



ThanksUSA Overview

Mission

ThanksUSA is a 501(c)(3) organization that honors the men and women of the United States Armed Forces by providing need-based scholarships and pathways to employment for their spouses and children.

Program Accomplishments

ThanksUSA awards nearly \$1 million in scholarships each year to help military spouses and children attain their academic goals.

- 2,000 scholarship applications are received annually.
- Since 2006, our scholars have earned nearly \$16 million in scholarships.
- Scholarship recipients come from each of the 50 states and DC and represent all military branches.
- Our scholars have a 3.8 GPA average.
- More than half of 2020 scholar majors fall into the categories of healthcare and engineering.



4,860

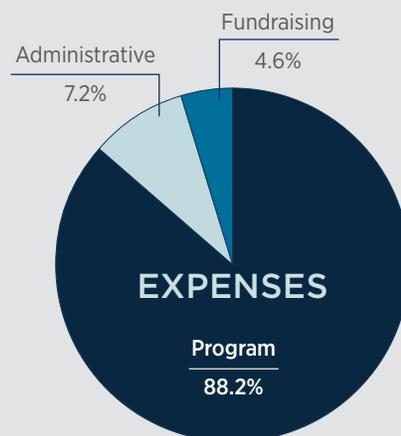
scholarships awarded
with a total value of

\$15,918,047

Financial Performance Metrics

Supporters of ThanksUSA can be confident that their funds will be used effectively. Our fiscal responsibility, financial transparency, and strong governance serve as an excellent measurement of financial health and operational stability. Nearly 90 percent of your contribution will directly support our scholars' education.

ThanksUSA is funded mostly by contributions and grants (70 percent) from individuals, companies and foundations, as well as by fundraising events (30 percent) including golf and tennis tournaments, other sports initiatives, and an annual Gala.



Metrics use averages of three most recent 990s filed with the IRS.



Scholars At A Glance



As a military child living on base, Joshua spent countless hours observing various aircraft with wonderment. Joshua has received \$9,000 in ThanksUSA scholarships to help realize his dream of becoming a pilot. In 2020, Joshua will graduate from The University of Texas at Austin with degrees in Government and History then begin his career as a Naval Aviator. "I appreciate ThanksUSA's investment in my education, and one day, I hope to make it easier for the scholars of tomorrow to achieve their own dreams."

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The daughter of a Navy Master Chief, Erin has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling \$9,000 for Nursing studies at Brigham Young University. "It is my heartfelt desire to provide care for patients in underserved areas. I have witnessed life-changing results that advanced treatments can bring to patients, yet access to quality medical care is still a concern for so many people throughout the world." As the second oldest of six children, the scholarship has allowed her to take advantage of all learning opportunities with less financial pressure on the family.

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An Army spouse living in Germany, Tunesha benefits from both traditional classroom learning and online work as she pursues a Computer Science major at the University of Maryland: University College. Tunesha plans to concentrate on Artificial Intelligence to develop safer work environments. "The ThanksUSA scholarship is allowing me to achieve my dream of becoming an AI engineer in the field of Computer Science. What an incredible gift to not only me, but also my small military family!"

Leadership

ThanksUSA's small staff is made up of military family members, led by President and CEO Jon Rosa, a military spouse and former service member in the U.S. Navy.

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ThanksUSA Mission

- ThanksUSA is one of the only needs-based scholarship programs for both military spouses and child dependents. We understand that the greatest way to “thank” service members is to care for their families, and we show that appreciation through education.
- Since 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded 4,860 scholarships totaling \$15.9 million. Most are valued at \$3,000 each and can be used for undergraduate study at a two- or four-year college, university, or vocational, technical or trade school program, as well as licensure and certification programs for spouses.
- ThanksUSA was founded by sisters Rachel and Kelsi Okun from Virginia, when they were 10 and 8 years old. Their goal: to thank America’s troops by providing educational support to their children and spouses.
- ThanksUSA scholarships alleviate the financial burdens of military families granting them greater freedom to achieve their dreams and contribute to society in meaningful ways. We believe this is not only an ethical responsibility, but a matter of preserving national security.

Scholarship Program Scope

- ThanksUSA receives roughly 2,000 scholarship applications every year — a profound expression of military families’ financial need. However, much of this need remains unmet, with roughly 10 to 15 percent of our applicants receiving scholarships each year.
- Scholarships have been awarded in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and OCONUS base locations, and represent all military branches including Guard and Reserve.
- Our program offers financial aid for dependent children and spouses of active-duty, discharged, or retired U.S. military personnel who have served full-time for at least 180 days after 9/11/01.
- Selection is based on financial need, academic performance, community involvement, and evaluation of defined goals and personal essay, with preference given to families of service members killed or injured during active duty.

Leveling the Playing Field

- More than one-third of military families say they struggle to pay the bills every month because of many aspects of military life that affect financial management, including frequent relocation, a high unemployment rate among military spouses, and a difficult transition into civilian life.
- 70 percent of millennial military families agreed that having two incomes is vital to a family’s well-being. However, up to 30 percent of military spouses are unemployed (actively seeking work) and 56 percent of working spouses are underemployed, often due to frequent relocation.
- Education benefits were the top reason for joining the military among active-duty and veteran millennials. Unfortunately, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill simply isn’t enough for hundreds of thousands of military families with children and only one income.
- The benefits of higher education are boundless, greatly affecting a person’s economic future, employment options, health, civic involvement, personal development, impact on society, and more.



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“ThanksUSA has helped to make our dreams a reality,” said Natalie, a ThanksUSA scholar from a Navy family. “I have been able to take some of the burden off my parents’ shoulders.” Natalie is a graduate of Virginia Tech, beginning her career at Newport News Shipbuilding.