

## What Military Family Support Looks Like

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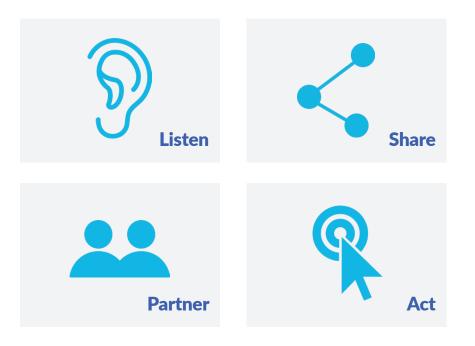
2022 Annual Report

### **Blue Star Families builds**

### strong communities of support and belonging for military families.

We listen to experiences, share comprehensive research results, and create lasting partnerships to actively improve the lives of military-connected families around the world. 🛠

### **Our Theory of Change**



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### We know military families!

They're concerned about military spouse employment, time away from their families, their finances, and all the issues that arise when they move to new duty stations every two to three years.



### We are what military family support looks like.

#### Together with our partners, we:

- Grew the bilingual careers pipeline by 600% through our Military Spouse Employment Initiative
- Evolved our Chapters so families have a network to turn to when their service members are away
- Took the financial edge off for families through our Nourish the Service and Making Military Life Awesome campaigns
- Grew public awareness and belonging for military families through Blue Star Welcome Week

### We support families so they can better serve our nation.

## Message From Our Leadership

### **Dear Blue Star Family,**

With your involvement, Blue Star Families experienced another year of extraordinary growth and opportunity as we relentlessly pursue solutions to the underlying and interlocking problems that we all know military-connected families face:



#### **Only 33%**

of active-duty families feel like they belong to the communities where they live

**26%** of enlisted active-duty families reported food insecurity in the past year

**29%** of active-duty spouses need or want to find employment

This report shares highlights of our 2022 upstream solutions with you. Thank you for your partnership! With you by our side, we can work toward this vision:

Wherever military-connected families go, their neighbors welcome and support them, building a stronger nation for all of us. As you read through these pages, I hope you feel the power of what we are accomplishing together, including:

- An incredible sense of belonging for families that comes from our Chapters
- Insightful research that fuels our programming and advocacy
- The powerful impact of our Campaign for Inclusion
- ... and so much more

Through our data-driven model, we are reaching new milestones, increasing policymakers' understanding of the real struggles of military families, and offering viable solutions to complex interlocking problems. We are the leading organization to do so.

Thank you for all you do to help Blue Star Families make military life awesome for those who serve and protect our freedom.  $\star$ 



**Kathy Roth-Douquet** CEO and Board President Blue Star Families

## Blue Star Welcome Week

Blue Star Welcome Week is an annual initiative to inspire and engage our nation to come together in a spirit of welcome for the approximately 600,000 active-duty military families who move to new communities each year. Through Blue Star Welcome Week, we help military families feel connected in the communities where they live and serve. \*

Blue Star Welcome Week 2022 saw a 137% increase in events from 2021, serving military and Veteran families across 30 states and 5 overseas communities.

### **Growth Highlights**

2021 > 2022

School Support Posts	+2,000%
Website Page Views	+367%
Honorary Committee Members	+156%
Paid Social Media Impressions	+204%
Print Media Mentions	+200%
Events Hosted	+137%

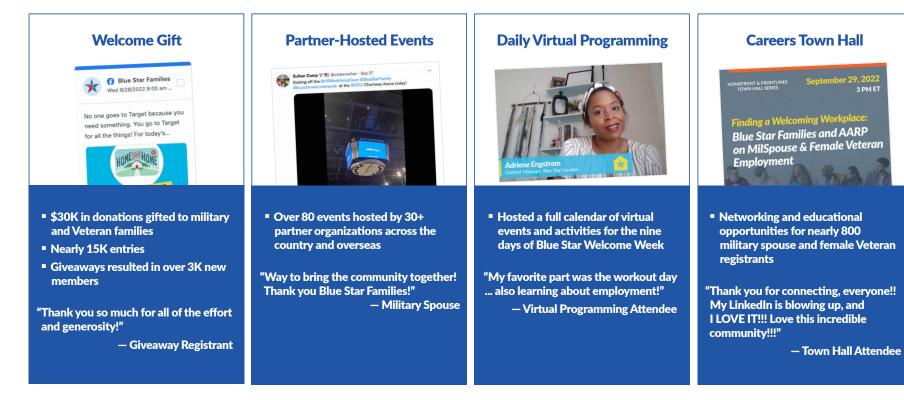




I just moved here four weeks ago from San Antonio. I am glad I came to this! Blue Star Welcome Week 2022 Program Evaluation We did it! Blue Star Welcome Week made a difference for military and Veteran Families in 2022. We achieved a phenomenal Net Promoter Score (89, compared to 68 in 2021) which is a measure used to gauge customer loyalty, satisfaction, and enthusiasm. We were also extremely successful in connecting participants with their communities. \*

### 90% of surveyed Blue Star Welcome Week event participants who moved within the past 12 months to their community report that they now have more knowledge of resources in that community.

#### New in 2022



# Blue Star Families Chapters

Members who belong to Blue Star Chapters feel a better sense of belonging to their communities and they also feel more valued. We know that time spent away from family is a major concern to military families who feel isolation from moving every 2-3 years. \*

Community connection is key when family is far away, so evolving our Chapters plays heavily into our organizational priorities.



### Highlights

- Volunteers supported our Chapters by donating more than 12,000 hours
- Launched our New England Chapter
- Hosted and collaborated on nationwide food distribution events, reaching more than 7,000 military family members
- Began plans to launch a Chapter in the Puget Sound Region of the Pacific Northwest

**1,300+** events held in Chapter locations

- **115K+** | attendees reached through impactful events
  - **81K+** | members in Chapters
    - **39%** | membership growth in 2022

**\$1.9M** | Chapter support from funders

## Digital Transformation

To provide an enhanced human connection experience for members, we began a transformation project to redesign our

external digital experience and internal digital systems. 🛪

February 2022



Launched **re-designed Blue Star Families website** with a more professional look and easier navigation

#### **August 2022**



Soft launched Blue Star Families' **community member portal** in December with plans to implement full scale marketing launch in 2023

### **Focus Areas**

**Front-end website** Website/member portal



- Enhanced member experience
- Multiple online communities for members to connect with both Blue Star Families and other members, based on interests

**Back-end analytics** Data collection/transformation

#### October 2022



Onboarded IT firm to help enhance our analytics capabilities by gaining a 360-degree view of our members across all touchpoints

#### December 2022



Implemented **QR code solution** for physical events attendance tracking

- Leverage siloed data from various platforms into a single data warehouse
- Gain 360-degree member view

#### Dashboards/reporting



- Democratize data across the organization
- Gain insights into member needs and effectiveness of programs offered

## **Social Impact**

At Blue Star Families, we measure social impact by how welcomed, engaged, and valued our members feel in their communities. We take a data-driven and evidence-based approach to our programming to ensure that we're meeting our members where they're at and providing the support and resources that they need, when they need them.

Social impact is a team sport at Blue Star Families that includes Chapters, Programs, Applied Research, and Policy departments. Highlights 91,548 15,717 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Research participants respondents since 2009 9,363 2,250 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Afghanistan to Ukraine respondents in 2022 **Pulse Check respondents** 1,878 2,226 Annual Impact Survey **Relocation and Housing** 

respondents



We put our members first. They provide us direction by participating in our surveys, by engaging with our programs, and providing us the insights we need to advocate for the policies that can positively impact their lives. This is how we get to know and advocate for military families. It is the core starting point of everything that we do. \*

Pulse Check respondents

## Make Military Life Awesome

How do we make military life awesome? We engage our members in programming and events that are fun, welcoming, and provide connections to their communities! Members engage with our Blue Star Families community in many ways: museum visits, outdoor exploration, career opportunities and developments, caregiving support circles, coffee connects to meet new friends, and more! 🖈

**Blue Star Families provides** resources for members to take the edge off of difficult aspects of military life, and provide support in ways that fit with their lifestyle.

#### **Program Highlights: Blue Star Careers**

2,725 New registered Blue Star Careers members

48 Career-related events with Chapters

1.500 +Employment and training referrals

626% Growth in the bilingual pipeline

Grow with Google bilingual/Spanish events

15 +

1.434

Member

event registrations



#### **Expanding Programs**



**Engagements** 1.331

Opportunities in communities nationwide



**Blue Star Books** 23.369 Donated by Disney



697.720 Free military family visits

Impacted 20.975

122

**Events** 

11.964

Adults

Service members. spouses, children, and neighbors through events

**Blue Star Outdoors** 6,151 Member participations in

events

**Yellow Ribbon Trees** 131

in Starbucks stores: 367 engagements

#### **Blue Star Volunteers** 14.733

Hours of service given (\$376.989)

**New Caregivers** 6.685 Benefited from high touch

resources

**Nourish the Service** 18,316 Attendees

6.352

Children



16

## Campaign for Inclusion

In 2022, we expanded our Racial Equity Initiative into the Blue Star Families Campaign for Inclusion to inform,

partner, and empower stakeholders to implement best practices that help diverse military families feel welcome and included in the communities they call home.

### Inclusion is a lens through which all of Blue Star Families' social impact work operates.



While many businesses and organizations responded to the rallying cries of 2020 for action on race and inclusion, it is now clear that fewer have maintained an ongoing and meaningful set of activities designed to engage with, and address, the underlying issues. While there is a tremendous amount of history to overcome and challenges to meet, Blue Star Families is determined to engage long-term in this arena with our members, partners, and policymakers. \*

#### Highlights

- On Secretary Esper's recommendation, assisted by Generals George Casey and Mick Nicholson, we drafted the **Defense** Leaders Statement, signed by current and former service chiefs, combatant commanders, and other influential signatories.
- Nine individuals from diverse backgrounds graduated from our DEPLOY Fellowship Program. DEPLOY – Diversify and Expand the Pipeline of Leaders of Your Military Community – mentors and trains talent for eventual positions of leadership in military and Veteran service organization spaces.

#### 100%

of DEPLOY Fellows feel empowered to achieve their own career goals of graduates received fulltime employment within three months of program completion

89%

We presented our findings and recommendations on the experiences of military families of color to more than 150 groups and reaching more than 2,000 people including members of U.S. Army INSCOM, senior DOD officials, and military base commanders. More than 230 media pieces featured our findings.



Campaign for

As a direct result of our research, the 2022 NDAA requires the DOD to collect and report demographic data about SROTC scholarship awards and completion rates for the first time.

## **Top Donors**

#### **CEO Circle**

**(\$1M+)** CSX Transportation Lost Horse LLC — MacKenzie Scott Foundation The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

#### **Homefront Heroes**

(\$500,000—\$999,999) craig newmark philanthropies The USAA Foundation, Inc.

#### Leaders of Liberty

(\$250,000-\$499,999) JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Lockheed Martin Corporation Starbucks Corporation

#### **Community Champions**

(\$100,000-\$249,999) AARP BAE Systems Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Booz Allen CVS Health Health Net Federal Services May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust Navy Federal Credit Union Robert R. McCormick Foundation Sleep Number Corporation T-Mobile TriWest Healthcare Alliance Wells Fargo

#### Friends of The Flag (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Aura CJM Foundation Disney Worldwide Services, Inc. The Kendeda Fund Macy's, Inc. Northrop Grumman Corporation PennyMac Giving Fund Pentagon Federal Credit Union Salesforce Schlotzsky's Veterans United Foundation Welcome.US

#### Gold Supporters

(\$25,000-\$49,999) 13 Ugly Men **Bob Woodruff Foundation** Boeing **Boll & Branch** Comcast Humana Military Iron Mountain Leonardo DRS MERIT Novavax. Inc. Pratt & Whitney **REI Co-Op** Salesforce Military Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation (NHL) Target United Concordia

#### **Silver Supporters**

(\$24,999-\$10,000)

American Council of Life Insurers American Red Cross Armed Services YMCA The Barry Robinson Center Cigna Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. **Crescent Cities Charities** Delta Dental **Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fisher House Foundation** GTB (Ford Motor Company PR) Guardian Life Insurance Company of America iCivics The Independence Fund Jennifer and Jonathan Allan Soros Fund Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund Leidos. Inc. McCormick & Company **Optum Serve** The Safeway Foundation St. Louis Community Foundation Tee It Up For The Troops, Inc. Textron **TisBest Philanthropy** Tri-State and Upstate FDAF, Inc. Ulta Beauty UnitedHealth Group USO Wounded Warrior Project

## Summary of Financial Activities

2022 Unaudited Financials		2022 Revenue	2% 1% 1%
Assets		Total Revenue*	
Current Assets		\$22,481,069	
Cash and Investments	\$16,600,372	28%	
Accounts Receivable	\$564,417		
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	\$179,231		68%
Total Current Assets	\$17,344,021		
Property and Equipment, Net	\$76,276		
Total Assets	\$17,420,296		
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities		Foundation Corporate Indivi	idual 📕 Government
Accounts Payable, Accrued Expenses & Other	\$765,705	Investments & Other	* Includes one-time \$10 million gift
Total Liabilities (All Current)	\$765,705		
Net Assets			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$14,889,164	2022 Expenses	
With Donor Restrictions	\$1,765,427	Total Expenses 7%	5%
Total Net Assets	\$16,654,591	\$14,453,447	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,420,296	8%	
Fundraising Efficiency Ratio		8%	58%
Fundraising Expenses % of Revenue (Non-Inve	stment Revenue Only)		
More efficient		15%	
<b></b>	15.6% Competitor benchmark (most recent)		
	···· 7.8% FY2021		
	••• 5.0% FY2022	Communities	Applied Research and Policy
Less efficient		Technology for Public Engagement	Fundraising
★ BSF is more than 2X efficient compared to competito	or benchmarks	Administrative Expenses	Campaign for Inclusion

## Board of Directors and Leadership

#### **Board of Directors**

LTG (Ret) Gwendolyn Bingham | Chair Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General

**Chris Bogdan** | Vice Chair Senior Vice President, Booz Allen

Whit Cobb | Director Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Pacific Architects & Engineers (PAE)

**Staff Sergeant Charles Eggleston, U.S. Army (Ret)** | Director President & CEO, Three Seven Consulting

**Nada Stirratt** | Director Vice President, North America, Facebook

**Todd Finger** | Director Partner at McDermott Will & Emery

Jennifer M. O'Connor | Director Vice President, General Counsel, Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Bryan Tucker** | Director CSX Vice President, Corporate Relationships

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Val Nicholas | Director Senior Vice President Creative Director, Summit MediaCorp

Larry Spencer | Director President, Armed Forces Benefit Association/5STAR Life Insurance Company

John G. Vonglis | Director Senior Advisor to the Chairman and CEO of GAMCO Investors, Inc.

### **Emeritus Board Members**

Sheila Casey Constance B. Milstein Steve Hilton Craig Newmark

#### **Executive Leadership Team**

Kathy Roth-Douquet CEO and Board President Noeleen Tillman

COO and Board Secretary

**Brian Whiting** Chief Transformation Officer

Jennifer Akin, MPA Chief of Staff

Megan Carthen-Jackson Vice President of Operations

**Michael Kang** Vice President of Finance & Technology

**Lindsay Knight** Executive Vice President, Social Impact

Adam Vanek Executive Vice President of Chapter Impact

Margaret Davis Executive Vice President of Development

## Credentials

# **Blue Star** Families

**BSF** is the nation's largest communitybased organization supporting military and Veteran families.

Its research-driven approach builds strong communities and innovative solutions. Since its founding in 2009, BSF has delivered more than \$200 million in benefits and impacts more than 1.5 million members of military-connected families each year. 🖈

#### For more information, visit bluestarfam.org

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Naviaator

FOUR-STAR

+ + -



Platinum Transparency 2023 Candid.





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