

Mighty Oaks Foundation - Faith-based Non-Profit Making A Significant Impact In The Battle Against PTSD and The Suicide Epidemic

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Many of our Nation's Warriors struggle with the hardships of military service and reintegration back into civilian life; often leaving broken homes in their aftermath and comprise one of the most at risk groups for suicide. Mighty Oaks tackles this critical issue with our peer-to-peer resiliency and recovery programs offered at no cost to our honored service men and women. Learn more about how you can make a direct impact today and effect positive change, guiding our service men and women to find a new life purpose through hope in Christ.

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When Chad Robichaux realized that countless other combat veterans face the same psychological, emotional, and spiritual challenges he did after his service in Afghanistan (challenges causing some twenty-plus suicides a day and staggering divorce rates among military families), Chad wondered to himself, Why doesn't someone do something about this? He eventually realized that the answer was Why not me? and so began Mighty Oaks.

It is a story of God's transformational power to turn tragedy into triumph. It is a journey starting with one man's brokenness from war, one woman's willingness to fight for her... family, and their faith in God's promise from Isaiah 61:3 that we can rise from the ashes and become mighty oaks of righteousness.

Many great men stepped in to mentor Chad and Kathy past their struggles, but none more than Steve Toth and Pastor Jeff Wells of WoodsEdge Community Church. It was through this church that Chad and Kathy were later ordained and commissioned as ministers and sent to begin the Mighty Oaks ministry to America's military warriors and families.

The first programs for men were launched in Westcliffe, Colorado, with non-active duty veterans. Chad and Kathy served alongside the Dave Roevers Foundation for more than a year while developing the methodology that would become Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs (MOWP).

MOWP uses a grassroots approach, empowering veterans to begin their healing and then be a positive impact on those around them. Those warriors, challenged by this peer-to-peer model, rose to meet the challenge and found hope and purpose beyond their military service, grabbing hold of a future worth living again. As they left the programs, they sent their brothers, which made the program grow rapidly, especially with warriors coming from US Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion West, which housed a large population of Marine Corps combat veterans.

During this time of growth and increasing demand, Dave Roevers introduced Chad to Wayne Hughes Jr. to explore



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the possibility of taking Mighty Oaks to El Paso de Robles, Calif. (Interestingly, El Paso de Robles translates to “The Path of the Oaks.” We at Mighty Oaks say this was definitely a God wink!) Wayne, a very successful businessman, had previously launched Serving California, a nonprofit philanthropy arm for his many companies.

It was in Wayne’s heart to see the Lord’s hand over our returning American warriors, and he wanted to run a veterans’ program at his ranch. He allowed MOWP to do so on the condition that if he liked the program, he’d build a lodge there to host it. He did like it, especially its results.

A partnership between Mighty Oaks and Serving California took root, and SkyRose Lodge was built. This became the primary home of Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs. However, the rapidly increasing influx of warriors and military families has resulted (so far) in three other regional locations: Blaylock Ranch in Junction, Tex.; Warrior Retreat at Bull Run in Haymarket, Va.; and The Wilds in Columbus, Ohio.

As our work continues with veterans and spouses, we receive active-duty warriors on official orders from the various branches. We also have become a top resource for the US military, having trained and equipped more than one hundred thousand warriors in combat readiness through Resiliency Conferences at bases across the country. This included Chad and Jeremy authoring The Path to Resiliency, a spiritual-resiliency book used as a resource for the US military.

Even though Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs has expanded in both numbers and geographic locations, our vision remains the same: to assist our nation’s warriors and families by challenging, equipping, and empowering them to take the help they receive and spread it to those in their own circles of influence. We now have more than eighteen-hundred Mighty Oaks alumni, and we take great pride in not having lost one to suicide to date. Beyond each warrior’s healing he is challenged, equipped, and empowered to care for his brothers, bringing both a solution to the problem and a purpose for those willing to share that solution with others.

Together, we can all strive toward the common goal of ending the war at home by finding a hope and a future, and aligning with the purpose for which God created us. We will continue to lead others to fulfill the promise of Isaiah 61:3: to rise from the ashes and become mighty oaks!

Fully paid scholarships are available for all MOWP for active-duty or veteran military personnel, as well as their spouses, by applying online.

Interview Opportunities: Limited interviews with our featured speakers will be available to press during the event. To request an interview or a press ticket for the event to provide coverage, please contact Michael Cameron: michael(at)mightyoaksprograms(dot)org.

About Mighty Oaks Foundation:

After 18 years in the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than half of the 2 million Veterans struggle with physical and mental health problems stemming from their service. According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, every day in America, over twenty veterans commit suicide. The V.A. Hotline receives an average of 400 calls per day. 2018 marked the highest military active duty suicide rate in 10 years. At the same time, the divorce rate among active military personnel and returning Veterans is staggering, impacting Veterans, as well as their families. Many combat vets are unable to reintegrate back into civilian life leaving their families to work through the aftermath.

To date we have had over 2,500 graduates of our Legacy Programs. That's over 2,500 military personnel, veterans, spouses, and first responders that have hope, healing and renewed purpose. Additionally, we have reached over 100,000 men and women at Resiliency events around the world and handed out over 80,000 copies of our books. Our Resiliency events are focused on providing resources and tools for our Warriors so that they are properly equipped to face the many challenges of combat and life.

We are proud to offer our programs at NO COST to all attendees! That also includes travel to and from one of our four program locations throughout the country.

The Mighty Oaks Foundation is committed to serving the brokenhearted by providing a series of intensive peer-based recovery programs, outpost meetings, and speaking events. Our Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs hosts such Men, Women, and Marriage Advance Programs at multiple locations nationwide. The Warriors who attend are fully sponsored for training, meals, and lodging needs to ensure that upon arrival to the ranch, each Warrior is focused

solely on his or her recovery and identifying purpose moving forward. To contribute or for more information please visit: <https://www.mightyoaksprograms.org>

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MIGHTY OAKS

— ★ FOUNDATION ★ —

About Chad Robichaux, BCPC, MBA

Chad M. Robichaux is president and founder of Mighty Oaks Foundation, a leading nonprofit organization serving the military community, with highly successful peer-to-peer, faith-based, combat-trauma recovery programs and combat-resiliency conferences. Chad and his team are dedicated to helping America's warriors and their families suffering from the unseen wounds of combat such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTS(d)). To date he has reached hundreds of thousands of veteran and active-duty service members through Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs and his much celebrated speaking events.

Chad is a former Force Reconnaissance Marine and DoD Contractor with eight deployments to Afghanistan as part of a Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) Task Force. He has earned an MBA from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) and is a board-certified pastoral counselor with a focus on PTS(d). Chad and his wife, Kathy, have been married for twenty-two years and have three children. Their family has faced the challenges of PTS after years of his deployments. However, they now share a story of a victory in Christ and have dedicated their lives to sharing that story to mentor others like them. Chad is a widely sought-after public speaker and one of the leading experts on PTS(d), and military and veteran issues, providing advice to the nation's highest-ranking flag officers. He has advised the current presidential administration on the best and most-effective faith-based solutions for veterans' care. Chad has testified in Veteran Courts regarding combat trauma and PTS(d). He has written a bestselling book on the subject, and has been featured on such media outlets as Fox News, Forbes, The O'Reilly Factor, Glenn Beck, USA Today, Christian Post, Focus on the Family, The 700 Club, and a short biography film by I Am Second.

In addition to Chad's military service, he has served our nation as a Special Agent with the US Federal Air Marshal Service and the US State Department as a Surveillance Detection Senior Program Manager. Chad is a Medal of Valor recipient for his bravery beyond the call of duty in law enforcement. Outside of his work with veterans, Chad and his sons train and teach Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He is a third-degree black belt under the legendary Master Carlson Gracie Jr. and a former Pro MMA world champion who has used his platform to advocate for civilian support of America's warriors returning home while competing in the sport's biggest events such as NBC's World Series of Fighting, StrikeForce, Bellator FC, and Legacy FC.











About Jeremy Stalnecker

Jeremy Stalnecker is the Executive Director of the Mighty Oaks Foundation. The Mighty Oaks Foundation is dedicated to helping America's military warriors and their families who are suffering from the unseen wounds of combat such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

While growing up in San Jacinto, CA, Jeremy's only goal in life was to leave home and join the Marine Corps. This dream was finally realized with an active duty commission in 1999.

Following Infantry Officer Course in Quantico, VA, Jeremy was assigned to First Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division as an infantry platoon commander. Serving first as a rifle platoon commander in a helicopter company and then as the platoon commander of the counter-mechanized platoon, Jeremy learned valuable leadership and communication skills that he continues to use today. In January 2003, Fifth Marines, as a part of the First Marine Division, deployed to Kuwait in support of what would become Operation Iraqi Freedom. As the war began, First Battalion, Fifth Marines was the infantry battalion used to breach the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq and secured the first major objective of the war. This led to a road march that ended with the battalion occupying Baghdad and seizing the presidential palace in northern Baghdad on the Tigris River. Throughout this movement, Jeremy and the counter-mechanized platoon provided navigation and lead security for the battalion.

While in the Marine Corps, God was working in Jeremy's life to turn his heart toward full-time ministry. Just one month after returning from Iraq, Jeremy became a staff member of his home church at Coastline Baptist in Oceanside, CA. Here he gained ministry experience that would equip him for the further leading of God. In his role as an Assistant Pastor, he counseled and mentored many couples and individuals while also maintaining other church responsibilities. It was a great privilege for him to be able to serve in this capacity so close to Camp Pendleton since most of the people he worked with were either Marines or the family members of Marines.

In 2008, Jeremy and his family took on a new responsibility when he became the Senior Pastor, just east of San Francisco Bay at Bay Area Baptist Church in Fremont, CA. In this capacity, he continued to minister to families and individuals in a wide range of areas. After serving in the role of senior pastor for nearly seven years, the door leading to a full-time position with the Mighty Oaks Foundation opened. This move brought together both his ministry experience and military background in a way that allows him to serve and minister to many hurting veterans, service members and their families. Along with his wife Susanne and their four children, Jeremy works to reach the hurting and provide the healing found in Christ.