



May 3, 2012

Blue Star Mother Of America, Inc.  
Chapter #1

RE: Contribution to *Gary Sinise Foundation*

Dear Ms. Burgess:

On behalf of the Gary Sinise Foundation, I want to thank you for your generous gift made by the Blue Star Mothers Of America, Inc, Chapter #1 received on May 3, 2012. Because of contributions and support from folks just like you, we have been able to accomplish some pretty remarkable things.

In 2011, we helped raise the funds to build two custom, state-of-the-art Smart Homes for quadruple amputee veterans Brendan Marrocco and Todd Nicely. And now with Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, we have formed *Building for America's Bravest™* to raise the funding for ten additional Smart Homes for severely wounded warriors in 2012.

As part of this program, your donations help bring *Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band*, a part of the Gary Sinise Foundation, to performances at community-building and fundraising concerts in the areas where each home will be built. Our first concert this year was for Lance Cpl. Juan Dominguez on March 1st in Temecula, CA where we raised over \$130,000 towards Juan's new home while rallying the support of his new neighbors and community. We have eight more concerts planned before the year's end.

*Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band* was as busy as ever this past year, performing 36 concerts for various military charities, USO and troop support events in 2011. The band has helped to raise millions of dollars for charitable causes while raising the spirits and morale of our defenders and their families across the world. Currently 42 concerts are planned for 2012 including those for the *Building for America's Bravest™* program.

Last Spring, we proudly awarded the Gary Sinise Scholarship to Isaac Ford, Jr., a former Marine with 25 years of service to his country now earning his master's of social work with a sub-concentration in military social work. Ford told us, "For the first time since my retirement from the Marine Corps, I truly felt as if my service and sacrifices were significant."

This past November, we helped honor local fallen hero A.J. Castro from Agoura Hills, CA with a fundraising tribute concert. Together we helped raise \$75,000 for the land purchase and construction of a Smart Home for Cpl. John Peck as part of *Building for America's Bravest™*. A plaque commemorating Castro will be placed in Peck's new home.

You have also helped us provide meals for deploying and returning troops and veterans, emergency needs for the grief-stricken families of our fallen, care packages and school supplies for our deployed warriors, transportation and scholarship funds for needy families of first responders, the building of a much needed memorial tribute, *De Opresso Liber*, honoring our Special Forces Horse Soldiers, the first to deploy to Afghanistan in response to the 9/11 attacks, and so much more.

In addition to our own programs, throughout 2011 we contributed over \$500,000 to our charitable partner organizations. That means charities like *Snowball Express*, which continues to inspire hope and build new memories for the children of our fallen military heroes, *Hope for the Warriors*, *Fire Family Transportation Fund*, *TAPS* and *Thanks USA*, among others have and will continue to benefit from your generous contribution as well.

Again, thank you for your very generous support. Your contribution will help significantly with our efforts to support our nations defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. And, as always, please keep our troops and first responders and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith L. Otter".

Judith L. Otter  
Administrative Director

\*No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.