

LEARN ABOUT OUR
NEW PROGRAM



POWERED BY
BRAVEMIND

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SOLDIERSTRONG

STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

ANNOUNCEMENT

As the Chairman and founder of SoldierStrong, we are honored to have celebrated our 10th anniversary this year. Since our inception, we have been committed to helping American service men, women and veterans take their next steps forward.

It has been an amazing journey and we have made incredible headway thanks to our generous supporters, but there is still more work to be done and we will not rest until all 170 VA medical centers, and all our nation's heroes, are equipped with the rehabilitative devices and therapy they desperately need and deserve.

We are excited to bring you this first edition of our NEW quarterly newsletter! Learn more about each of our programs and see how your support is making a difference.



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SOLDIERSTRONG.ORG | HELPING SERVICE MEMBERS TAKE THEIR NEXT STEPS FORWARD



SOLDIERSUIT

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Tens of thousands of service members return home with a spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury that leaves them confined to a wheelchair. SoldierStrong is helping them take their next steps forward by partnering with some of America's most advanced medical technology companies to expand access to those devices.



**I HAD GIVEN UP ON
WALKING AND THOUGHT
IT WAS A PIPE DREAM, SO
TO BE ABLE TO STAND ON
MY OWN TWO FEET AND
WALK ACROSS A ROOM
WAS A VERY EMOTIONAL
EXPERIENCE AND HAS
CHANGED MY LIFE.**

- Dan Rose, Army veteran



The SoldierStrong SoldierSuit is comprised of several state-of-the-art rehabilitation and powered prosthetic devices that address a variety of combat and non-combat-related disabilities. Used together or individually, they can dramatically improve a veteran's quality of life. Eligible veterans are fitted with their own prosthetic or prescribed rehabilitation time in a robotic exoskeleton that can get them on their feet again.

UPCOMING DONATION SITES



\$3.5 MILL

Has been donated by
SoliderStrong toward the
purchase of these devices

25,000

Veterans and counting
have access to SoliderSuit
components

CURRENT SOLDIERSUIT DONATIONS SITES

VA Boston Health Care System
VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center
VA North Texas Health Care System
James J. Peters VA Medical Center
Oklahoma City VA Health Care System
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System
Magee Rehabilitation Hospital
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
Madison, WI
VA Long Beach Healthcare System
CHI-Immanuel Rehab
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
Unity Point Health
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
VA St. Louis Healthcare System
VA North Texas Health Care System
Phoenix VA Health Care System
VA San Diego Healthcare System
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AT WWW.SOLDIERSTRONG.ORG/SOLDIERSUIT-PROJ



SoldierStrong formally launched our newest program, StrongMind, with our first donation at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. Strongmind is a platform where we fund and donate virtual reality software and hardware to VA medical centers to help veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress. Unfortunately, the headline of “20 veteran suicides a day” is becoming more prevalent in the news, and this is our way of trying to reduce that number. In collaboration with the University of Southern California, Iowa State University, the University of Texas at Dallas and Syracuse University, we will be tying together the software, hardware, clinical treatment and studying the long-term effects of PTS on veterans.



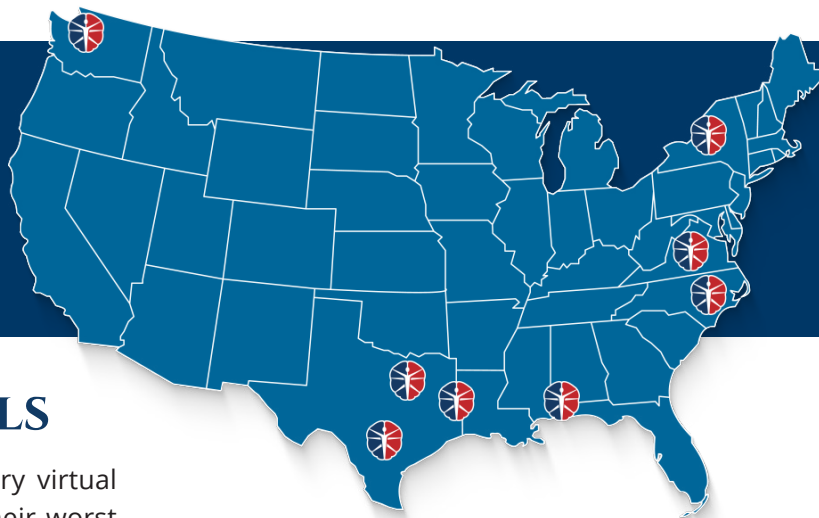
Martha MacCallum, one of SoldierStrong's Advisory Board Members, helped us launch the program by doing an interview with one of the programs great success stories, Chris Merkle. Through the help of the software used in our program, Chris has overcome his battle with PTS and is now studying to get his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology so he can help others like him.

In the past several months, the StrongMind program, in partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, has deployed the StrongMind VR/PTS Protocol to 8 VA Medical Centers across the country:

Thanks to your support in just **3 months** we have **8 sites** with the VR equipment!

We want to TRIPLE that in the next 3 months.

Can you help us?



A “VIDEO GAME” THAT HEALS

The StrongMind VR PTS protocol leverages revolutionary virtual reality software to put veterans back at the scene of their worst memory so they can confront and process it in the safety of a therapist's office.

“It gets them to talk about things they've never talked to anyone about before,” said Albert “Skip” Rizzo, PhD, one of the software's creators. Soon enough, the veteran controls the memory and not the other way around.

**YOU'RE COMPLETELY
IMMERSED IN THAT MOMENT.**

*- Marine Sergeant Chris Merkle (Ret.),
who tried the therapy after serving nearly
seven years in Iraq and Afghanistan.*



A LASTING IMPACT

VR therapy can make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of veterans with PTS, helping them put their most troubling memories behind them and reconnect with the world around them.



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AT WWW.SOLDIERSTRONG.ORG/STRONGMIND



SOLDIERRECOVERY

SOLDIERSTRONG IS DEDICATED TO HELPING PARALYZED VETERANS GAIN MOBILITY AND EVEN WALK AGAIN.

After a devastating spinal injury, many veterans lack financial coverage for extended physical rehabilitation, which limits their possibility of recovery. SoldierStrong has partnered with independent rehab facilities that specialize in spinal care to support injured and disabled veterans who have fallen through the coverage gaps.



THERE ARE TWO THINGS TO KNOW. ONE, MOST INSURANCE PLANS DON'T COVER EXTENDED PHYSICAL REHABILITATION INCLUDING VA TRICARE. TWO, MANY INDIVIDUALS THAT ELECT FOR EXTENDED PHYSICAL REHAB SEE VAST IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

*– Elizabeth Watson, physical therapist,
Magee Rehabilitation Hospital*



GABRIELLE'S STORY

Army veteran Gabrielle Boykins got an unwelcome surprise the day before leaving the hospital after being paralyzed from the waist down during a rollover motor vehicle accident. Her military healthcare insurance company had dropped her because she'd been discharged without notification while she was in a coma.

The VA took over her healthcare, but resources for the intensive therapy she needed were limited. Almost a year later, she heard about Project Walk Atlanta, a spinal injury recovery center. She applied immediately.

"It was the best move I've made since my injury. All of my prior therapy was done in my wheelchair, so I didn't know what I was capable of. That very day I learned I could initiate a step." Project Walk taught her how to sit unassisted, among other skills. She went as often as she could afford.

"When the opportunity came to come to Project Walk Mount Laurel (in New Jersey), I found out that SoldierStrong had taken my rehabilitative costs down to zero." Suddenly, the therapy she needed to reach her full potential was fully covered.





SOLDIERSCHOLAR

OPENING DOORS FOR RETURNING VETERANS THROUGH EDUCATION.

As service members transition back into civilian life, education offers some of the best opportunities for them to thrive and to provide for themselves and their families. But many veterans enter the service directly after high school and discharge years later without the advantage of civilian workforce experience or a college degree. For them and others, significant gaps in the Post-9/11 GI Bill make college unaffordable.

SoldierScholar steps in to help, giving qualifying veterans access to some of the top schools in the country. We are proud to provide educational opportunities with the following partners:



VETERANS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

This scholarship may be used to cover the tuition of the trade school, college or university of the veteran's choice.

MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

An endowment gifted to the school allows veterans eager to continue public service to gain expertise in public affairs and social awareness.

EDMUND A. WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Also aimed at veterans wishing to continue public service, this award allows students to gain knowledge in international affairs and global markets.

BATTEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

This scholarship is awarded to female veterans earning their undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM).

CURRENT SOLDIERSCHOLARS TO DATE ★★★★★

Staff Sgt. Antonieta Rico,
U.S. Army

Mitchell Forbes

Captain Samuel L. Orlan,
US Army, Ret.

Michael Thompson

Jesse Campion

Jordan Kooiman

Christopher Tonsmeire

Josh Collins

Bonnie Lee Miley

Robert Rivera

Michael White

Salvatore DeMarco

Stephanie Primeaux

Jordan Robinson

Mikel Rodriguez



SOLDIERPARTNERS

As our mission evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of the community we serve, we recognize that we could not fully accomplish our mission without the help of our current partners below.




STRONGTIMES HIGHLIGHT ★★★★★



With each newsletter, we want to highlight a partner, corporation or individual that has been vital to the success of our efforts. We are excited to announce the recipient of our very first "StrongTimes" highlight goes to Leora Levy!

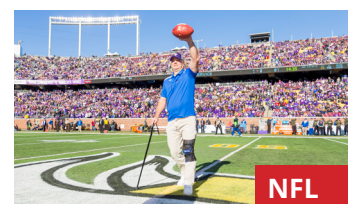
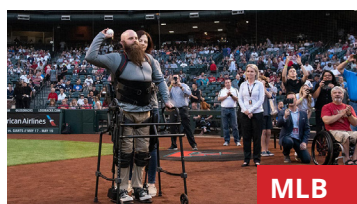
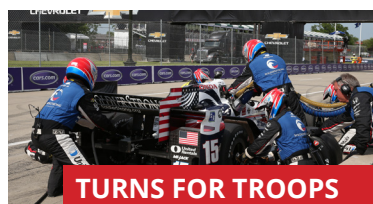
Born in Cuba in the late 1950s, Leora and her family fled from Fidel Castro's regime under fear of arrest and headed to the United States in a harrowing move that she compares to a novel. She was recently nominated by President Trump to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Chile. Her love and passion for America is a direct result of her life experience.

 Leora first got involved with SoldierStrong back in 2012 and has remained a loyal supporter throughout the years. She also facilitated the introduction to one of our integral corporate sponsors, United Rentals, who has contributed over \$700,000 to-date!

We are grateful for Leora's friendship, support, passion and dedication, all of which help ensure our nation's heroes receive the best medical equipment and therapy available. Thank you Leora!

MASS EXPOSURE

**SOLDIERSTRONG HAS JOINED A VARIETY OF
MAJOR NATIONAL SPORTING TEAMS AND EVENTS
AS A CHARITABLE PARTNER, INCLUDING:**



BECOME A PARTNER OR CORPORATE SPONSOR

In the past ten years we have accomplished much thanks to the support of our partners, corporate sponsors and thousands of Americans that believe our veterans deserve the best medical care there is to offer. SoldierStrong is committed to providing America's heroes with the equipment and therapy they desperately need and deserve. We are actively seeking new partnerships and would love to speak to you!



Learn More: [SoldierStrong.org](https://soldierstrong.org) | Call: 888.898.3235 | Email: info@soldierstrong.org



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SOLDIERSTRONG PROVIDES REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATIVE ADVANCEMENTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO VETERANS TO BETTER THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES.