emergency funds availability, and our Gold Star families' and children's programs, we are meeting today's needs. In 2017 we continued to witness greater use of our services globally, highlighting the importance of the organization to families near and far. The demand signal in 2018 continues to grow resulting in us deploying our programs where they are most needed.

In 2017 the community experienced loss. Two operators were Killed in Action in 2017, one in Yeman, the other in Somalia. Both operators were married and had children. We supported and continue to support these spouses and their children via our existing programs. In addition to operators who were killed in action, we supported the families of a few others who were killed in incidents or accidents. Regardless of the loss, we are here for the families. We also supported two families who each lost a child last year. This was an incredibly difficult time for obvious reasons, and we are honored to have helped these families during their very challenging time. Loss is hard and we are humbled by the strength of these families as they navigate their way ahead. We continue to provide support to the families and the teams in Naval Special Warfare with a wide range of bereavement services and Gold Star Family programs. We Will Never Forget.

Our transition program, which was introduced last year, has produced great impact as well. We helped prepare transitioning operators for a civilian life of purpose. Although we never encourage service members to leave the military, when they do, we want to help them and their families increase their effectiveness and chances of success. In 2017 we narrowed the field of applicants to 15 SEALs (our target was 10) whose applications were incredibly similar in merit, need and potential. Instead of denying scholarships to five of the deserving applicants, we decided to award scholarships to all 15 SEALs who are now engaged in a productive transition into the private sector. We are encouraged by the many great transitions we have witnessed over the year. For those who have hired a SEAL, SWCC or enabling member of Naval Special Warfare, you know how impactful they can be to an organization. We encourage you to get involved by being part of the network.

Last year we wrapped up our 2016 audit and the Foundation's review was excellent. And at the time of publishing this document, an independent accounting firm is wrapping up our 2017 audit, and we have already begun preparations for our 2017 filing. From an administrative perspective, we are running the business of the foundation better than ever and the use of the third-party audit report underscores our commitment to operating with prudence and integrity. Our fiduciary responsibility to those we serve and to our donors and Board members remains of paramount importance.

As part of our continued growth, we added a new staff member dedicated to increase our corporate outreach, partnerships and donor relations. We are pleased to welcome Natasha Montazeri to the SEAL Family Foundation team. She brings a great deal of fund raising experience to the organization and is a nice complement to our Executive Director, Retired Navy Captain William R. Fenick and Program Director and Gold Star Spouse Ms. Cindy Axelson. They are a great team doing the right things the right way for you and the Navy SEAL community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command and his Family Support Director and team. They enable us to remain a part of this special community and assist with the right needs. We would also like to thank the operators and their families for all they do every day. We are honored to support you.

Lastly, we would like to thank you, our donors. Your support enables us to help build resilient families in Naval Special Warfare and improve our Operators' ability to execute their important missions. Thank you for standing alongside us for this important mission. It would not be possible without you.

Sincerely,



John Moninger
Chairman, SEAL Family Foundation



SEAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND

The SEAL Family Foundation was founded in 2010 as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization to raise awareness and funds for special programs in direct support of SEAL Families on a local, national and global scale.

OUR MISSION

To support individual and family readiness through an array of programs specifically targeted to assist the Naval Special Warfare Community in maintaining a resilient, sustainable, and healthy force in this era of persistent conflict and frequent deployments.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be the premier provider of benevolent civilian support services to the NSW Communities we serve. This is pursued by collaborating with the leaders in Family Support to better understand the effects of deployment; by frequent analysis to ensure we are meeting current needs; by the delivery of exceptional programs; and by educating and involving the civilian population in support of these elite warriors.

ABOUT NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE FAMILY MEMBERS

Sustained demand on Naval Special Warfare capabilities requires providing direct services to support the well-being of NSW Warriors, their immediate families, and others in the NSW Extended Family.

Our primary focus is the care of the immediate family, providing services and programs that assist spouses and children and, in the case of unmarried service members, their primary and secondary next of kin. Our secondary focus is to give as much support as possible to the broader Navy SEAL family.

We depend on your help to accomplish our mission and achieve our vision successfully. Please remember that Freedom Isn't Free; the needs of the NSW Family Community are increasing and the need for funding is keeping pace accordingly.

Thank you on behalf of the SEAL Family Foundation.





**THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF OUR TEAM AND
THE MEN AND FAMILIES WE CONTINUE TO SERVE!**

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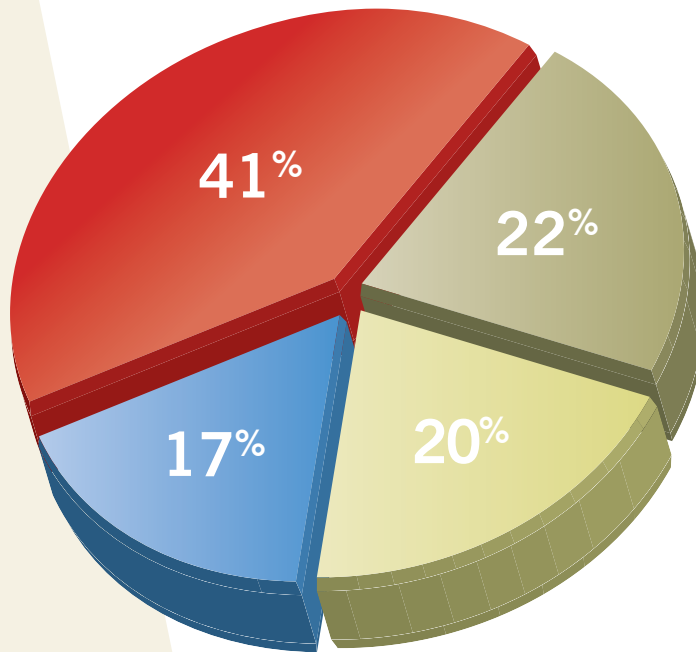
NATASHA MONTAZERI

SEAL Family Foundation Development Director

Key Programs, Objectives and Impact in 2017

Summary of Program Fund Distribution

- 41%** FAMILY RESILIENCY
- 22%** FAMILY SUPPORT
- 20%** BEREAVEMENT
- 17%** FAMILY INTEGRATION
DIRECT SUPPORT



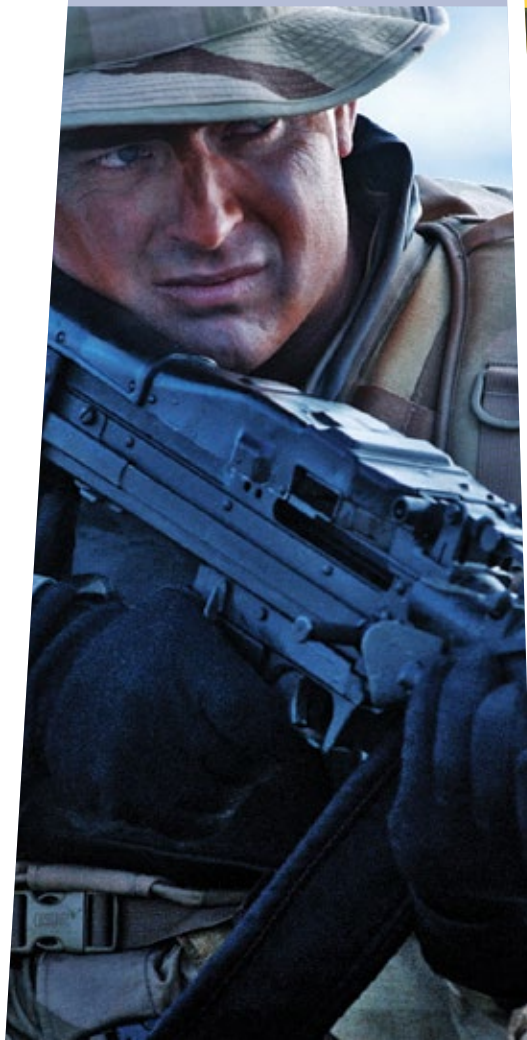
3-year Summary of Program Fund Distribution

	2015	2016	2017
Family Resiliency:	45%	32%	41%
Family Support:	15%	21%	22%
Bereavement:	25%	31%	20%
Family Integration/Direct Support:	15%	16%	17%

The scope of services provided by the SEAL Family Foundation embraces three Core Areas:



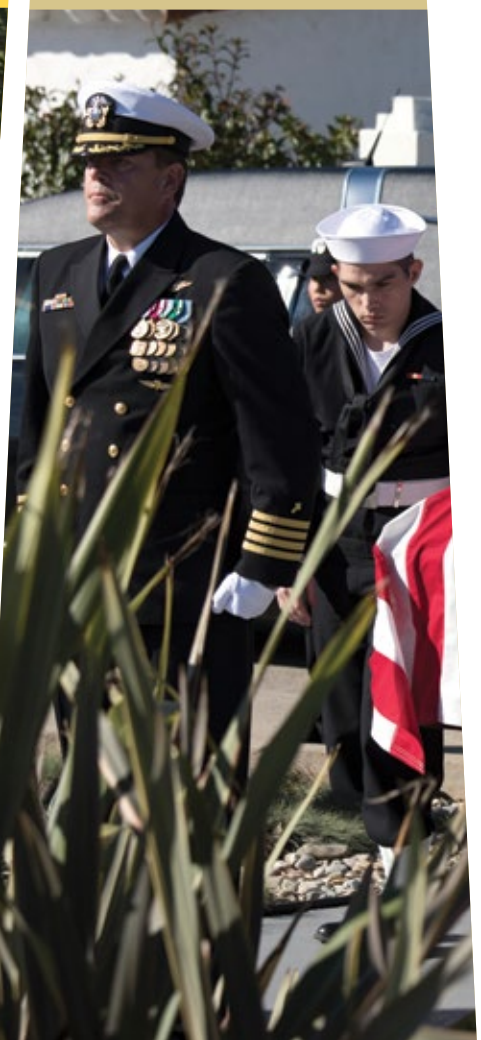
THE WARRIOR



THE FAMILY



THE FALLEN HERO





THE WARRIOR

A strong, resilient family support system is a critical part of the success of each Navy SEAL Operator. The SEAL Family Foundation fosters community among these families from the very beginning of each Navy SEAL's journey through our pre-graduation Family Dinner Events. Through this program, we bring each graduating Navy SEAL's family together to break bread the evening before their formal graduation ceremony. These families will become a support system for one another through the inevitable ups and downs of military life. We believe that providing a platform for their initial introduction and a time to share feelings of pride and accomplishment is an impactful way to begin their journey together as a community.

Graduation Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

We conducted 6 SEAL and 5 SWCC Family Dinners in 2017. Approximately 1,600 family members attended these special occasion dinners.



HEALTH PROGRAMS

"Mens sana in corpore sano." A sound mind in a sound body. This is the mission of our mental and behavioral health programs for active duty Navy SEAL Operators, called "Operator Mindfulness and Mobility (or OMM). These programs build mental, physical and relational health within the Naval Special Warfare community through the practice of yoga, meditation and mindfulness. Because a Navy SEAL's duties can be very mentally (not solely physically) taxing, programs that address the mental and relational

health of Operators is pivotal to the comprehensive health and wellbeing of each Operator.

YOGA

HIGHLIGHTS

The classes are attended by all rates and ranks of SEAL, SWCC and support personnel, from the Admiral to support technicians just assigned to the command. NSW spouses are physically separated from the Operator 70% of each year. Couples who attend these workshops use yoga to build trust, communication and relational strength and flexibility.

"I met with some of the guys who used our pilot Yoga video while deployed in Iraq. One in particular who was forward deployed told me that he and some of this platoon mates used the video at least 3 times a week, sometimes more. He said it helped him to maintain his mental health during the 7 month deployment and was extremely grateful for the video. He said he did it so much that he memorized the sequences and could go through the entire class with his eyes closed."

- OMM Yoga Instructor





SISTERHOOD

Creating an ongoing bond among Naval Special Warfare spouses is a key initiative of the SEAL Family Foundation’s Sisterhood Program and pivotal to creating resiliency within the Navy SEAL community. Sisterhood meetings foster community and are occasions for NSW spouses to discuss areas of shared concern. Sisterhood meetings are held around the globe, wherever Navy SEALs and their families are stationed. These meetings commonly feature a guest speaker and focus on topics that emphasize resiliency, family morale, and unity.

HIGHLIGHTS

We supported 22 Sisterhood events in 2017 – 4 on the east coast, 6 on the west coast, 4 in Bahrain, 4 in Hawaii and 4 in Germany – where over 1,100 spouses came together to discuss topics of mutual concern and connect with one another.

“Reflecting on my two years in the Middle East, I can honestly say that the Sisterhood made a huge difference in my morale... I would not have made it through this experience as gracefully without the support and companionship from my sisters in Bahrain.”

-NSW Spouse

“We may be far from our main support structures but having an evening such as this brings us closer together. Just a few hours, sans distractions, over a nice dinner allows us to come together.”

-NSW Spouse



FAMILY READINESS GROUPS

Each Navy SEAL Team has a Command-appointed Family Readiness Group whose purpose is maintaining high morale among Naval Special Warfare families. We provide funding for each of these groups so they can conduct programming and activities that foster community, provide educational resources and offer services such as childcare.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017 we funded \$157,500 to 32 FRGs. Every year, each FRG applies for a grant and is awarded \$5,000 in two disbursements in April and September.

“My husband and I had a great time at the Christmas party. It has been a challenge to attend social gatherings since having children so the childcare was a necessity for us and we are very thankful that the arrangements were made for onsite childcare. Thank you again for all the time, effort and funding that went into putting on a great event. Everyone I spoke to had positive things to say as well.”

- NSW Spouse

“Strong marriages make strong warriors...”



SEALKIDS

This program resources academic support, special needs assessment and assistance for Naval Special Warfare children who typically attend between 7-9 schools before they graduate, moving approximately every 2 years. Each relocation brings with it the numerous problems associated with transitioning between education systems that may not translate. All these issues come amidst the emotional distress children face when a parent is absent for long periods of time, usually deployed to a dangerous destination, or if their military parent was killed in the line of duty. The SEALKIDS programming includes:

- Assessment/Evaluation
- Specialized needs
- Academic Support
- Enrichment

HIGHLIGHTS

SEALKIDS accepts new service requests on a daily basis throughout the calendar year.

As of the end of October, 2017:

- There were 163 active grants serving 145 Participant children
- Of the 145 Participants, 58 were diagnosed with learning disabilities
- 81 Participants were children of active duty SEALs
- 33 Participants were children of active duty support personnel
- 19 Participants were children of retired or separated SEALs
- 13 were in the intake process and yet to be classified

"My child will attend 3 high schools in 4 years due to military moves. SEALKIDS has provided my child with the necessary assistance needed to fill learning gaps in math. In one semester my child improved a letter grade, has a much better understanding of the curriculum and has become a more confident student. My family is incredibly grateful for the support SEALKIDS has provided not only my daughter but our family. Thank you!"

- NSW Parent

"I do not know where to begin! Without the help of SEALKIDS, my son would not be on the path to graduating high school. I cannot thank SEALKIDS enough for their support. He was a micro preemie and has struggled his entire life. It has been exhausting to both him and our family to accommodate for his needs. Military life and retirement have not been easy and continues to be a battle emotionally. SEALKIDS has helped lessen the stress of one aspect of our everyday life and I cannot be more grateful."

- NSW Parent

"We are so thankful for the resources and help through SEALKIDS. My son's symptoms and attitude continue to improve due to HBOT, Irlen filters, and work with the clinics. We may have never known about these clinics and treatments. All of this would not have been possible without the help of SEALKIDS. We are eternally grateful!"

- NSW Parent

"Providing the support to help their children succeed..."



EMERGENCY NEEDS

The SEAL Family Foundation's size and proximity to the Command enables us to act quickly, effectively and efficiently when there is an emergency need within the Naval Special Warfare Community. This program's impact alleviates additional stresses that emergency situations cause for Navy SEAL families. Crisis support assistance encompasses things like meal support during family illnesses or injuries, emergency home repairs while an operator is on deployment, emergency childcare and other such situations where the foundation can offer comfort, support and solace in times of need for these families who sacrifice much in the preservation of our freedom.

“Giving our operators peace of mind to focus on their mission...”



THE FAMILY

The world has become a very dangerous place for us to live in. The NSW Operator's ultimate job is to make the world safe not only for us, but for families all over the world. It's our job at the SEAL Family Foundation to help look after their families while they're doing their job. It's difficult for most of us to imagine the level of anxiety, uncertainty, and daily stress that exists in the hearts and minds of the families of the Operators while they're deployed. But imagination is abstract, and your contributions help them cope in a very concrete way.

The programs your funds help support go a long way towards alleviating the daily stress our families – and our heroes – endure. You can be proud to know you've done your part in helping make the world a safer place for all of our families! We thank you. The SEAL Family community thanks you. And the families of the world thank you.





FAMILY RESILIENCY

The cornerstone of our mission is to provide programs and services that promote enduring and supportive marriages, resilient and well-adjusted children, and a strong sense of unity and community among Naval Special Warfare families. These families deal with issues and stresses unique to this branch of the military. Great emphasis is placed on interconnecting these families through social gatherings, outings, workshops and events that build character, bond the spouses and kids together, boost morale and foster community.

THIRD LOCATION DECOMPRESSION (TLD)

As hard as deployment can be on an NSW family, reuniting can be almost as tough. To face this challenge successfully, the SEAL Family Foundation conducts workshops that serve to prepare spouses (and their families) for their husbands' return from deployment.

Nothing in our lives is immune to the changes time brings. The Foundation's TLD programs are tailored to not only ease the effects of these changes, but also to help members understand the changes and view them as a natural part of deployment and reunification. A part that can be faced and dealt with successfully.

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TLD

HIGHLIGHTS

The Foundation, alongside the Warrior and Family Support and the Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), hosted 4 TLDs (in January, May, July and November).

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"I appreciate the time, attention and validation of spousal stress during deployment. I also appreciate the opening discussion on reintegration. I am grateful for the Foundation supporting us, and allowing us time for self-care and relaxation."

- NSW Spouse

"This event has made my heart so happy knowing how many other women are going through and have the same concerns about reintegration as I do. Thank you for all the resources offered. This has been wonderful!"

- NSW Spouse

"I love that this day appreciates what we do during a deployment and everything that spouses go through. It truly makes me feel celebrated and appreciated."

- NSW Spouse

8TH ANNUAL HARVEST HOEDOWN

We held our annual Harvest Hoedown last October 14th and 15th. This event brought more than 125 families (totaling 500+ family members) together to enjoy the outdoors at a very special location.



GOLD STAR FAMILY SUPPORT

While the Foundation recognizes that no one initiative, gesture or memorial service can provide sufficient tribute to the lives lost in the Naval Special Warfare community, we are committed to providing ongoing comfort and support to the families when a Navy SEAL has offered up the ultimate sacrifice in the preservation of our freedom. The Gold Star families, and especially Gold Star children, are the primary beneficiaries of our Foundation's programmatic funding. It is our most sacred and solemn duty to honor a fallen hero's legacy of service by ensuring that their surviving family members are well cared for. These programs include: Memorial and Heritage Support, the Wreaths Across America effort at Arlington National Cemetery, and Bereavement Camps.

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Gold Star Families

HIGHLIGHTS

We provide ongoing annual support for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. On December 16th of last year we provided travel, hotel, and meal accommodations for 22 NSW Gold Star families to visit Washington DC and participate in Wreaths Across America. After the wreath laying ceremony, we hosted a family luncheon with Team Bear and a private dinner with the Gold Star spouses that evening.

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BEREAVEMENT CAMPS

Camps for the community’s Gold Star children, ages 5 to 18, are hosted annually for those families and children of fallen Navy SEALs. The Foundation underwrites the total cost of the camp program, including airfare, on an ongoing yearly basis. Attendees participate in the camps year after year, and as they grow older they take on a leadership (mentor) role to help the younger children in the program who are experiencing the same feelings of loss. The camps include confidence-building activities and age-based support groups that break the emotional isolation grief often brings. They also create community among this very special group of children who are in need of a support system to help them cope.

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“Thank you for your help in making this past weekend amazing! I had a great time but more important is that my son did too. I’m amazed at how this program has grown. I love the connections these kids have and carry with them that goes back to the safe place you have all created for them.”

- NSW Surviving Spouse
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“Honoring the memory of our fallen...”



THE FALLEN HEROES

Nothing can replace a fallen hero in the hearts of his survivors. The best that can be hoped for is the partial alleviation of the pain and burden of bereavement in the present and the preservation of the memory of a hero for all the future. The SEAL Family Foundation sponsors and facilitates a host of programs for the families of Fallen Heroes:

- Bereavement funding that includes funeral support and covers miscellaneous family expenses, including those that may be entailed in long-term family healing.
- Gold Star Families who have lost a service member to operational, training, or off-duty causes are provided support on a regular basis by the Foundation. This may take the form of relocating relatives, providing for children, or providing whatever is needed to help allay the physical and emotional costs sustained by those who survive. This support does not stop at interment, extending to the coverage of family trips to interment sites, holiday gatherings for families, assistance with private family foundations, and the establishment of memorials.
- Memorial and Heritage support is funded by the Foundation in the form of monuments, building and classroom dedications, naming events, and local tributes to our Fallen Brothers.



2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

April 29, 2017 | Del Mar Country Club, Golf Tournament and Gala, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

May 4, 2017 | Philly Gala, The Union League, Philadelphia, PA

May 16, 2017 | Boston Gala, Fenway Park, Boston, MA

August 7, 2017 | James M. Sweeney Classic Charity Golf Tournament, Chicago, IL

October 6, 2017 | Nebraska Supports SEALs, Omaha, NE

November 9, 2017 | Tavern & Bowl Dinner Auction, East Village Tavern & Bowl, San Diego, CA

November 10, 2017 | Land of the Free Golf Classic, Indian Hills Golf Club, City of Industry, CA

November 18, 2017 | Los Angeles Brunch, Hotel Bel Air, Los Angeles, CA

Events in 2018

April 14, 2018 | San Diego Families First Gala, Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

May 10, 2018 | Philly Gala, The Union League, Philadelphia, PA

August 13, 2018 | James M. Sweeney Classic Charity Golf Tournament, Chicago, IL

September 7, 2018 | Nebraska Supports SEALs, Omaha, NE

GOALS FOR 2018

Throughout 2017, we remained focused on the goals outlined for the year and in doing so, created an environment in which we can continue to excel. To ensure success in 2018, we will: Remain dedicated to excellence, transparency, and integrity in the execution of the SEAL Family Foundation Mission by continuing to be closely aligned with the Naval Special Warfare Command. We will meet with each Major Commander and their Senior Enlisted Leaders to review our programs, verify our impact, and ensure our programs are executed well and effectively. Needs evolve and we must listen and evolve as well. We will continue to conduct our efforts in a fiscally responsible and sound manner, and work to continually improve our communication with the Stakeholders.

Support the SEAL Family Foundation while shopping!





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If you or your organization are interested in assisting The SEAL Family Foundation in serving the NSW community, please contact us. Whether there's a specific program that resonates with you, or you want to put your support behind our overall mission, we will be happy to work with you to align your contributions with our efforts.

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Sponsor a child in our Gold Star Program as they navigate through Comfort Zone Camp.

Commit to ensuring our Sisterhood Program can continue building lifelines for the spouses of our warriors.

Provide support for Navy SEAL children requiring special assistance in their education, augmented services, or emotional journey.

Assist as we show our fallen heroes and their families the utmost respect for the ultimate sacrifice.

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There are so many ways you can make a difference. Please contact us to discuss how you can support The SEAL Family Foundation's initiatives in 2018, and begin impacting these special families.

WILLIAM R. FENICK, CAPT, USN (RET)
Executive Director
SEAL Family Foundation
william.fenick@sealfamilyfoundation.org | 619-681-2928

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*Thank you on behalf
of our team and the men and
families we continue to serve!*

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