

Community Service Association Newsletter

Published by the Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego Unified School District

May 2015

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Message from the CSA Board of Directors

In honor of Memorial Day, this month the newsletter features a profile of CSA grant recipient Semper Fi Fund. Thank you, CSA members, for your generous contributions that help to make possible these services to our community.

Profile of The Semper Fi Fund

Founded in 2004, the Semper Fi Fund and its program America's Fund provide immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 wounded, critically ill, and injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. Since May 2004, the Semper Fi Fund has provided over \$107 million in assistance to more than 13,800 service members and their families. "We believe that as much as our heroes have sacrificed, they deserve the best care and support possible," said founder and CEO Karen Guenther.

Born and raised in Stockton, California, Kionte Storey enlisted in the Marines in 2007. He served as an infantryman on two deployments, to Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2010. On September 7, 2010, an improvised explosive device claimed Kionte's right leg, seriously injured his left leg, and left him with PTSD and a traumatic brain injury. Kionte has received a range of assistance from the Fund, including help with training to run in the Paralympics. "I believe this is the best organization," Kionte says. "They remain true to their cause and have not veered away from their morals or objective. They truly haven't forgotten those who served."

Semper Fi Fund and America's Fund offer financial support for injured and ill service members and their families through various programs, including the following:

Adaptive Housing Support— Most service members who use a wheelchair, as well as those with catastrophic injuries, require adaptive housing. The Semper Fi Fund and America's Fund help with costly but necessary handicap modifications.

Assistance is also provided to those who have fallen behind on their housing payments due to injury, recovery, and rehabilitation costs. The goal is to help wounded service members remain in their homes without the added financial burden of these costs.

The Peter Murphy Semper Fi Fund Sports Program—The goal for Team Semper Fi and Team America's Fund is to provide encouragement, motivation, and individual goals for injured service members through sports. This program provides an exciting outlet and powerful peer support for wounded service members and their families.

Education and Career Transition Assistance—This program assists with the costs of books, fees, and training not covered by education tuition programs; travel to job interviews; and interview attire, computers, software and other equipment needed to pursue education opportunities and/or a new career. Through several partnership programs, career-enhancing seminars and week-long workshops are offered to help service men and women develop the networking, resume writing and interview skills necessary to transition into the community workplace. The goal is to make it easier for wounded service members to thrive beyond injury recovery, to transition successfully back into their communities, and to start a new life.



Above: Corporal Kionte Storey, USMC

For more information about Semper Fi Fund and its program America's Fund, please visit www.semperfund.org or www.americasfund.org.

CSA Mission Statement

The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.