

**Capt. Bob Silah,  
USN (Ret)  
Founder,  
Operation  
Helping Hand**



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Award presented to the Tampa Bay Ray's "Raymond" for bringing joy and smiles to the wounded and injured and their families.



**How We Support Our  
Wounded Active Duty  
Military Heroes and  
Their Families**



Organized in May 2004, Operation Helping Hand is a special project of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Launched by its late Chairman, Captain Robert J. Silah USN (Ret.), our effort is dedicated specifically to supporting and enhancing the lives of patients and their families.

Since the start of the War on Terror, there has been a steady flow of wounded and injured receiving treatment at the Tampa Veterans' Hospital. Many arrive here with debilitating wounds, including blast injuries, amputations, burns, blindness, brain and spinal cord damage or a combination of these injuries referred to as Polytrauma.

We recognize that the most important part of rehabilitation for those wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan is having the love and support of their family. That's why our assistance ranges from

roundtrip commercial air travel for immediate family members to be with their injured loved ones to paying for rental cars, prepaid cell phones, comfort items and many other helpful gestures.



**OPERATION HELPING HAND**

Operation Helping Hand (Op HH) provides assistance to the severely wounded and injured polytrauma patients from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Patients are active duty military at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVAH) in Tampa, Florida. We also provide assistance to their families; the medically retired from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and those active duty patients at the JAHVAH who were severely injured in the Continental U.S., Europe, or wherever U.S. Troops are stationed. Op HH is an all-volunteer 501(C)(3) organization, AND 96.5% OF ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED SUPPORT THE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

[www.OperationHelpingHandTampa.com](http://www.OperationHelpingHandTampa.com)





## Our Mission Continues to Change Lives

Since 2004, Operation Helping Hand has assisted over 1,500 of our active duty wounded and countless family members. What makes this even more meaningful is that over 96.5% of all monies raised have gone directly to our patients and their families.

We also host monthly dinners at the Spinal Cord Injury Center to honor the injured and wounded. It's a chance for the community, including military from MacDill Air Force Base, to offer their thanks to these brave soldiers who have given so much for our country. The International Coalition Countries work closely with U.S. Central Command and lend a hand at these functions. Additionally, we receive tremendous support from many Tampa area corporations and individuals whom underwrite the cost of these dinners. But our wounded heroes still need your help.



### Helping Hand Programs

- Welcome Kits for Incoming Patients (up to \$1,000 value)
- Monthly Sponsored Dinners at the JAHVAH Honoring Patients and their Families
- Gift Bags for Patients at the Op HH Monthly Dinners
- Tampa Bay Ray's Game Outings for Patients and their Families
- Round-Trip Fly-in Program for Immediate Family Members
- Specially sponsored Christmas Dinner Program
- Annual Bob Silah Memorial Golf Tournament at MacDill AFB
- Special Support to Patients and their Families via JAHVAH Social Worker Recommendations
- Support Special Requests from the Fisher House that apply directly to the Wounded and Injured Active Duty and their Families
- Horse Whispering Program
- Training Service Dogs Program

### Over 96.5% of Your Contribution Goes Directly to Helping Our Wounded Soldiers and Their Families

Our organization does not have any paid staff. It is comprised of a large network of dedicated volunteers, including retired military, who take great pride in accomplishing all the work with no compensation. An eight member Executive Council administers activities and oversees everything, ensuring that the funds are properly handled.

### Look Who's Giving Us a Big Hand for Our Efforts

Over the years the ongoing work of Operation Helping Hand has achieved high praise and numerous distinguished honors from renowned organizations, including "Newman's Own" national competition; the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce; the United Way of Tampa Bay; the Mayor's Alliance; the Governor's Point of Light Award; the President's Call to Service Award; the 2012 Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero Award; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Outstanding Public Service Award; and the 2013 ASAE Gold Award.

## You Can Help Start the Healing TODAY with Any Donation

Yes, I want to help!  
Please print clearly

- \$10     \$50     \$500  
 \$25     \$100     \$1000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: OPERATION HELPING HAND INC.**  
PO BOX 270246 • TAMPA, FL 33688 - 0246

#### TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions should be tax deductible (consult your tax advisor.) All donations will be acknowledged by letter. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services toll-free within the state (1-800-HELP-FLA). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. CH11533. State of Florida Certificate of Exemption #85-8013873368C-2 Effective Date 06-28-07. IRS Designation: EIN 51-0611866, 501 (c) (3), Effective 10-10-06, Operation Helping Hand, Inc.

**OPERATION HELPING HAND** 

[www.OperationHelpingHandTampa.com](http://www.OperationHelpingHandTampa.com)

### Together We Can Keep the Donations Coming!

We encourage you to join those in the community who have stepped forward and presented checks to us based on their own fundraising campaigns. The touching thank you letters that we receive from grateful patients and their families are all we need to keep our efforts going.

