



JOHNNY MAC  
SOLDIERS FUND

Giving  
Back  
Through  
Education

# TOGETHER WE CARRY THIS FORWARD

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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## FROM OUR JOHNNY MAC CEO

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As I look back on 2025, my first full year at Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund, what has stayed with me most is the people.

I had the opportunity to spend real time with Johnny Mac Scholars, hearing about classes, internships, big plans, and the everyday things they are figuring out along the way. A scholarship does more than cover tuition. It takes something heavy off the table. It creates space to focus, to plan, and to move forward with greater confidence.

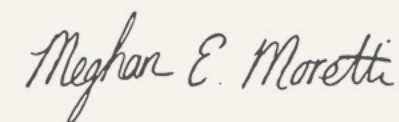
The scholarships we fund exist to meet a very real and growing need, ensuring that the children of our nation's fallen or disabled service members have access to education and the stability it provides.

Our community also came together often. At gatherings large and small, we shared our scholars' stories and raised the funds that make this work possible. Our purpose is serious, but there is also a lot of fun. Laughter, reunions, and excitement about what we are building together.

What struck me most this year was the depth of commitment I saw. People show up with their time, their resources, and their trust. They stay engaged. They care. This is not transactional. It is people continuing to stand with military families who have carried so much.

I pause and think about how rare that is. The energy. The generosity. The connection. I do not take it lightly.

It is a privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside so many people who care deeply about doing this well. Thank you.



Meghan Moretti, CEO

## THE NEED

Since September 11, 2001, more than 50,000 U.S. service members have died in connection with military operations. Thousands of children have lost a parent. Many more families are living with lasting injuries or disabilities that reshape daily life and future plans.

▶ **35,000**

Approximate number of children affected by post-9/11 combat casualties

For these families, the impact does not end with a single event. Life decisions are influenced by circumstances they did not choose, and the cost of higher education adds another layer of uncertainty.

Independent analysis projects that nearly **35,000** children affected by post-9/11 combat casualties will require post-secondary funding in the coming decades, with projected costs exceeding **\$1.37 billion**.<sup>1</sup>

▶ **\$1.37 BILLION+**

Projected cost to fund post-secondary education for those children

Federal education benefits provide important support to some families, but they are often limited and do not fully cover costs. Nonprofit partners and private philanthropy help ensure that additional scholarship funding is available.

**Military service and sacrifice continue. So does the responsibility to ensure that these children have access to education and the stability it provides.**

<sup>1</sup> *Freedom's Future: Impact & Donor Report, No Greater Sacrifice*

## OUR MISSION

Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund honors military service and sacrifice by providing scholarships to veterans and military family members, especially children of our nation's fallen or disabled.



EDUCATION CANNOT CHANGE WHAT HAS HAPPENED, BUT IT CAN SHAPE WHAT COMES NEXT.

We do this by working through a trusted network of program partners, allowing us to extend the reach and impact of every dollar given while staying focused on what matters most—getting scholarships to the students and families who need them.

Board Co-Chair **Tony Guzzi** with Johnny Mac Scholar **Conner Reese**. After meeting at a Johnny Mac event, Tony stayed connected as a mentor, helping Conner secure an internship in 2025 aligned with his finance studies.



*This scholarship allows me to focus on my education without financial burden. I am incredibly thankful.*



**Anna Atkinson** is a sophomore at South Dakota State University majoring in human development and family studies, with plans to pursue a career in social work.

She is the daughter of **U.S. Army Specialist Connie Johnson**, who was severely injured during combat operations. Growing up alongside her mother's recovery shaped Anna's sense of responsibility and resilience.

Because of scholarship support, Anna can focus on preparing for a career serving families like her own.

## STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY



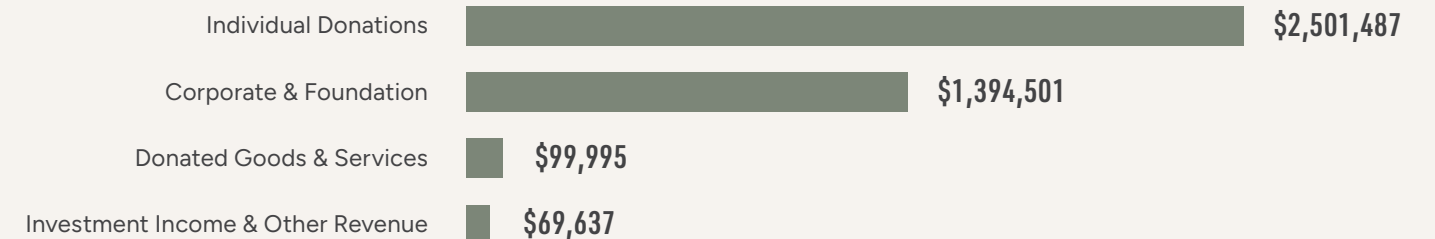
Since our founding in 2014, Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund has raised **\$53.2M** to support scholarships and the infrastructure that sustains them.

In 2025, we raised just over **\$4M** through the generosity of individuals, families, foundations, corporations, and partners nationwide.

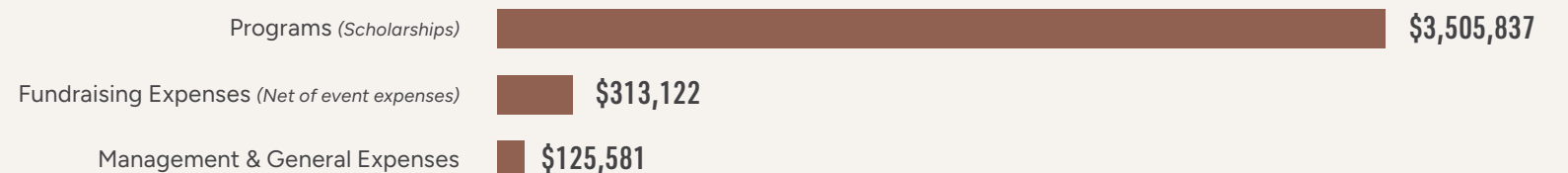
We operate with a focused team that directs the majority of resources toward scholarships and program delivery. Financial statements are independently audited each year, and our audit reports and tax filings are publicly available on our website.

We meet rigorous standards for transparency and financial accountability and steward each contribution with care so this commitment can endure.

### 2025 SUPPORT & REVENUE



### 2025 USES





*Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund has given me a community that believes in us.*



**Kross Scott** is a junior studying finance and accounting at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

He is the son of **U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Michael Scott**, who was killed during combat operations in Iraq. Losing his father at a young age shaped Kross's determination to build stability for his future.

Kross serves as a Supplemental Instruction Leader, helping other students succeed in demanding coursework, and plans to pursue a career in financial services.

## COMMUNITY & EVENTS

In 2025, this community showed up in extraordinary ways for our Johnny Mac Scholars.

Supporters and volunteers gathered at the Johnny Mac Memorial Golf Tournament, the 8th Atlanta Gala, and the Johnny Mac Army-Navy Tailgate. Across the country, others led employee campaigns, local golf outings, social media fundraisers, retail partnerships, and made gifts in memory of loved ones. Long-time partners also donated goods and services, helping direct more resources toward scholarships.

Monthly giving continued to grow through Earn Your Boots, and our year-end campaign, The Promise Continues, carried us into 2026 with strong momentum.

Thank you for showing up. Your commitment makes it possible for Johnny Mac Scholars to pursue their education.



## JOHNNY MAC SCHOLAR FAMILY



At our Atlanta Gala this fall, **U.S. Army Master Sergeant Cedric King** shared his story of rebuilding after losing both legs in combat.

For Cedric and his wife, Khieda, the focus now is on their daughters and the opportunities ahead of them. They have worked hard to ensure their children can pursue higher education. But with one daughter already enrolled and another preparing to begin, the financial pressure was growing.

Weeks later, Khieda shared:

“We’ve been putting every dollar we can spare into making sure our oldest gets an education without the burden of student loans. With a year and a half to go before she graduates, and her sister about to enter college, our financial responsibilities were about to overwhelm us. Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund couldn’t have entered our lives at a better time.”

Today, their daughters are two of the newest Johnny Mac Scholars.

## SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

► **\$41.5 MILLION**

Awarded in Scholarships Since Founding

► **8,600**

Johnny Mac Scholars Supported

In 2025, Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund awarded **\$3,200,000** in scholarships and education programs for military children of the fallen or disabled.

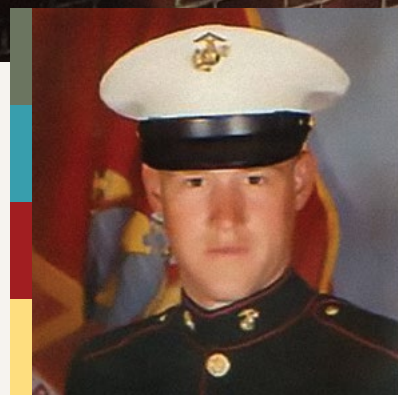
This funding will serve **600 Johnny Mac Scholars** for the 2026 academic year. These students are pursuing degrees across the country in fields ranging from healthcare and engineering to business, education, and the arts.

Year after year, scholars graduate and build lives and careers. Families are able to plan more steadily because scholarship support is there when they need it.



Current Johnny Mac Scholars and Alumni gathered in Atlanta as their stories — and the service and sacrifice that shaped them — were recognized.

From left to right: Kelly McHugh-Stewart (Kansas State University); Conner Reese (University of Central Florida); Moses Diaz (Oglethorpe University); Ja’Niayah Ellis (Augusta University); Jasmine Rymmer (University of Central Florida); Cooper Hughie (University of South Carolina); Christian Durham-Honer (Ohio State University); Landon Redding (Emory University); Margaret McHugh (Liberty University); Kenna Campbell (Palm Beach Atlantic University); Laura Bella Torian (Coastal Christian High School); Shannon Zangas (Dickinson College); Boston Gilbert (Southern Methodist University).



**Dr. Seth Straw** graduated from Auburn University in 2020 and earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida in 2024.

He is the son of **U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant Robert Straw**, who was killed in a helicopter crash before Seth was born. Seth and his older sister, Molli, both pursued their education as Johnny Mac Scholars.

Today, Seth practices veterinary medicine in Pensacola, Florida, the community where he grew up, and is putting down roots there.

**His path from scholar to professional reflects what sustained scholarship support makes possible.**

## WHERE THIS MISSION BEGAN



On May 18, 2010, U.S. Army Colonel John “Johnny Mac” McHugh was killed in action while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. In the days that followed, his classmates from the United States Military Academy Class of 1986 stepped forward to ensure that the McHugh children would have the opportunity to pursue higher education.

As they continued that effort, they saw that other military families were navigating similar realities. **In 2014, Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund was formally established to expand that commitment beyond one family and provide scholarship support to military children of the fallen or disabled.**

## CARRYING IT FORWARD

What began among West Point classmates has grown into a nationwide effort supporting Johnny Mac Scholars from all 50 states. Veterans, military families, partners, and supporters now sustain this effort, united by the belief that honoring sacrifice includes investing in a child’s education.

**Nearly 12 years later, our purpose is unchanged.**

## LEADERSHIP

► **80%**

Percentage of board members that are veterans

► **20%**

Percentage of annual revenue that comes from personal board member donations

Today, Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors with deep personal ties to the military community.

More than 80 percent of board members are veterans. Others are parents of service members, or members of families of the fallen. The board also includes accomplished business leaders, senior executives, and entrepreneurs whose professional experience strengthens the organization and supports its long-term work.

These perspectives help guide the organization's priorities and decisions.

Board members remain actively involved throughout the year, providing oversight and strategic direction. Their personal philanthropy also consistently represents more than 20 percent of annual revenue, reflecting shared ownership of the mission.

Day-to-day leadership is carried out by the executive team, which oversees strategy, national partnerships, donor stewardship, fundraising, and scholarship efforts across the country. As service academy graduates, veterans, military spouses, and parents of military children, we bring a deeply personal commitment to this work and to the families and scholars we serve.



CEO **Meghan Moretti** and Director of Operations **Joanne Hyman** spending time with scholars and supporters.



Members of the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund Board of Directors at the 8th Atlanta Gala.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*As of March 1, 2026*

**Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund**

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THIS FORWARD

FOLLOW THE JOURNEYS OF OUR SCHOLARS AND STAY CONNECTED



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