

2022

The Commandery gave a donation of US\$30,000 to the Commandery of Hungary to be used in the work supporting the refugees from the war in Ukraine. In addition, a grant of US\$50k went to Homeless Prenatal Program, supporting homeless and low-income families.

Website: www.sosjwestusa.org

2022



2020

- **The Homeless Prenatal Program:** The San Francisco Commandery expeditiously responded to the needs of the most vulnerable population in San Francisco, homeless-pregnant women living on the streets, to assist in the battle against homelessness and the COVID-19 pandemic this year. \$50,000.00 was donated to the Homeless Prenatal Program located in San Francisco. The Homeless Prenatal Program has been serving low-income and homeless families since it opened in 1989. The organization empowers low-income families, particularly mothers motivated by pregnancy and parenthood, to develop the strength and confidence they need to transform their lives. The onset of COVID-19 rapidly increased the numbers and critical needs among the homeless population. This included food, shelter, medical services and social services all of which the Homeless Prenatal Program extends to its clients and families. The agency's growth

and evolution has been guided by those it serves. We are honored to be advocates of their work.

2019

- **The Sentinels of Freedom:** The Sentinels of Freedom received an additional \$32,000.00 from the San Francisco Commandery due to the success of two casual-elegant and uniquely located “Knights Around the Bay” events this year. The first at an elegant Spanish style building designed in 1928 as a Packard auto dealership that is now a classic car club and the other at the intimate Villa Taverna, a treasured private Italian dining club in San Francisco. Due to the generosity of hosting members all the ticket sales and pledges went directly to the Sentinels of Freedom Foundation. The mission of the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation is to assist severely wounded and injured post 9-11 veterans in their efforts to become productive and self-sufficient members of their communities as they transition in civilian life.

2014

- **Operation Freedom Paws:** This organisation assists returning veterans and other individuals with disabilities in acquiring the tools and knowledge to train and service their own service dogs. This helps overcome anxiety disorders and reduces the problems caused by the multi-year waiting list for trained dogs from existing organisations. \$12,000.
- **George Mark Children’s House:** This Bay Area facility is a leader in pediatric palliative care. They emphasize family-centered medical care that emphasizes quality of life in a compassionate and supportive atmosphere. \$5,000.

2015

- **Operation Freedom Paws:** See 2014. \$20,000.
- **George Mark Children’s House:** See 2014. \$40,000.
- **Operation Digging Deep:** Digging Deep is a workbook for parents and children with cancer or other serious illnesses. The book guides families through exercises and important conversations about feelings, questions and concerns they have about their illnesses. The donation makes these books available to families who could otherwise not afford them. \$20,000.

2016

This movie was shown at our 2016 Christmas Ball to highlight the history of the Order and to announce and promote our chosen charities.

<https://vimeo.com/219438311>

The **George Mark Children's House**, the first pediatric palliative care facility in the United States, received **\$50,000** to continue its work in providing comprehensive, compassionate and

life affirming care for children and their families. The funding was utilized for construction of a memorial garden which continues to celebrate the lives and stories of these children and gives solace to their families. The San Francisco Commandery is noted on a permanent plaque in the facility for our continued generosity and support.

Digging Deep received **\$50,000** to support its efforts in creating a digital game, Shadow's Edge, which allows teens faced with a terminal diagnosis the ability to explore their illness and to build resilience through their experience. The game also allows them to build community with other teens facing similar life challenges in an effort to build their support circle.

2017

We are delighted to report the San Francisco Commandery was able to support two very worthy charities from the proceeds derived from our annual Christmas gala, The White Cross Ball. The event took place at the stunning St. Regis Hotel on Saturday, December 2nd. Dame Lorna Meyer Calas was Christmas Ball Chair and led under the auspices of Commander Karen Persichitte.

The **George Mark Children's House**, located in San Leandro, CA, received **\$76,000** from our Commandery to continue its work in providing quality of life and continuity of care for children with illnesses modern healthcare cannot yet cure, or for those who have chronic medical conditions. As the first freestanding pediatric palliative care facility in the United States, The George Mark Children's House has created a replicable model of care for children and their families from which other like-minded facilities have been created. The scope of care provided by the skilled and professional staff has expanded and now not only provides end of life and bereavement care, but transitional and respite care. This facility continues to be a beacon of light for families in the Bay Area and beyond.

The Sentinels of Freedom also received **\$76,000** from our Commandery to continue their great work in supporting wounded veterans. Founder and CEO, Mike Conklin, was inspired to establish Sentinels of Freedom in 2003 after one of his sons was wounded in Iraq. He had great concern for wounded warriors without family or community support and wanted to ensure they had tangible means and support for full recovery. The Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Fund was created to provide not only comprehensive, but personalized care. The mission of the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation is to assist severely wounded and injured, post 9/11 veterans in their efforts to become productive and self-sufficient members of their communities as they transition back to civilian life.