Dear Friend,

As Foundation for Women Warriors (FFWW) begins a new year, I want to share an incredible journey --- the journey of warriors and their tribe.

Nearly a year ago, our organization underwent an incredible transformation; new leadership, name, logo, and messaging. With the help of our long-time supporters, board, and the women we serve, we reintroduced our organization as Foundation for Women Warriors. We also asked each of you; our friends, community leaders, business leaders, donors, and partner agencies to renew your support of this brave yet underserved community. Each of you are a stakeholder, pooling together your talents, resources, skills, and passion, to identify new and innovative means to provide our women veterans with a community of support. Together we formed a warrior tribe and set out to “Honor Her Service. Empower Her Future.”

And so the 2016 journey began, first with a Marine veteran silently struggling with childcare while pursuing a bachelor’s degree. When she enrolled in college, she promised that she would provide her son the best possible future. You helped her keep her promise; you provided her with childcare assistance and she now has a community to call home. Her graduation with honors this past May is a testament of the investment each of you made. She has since secured work in the medical field made possible through each of you, our tribe.

This year was not just one journey, this year was more than 955 journeys. Some requiring shelter and food, while others needed guidance and additional resources to advance careers and overall well-being. You were a part of this journey and this tribe because:

You invest in our warriors.
You serve our warriors.
You are a Warrior.

On the behalf of FFWW Board of Directors, staff, and our Warriors – we are beyond grateful for each of you. I am proud to share OUR life-changing impact this past year and look forward to the work ahead.

Onward,

Jodie M. Grenier
Executive Director
Foundation for Women Warriors
IN MEMORIAM

Meredith Ann Brenalvirez,
FFWW Board President, passed away on December 24, 2016.

Meredith was born in Los Angeles, CA and attended Marlborough School. She then graduated from Claremont McKenna College where she was in the first class of women, the Pioneers, and became the first woman class president. She enjoyed successful careers in banking, advertising, and commercial real estate in Southern California where, in 1986, she co-founded Women in Retail Real Estate. Married in 1990, she moved to Scottsdale two years later to raise a family.

Among other civic activities, Meredith dedicated her time to women veterans for over two decades as a board member and ultimately president of Military Women in Need. Meredith played a pivotal role in helping grow the organization from a small housing facility to a nationally-recognized non-profit. Under her leadership, MWIN grew to offer a breadth of services to the increasing number of female veterans and survivors of veterans and renamed the organization Foundation for Women Warriors. Her inspiration for leading came from the veterans she had known over her lifetime, who Meredith would say truly embodied the ideals of self-sacrifice, resilience, dignity, and duty to our country.

A woman of faith, she was involved in her church, Pinnacle Presbyterian, as a deacon, elder and her favorite - pre-school Sunday School teacher. She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Rudy, and their three children Ted, John, and Laura.

Our organization lost a fearless leader, and the world lost an extraordinary human being. For those who had been blessed to know and work with Meredith, we lost a loving friend and an inspiring mentor. Meredith left behind an incredible legacy. She was the voice of a community few stepped up to support. Her tenacious warrior spirit continues to live through the work of Foundation for Women Warriors. No words will adequately express our sorrow at Meredith’s death or our immense gratitude for the impact she made on women veterans, survivors, and their children. We honor her by continuing the work she loved so very much.
Board of Directors

Caitlin Carroll, President

Kimberlee Davis, Treasurer

Pamela Keller, LCDR, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Secretary

Al Garcia, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, California Air National Guard (Vet.)

Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Deiya Pernas, U.S. Air Force (Vet.)

Advisory Board


Abigail d’Autremont First Lieutenant, U.S. Army (Res.)

Staff

Jodie Grenier, Executive Director U.S. Marine Corps (Vet.)

Mayra Galeas, Program Coordinator

Tyler Parthemer, Program Coordinator

Mariana Sosa, Operations Manager

Diana Cabrales, Social Media Coordinator
Foundation for Women Warriors is a unique support organization created exclusively for the women veteran community of Southern California. We provide essential programs to empower the resiliency and professional development of Women Warriors. Every step is dedicated to supporting these outstanding women to navigate obstacles and realize their maximum potential after their service career.

OUR MISSION
We exist to serve women veterans and their children so that their next mission is clear and continues to impact the world.

WHY WOMEN VETERANS?
Often overshadowed by their male counterparts, our programs honor, empower, and support the women who answered our nation’s call to serve.
Women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the veteran population yet are less likely to have the same support network while experiencing additional barriers to receiving and utilizing standard veteran benefits.

Women veterans report a lack of women-specific medical care at VA facilities, not being seen as real veterans, and feeling disconnected from their local communities.

The Solution

We honor her service and empower her future.

Foundation for Women Warriors steps in to level the field. For nearly a century, we have been focused on the empowerment of military women and children.

Honor
We honor the service of women veterans who are often overshadowed by male counterparts.

Empower
We empower the future success of women veterans by focusing on their strengths.

Community
We provide a supportive community and connection to partner resources specifically tailored to needs of women veterans.
The Impact

Over the past four years the number of women and children served has increased significantly.

2013-14: 229 women and children served
2014-15: 534 women and children served
2015-16: 428 women and children served
2016-17: 955 women and children served

This represents a 317% increase.

100% of clients would recommend FFWW to other women veterans.

97% of clients reported that FFWW has had a positive impact on the quality of their lives.
Foundation for Women Warriors has been there for me when I needed it most. This last Spring I was in my final semester of my Bachelors degree at Cal State. I was working and taking a full load of classes while raising my son by myself. I knew that I could not quit school in order to graduate on time. I was having trouble paying for extended care hours at my child’s daycare, with only weeks left to be completed with my degree program.

If it were not for this amazing foundation, I would not be a college graduate today. As a Veteran, it is not often we get out of the military and complete college. Many of us get lost in the transition to the civilian world. Often we do not have mentors to turn to while navigating our way through higher education. We usually have taken a less traveled route of serving our country first, then attending college. This can be for many reasons, sometimes we were never told we could go to college or there was no money in the family to send us to college.

Foundation for Women Warriors reassured me that I have a support team behind me, encouraging me to accomplish my plan to becoming a medical practitioner. I know that I have mentors in this foundation that I can call on day or night for virtually anything. They have helped me meet other female veterans and assisted me in finding employment. I have found like-minded women that have been through some of the same life events, such as deployment, PCSing, and answering the call to serve their country. I feel a great deal of pride calling this foundation my family and my friends.

I used to be afraid to ask for help, but Foundation for Women Warriors did not make me feel ashamed for asking for assistance when my child and I needed it most. They have mentored me, fed me, and treated my son as their own. I know that I have made invaluable life connections with women that lift me up and encourage me.
Warrior Assistance

Provides short-term, high-impact financial assistance to our at-risk women veterans to cover rent and emergency expenses such as medical bills, utility bills, and other necessities. Our Warrior Assistance Program gives our women veterans the relief they need to navigate obstacles and make successful life transitions from service to civilian life. Our programs serve as a safety net when unforeseen necessary expenses or events place women veterans and their children at risk.

Last fiscal year, 70 families received Warrior Assistance.

“Foundation for Women Warriors made me feel empowered and made me feel okay that I needed a little help during a hard time. I appreciate you all!”
– Jerrica S., Air Force veteran

“This assistance was very helpful to me, since the car repairs were really difficult for me to pay in the situation I was in at the time. I am very grateful for the help, it relieved lot of stress.”
– Lisa D., Army veteran

“This assistance kept me from being homeless, and I’m thankful.”
– Jennifer M., Air Force veteran

“I reached out to other veteran organizations that refused me. FFWW helped to keep me stable and allowed me to be able to continue working.”
– Daphne S., Marine Corps veteran

80% of clients maintained or found employment after receiving assistance.

100% of clients remained in their home for at least six months after receiving assistance.
Childcare Assistance

Provides assistance and scholarships for summer, winter, after-school, camps as well as daycare, which enable veteran moms to go to work or progress in a degree. We have partnered with college campuses across Southern California and are actively present at USC, Cal State campuses, and USD. In lessening the cost of childcare, we help women veterans reduce housing instability, support their employment, and assist in the pursuit of a degree or certification, all critical factors for long-term sustainability.

Last fiscal year, 68 women and children received Childcare Assistance. 915 childcare days were provided for veteran families.

100% of Employed clients maintained or advanced their employment after receiving assistance.

100% of clients pursuing a degree were able to stay in school after receiving assistance.

“FFWW’s assistance allowed me to stay in school without worrying about childcare expenses during my times of struggle. I am very thankful for the help and support they provided.”

– Elizabeth C., Army veteran

“I am so grateful that they were able to help me out with childcare assistance. It helped enable me to do what I needed in order for me to make life work.”

– Jeanine P., Army veteran
Warrior Connect

Provides personalized information and introductions to our partner agencies. Our women veterans receive individualized and coordinated access to impactful services that meet their specific needs. As an extension of our Warrior Connect program, we launched Connect with Community, an event in partnership with area colleges and women business leaders to connect with and mentor women veterans in transition with childcare available on site. Connect with Community allows community members, educational institutions and our partner agencies to have a stake in the success of our women veterans.

612 women veterans were connected with various life-enriching resources. Resources focused on finances, mental health, employment, and mentoring.

80% of Warrior Assistance and Childcare Assistance clients received referrals for additional resources.

100% of those that received referrals, of clients made contact with those other agencies.

“These women gave me a sense of community that I was missing.”
- Rebecca O., Marine Corps veteran
At the inaugural Connect with Community, 38 active duty and veteran women in transition came together with 21 women business leaders from the local community for a day of professional development on the beautiful University of San Diego campus. Foundation for Women Warriors provided on-site children’s activities to enable more women to gather for the event. The table discussions encouraged women to talk about their strengths, learn to convey their experience to others, negotiate their salary, and tips on how networking can help them find a job after service. They were able to hear real advice from successful veterans that have been through the same experiences and from civilian women who have extensive professional experience in various industries. Our Women Warriors walked away feeling connected to local women business leaders and even continued to nurture these relationships following the event. We look forward to expanding these events in the year to come.

“There’s something empowering about a room full of successful women. We are learning to be one voice; when one woman is successful, we are all successful!”
–Kathy Hansen, veteran, Owner of Industrial Grind Coffee

“It was fantastic to connect with veterans and business mentors. It was more than taking home business cards, it was the beginning of connections and empowerment!”
–Beth W., veteran, United States Marine Corps
I would like to express my gratitude for the amazing assistance your team will be able to provide my family. I just got the news we were approved for a more than gracious amount for next month’s rent. I cannot even begin to tell you how much this will help us! This allows me to get back on track with my finances, which lifts a huge weight off my shoulders and gives me peace of mind again, and for that I am sincerely grateful to Foundation for Women Warriors.

I feel very blessed to have come across your organization.

- Adriana, USMC Veteran
“The table conversations were priceless and the question encouraged participation by all, not just the extraverts. Having advocates at the table to drive the conversations worked very well, so there was no lull in conversation. Again, great concept and great job.”

– Lauren N. Trosclair Duncan, Director, American Red Cross LA

**CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY**

Our Connect with Community program addresses Psychological Needs and Self-Fulfillment Needs.

38 women benefitted from activities promoting:

**Building friendships & mentorships**

“I attended the Connect with Community event as a business mentor and I felt so welcomed by all the women. They were eager to hear my story and to share theirs with the table openly. It felt like a true sisterhood! Can’t wait to do it again!”

– Trish Nunez, Mission Real Estate Associates

**Realizing their achievements & growing their confidence**

“Meeting and speaking to the business and veteran mentors at my table helped me to understand how I can put my military experience and current schooling to effective use, even if I choose to work in a different field than my degree.”

– Anonymous, veteran, United States Marine Corps

**Reaching their full potential**

“I loved attending this event because the women made me feel so comfortable. They were eager to share resources and support me in my endeavors. I feel even more confident after this event to grow in my medical career and to apply to graduate school programs. Thank you so much for the help!”

– Rebecca, United States Marine Corps
100% of clients said they felt FFWW honored their service.

91.6% of clients felt empowered from services received by FFWW.
Warrior Society

**Platinum**
Jean Perkins Foundation
The Green Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

**Silver**
Union Pacific Foundation
SoCal Gas
The HateDust Project Inc.
Venable Foundation, Inc.
Lon V. Smith Foundation
Edison International

**Bronze**
Connected Women of Influence, Inc.
Newman’s Own Foundation
Security Traders Association NY

**Advocate**
The Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation
The Charitable Foundation
San Francisco Security Traders Association
JMA Wireless

**Friend**
Elizabeth Leonhard
DASpedia
Holly Johnson
Viasat, Inc.
Jean Gilchrist
Theresa Karle
Christine Fritsch
Elevate My Brand

Investment Traders Association of Philadelphia
Security Traders Association of Chicago
James Walker Uhlmann
Fan of the Feather Inc.
Security Traders Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
Roy E. Crummer Foundation
Kiwanis Charities of Santa Monica
Jackson Square Partners Foundation
Merry Makers of the Culver City Senior Center
How You Can Make A Difference

Become A Member
Become A CWC Mentor
Donate
Like Our Social Media
Fundraise
Become An Ambassador
Volunteer
Sponsor An Event
Sign Up For Newsletter
Donor Advised Fund
Amazon Smile
Dlyte
Corporate Matching

Honor Her Service  Empower Her Future

Foundation for Women Warriors ★ foundationforwomenwarriors.org
info@f4ww.org ★ 310.733.2450
2355 Westwood Ave. #350, Los Angeles, CA 90064
Tax ID: #20-5523954