

Operation at Ease (OAE)



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Operation at Ease (OAE)

Mission

Our mission is to provide active-duty military personnel who have recently deployed to a combat zone or other area where there is a reasonable expectation of hostile combat operations, and their immediate families, with a complimentary weekend of rest, relaxation and recreation as an expression of our community's appreciation and gratitude for their service.

Vetting

- Longer Deployments
- Lower in Rank

82nd Airborne Division



- America's Contingency Corps
- Specializing in parachute assault operations
- 24 hour response - paratroopers, take the airports
- The knife's edge of technology and readiness



Army Special Operations Command



- Mission is clandestine activity, such as direct action, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare
- Delta, Seal Team Six, Rangers
- 4 hour response





Operation at Ease (OAE)

- Operation At Ease (OAE) - 501c3
- Active-Duty Military Families Rest and Relaxation (R&R) vacation
 - Soldiers that have deployed within the last year – Fort Bragg
 - 2024 - 38 families (2008 - 690 families)
- Weekend retreat hosted by our St. James community
 - Condo (Club Villa, Harborside, Shipwatch)
 - Meals - homemade breakfasts, dinner and local food vouchers
 - Photography session
 - Amenities: Boat Ride, Aquarium Visit, Mini-golf, Troon Clubs and Beach Club
 - Travel expenses



Operation at Ease (OAE)

- Team
 - OAE Board, Monthly Coordinators, Greeters, Photographers, Boat Captains, Meal Service
 - Volunteer opportunity - pay it forward
 - 6 volunteers per family – many hands make light work
- Recruit, Train, Continue the Mission (plan for turnover)
 - Board and Volunteer roles
- Funded:
 - Patriotic Bow Sales – Feb Campaign
 - Neighborhood and Street Reps (signup to help out)
 - American Legion Post 543
 - Individual donations and grants
- Challenges
 - Too many good charities to fund – OAE, SSS, MAD, T2T, DAV, many others
 - Volunteer - limited time/resources





Operation at Ease (OAE)

Team Members

- Chairman – Eric Holmes
- Secretary – Judy Carter
- Treasurer – Pat Gorton
- Guest Relations Coordinator – John Vandergrift
- Communications – ****Vacant****
- Activities Coordinator – Reba Gorton
- Housing Coordinator – Dave DiRe
- Application Review and Vetting Manager – Tim Robinson
- JotForm and Website – Brian Miller
- Family Beach Buckets – Melinda Cala
- Beach Club Equipment – Judy Rubin



Operation at Ease (OAE)

Special Thankyou to our partners and sponsors

- Bow Committee – Patriotic Bows (signup table)
- St James American Legion Post 543 (Military Appreciation Day)
- St. James Properties - Condominium rental
- St James Quilters – 40 microwavable cozies
- Blue Star Mothers – Ice Cream Vouchers
- Troon – VIP Club access (Seaside Pool resort style and other amenities)
- POA - Beach Club and Storage Locker
- Local Businesses
 - Domino's
 - Oak Island Sub Shop
 - Gourmet to Go
 - Jersey Mikes
 - Ice Cream Shops

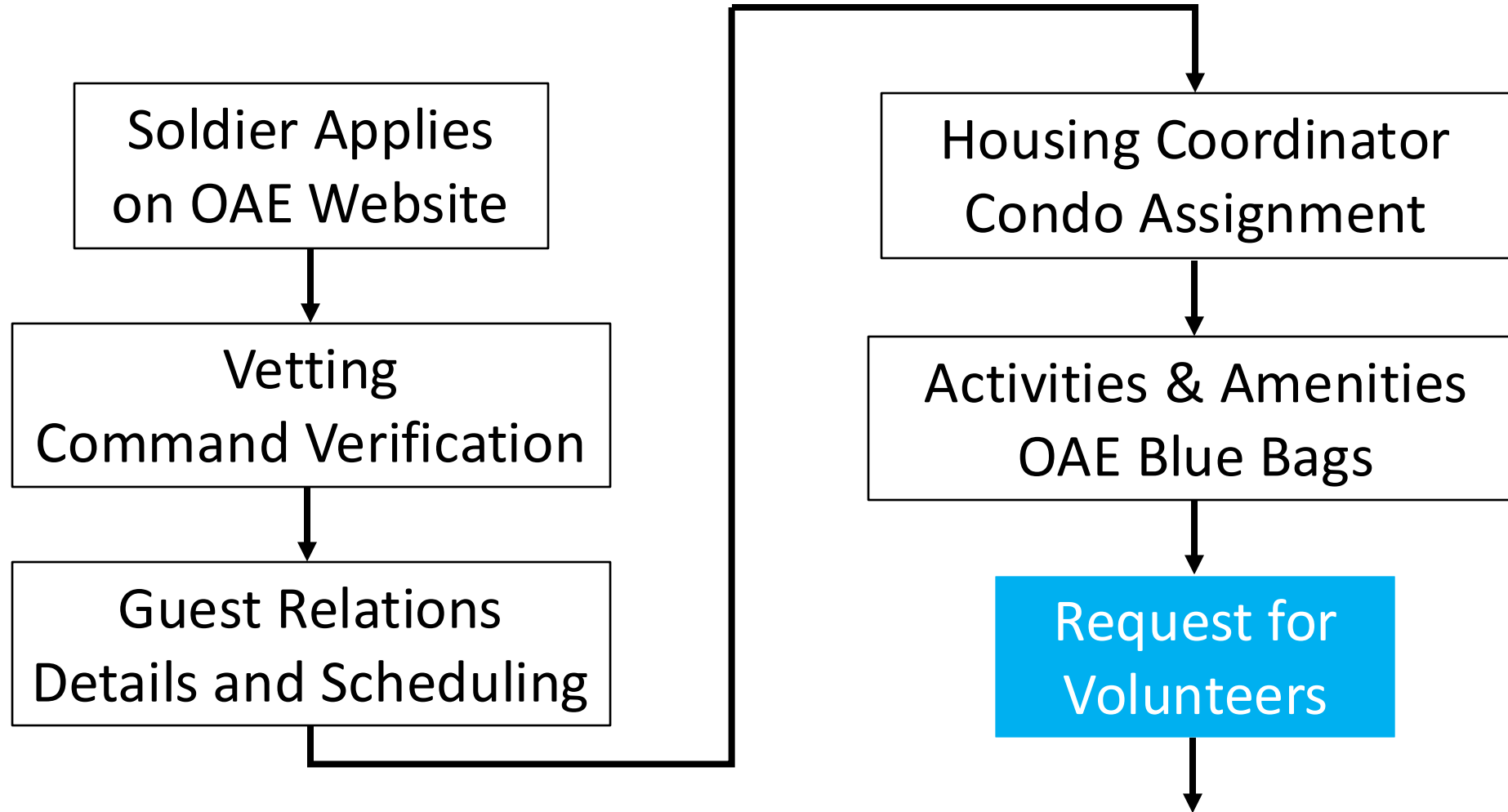


Operation at Ease (OAE)

- Military Appreciation Day (MAD)
 - April 21 and 22 (mark it down on your calendar)
 - Golf at Members and Players
 - Folds of Honor participation
 - Tennis and Pickleball tournaments
 - Dinner Dance
- No MAD concert – band plays at the dinner dance

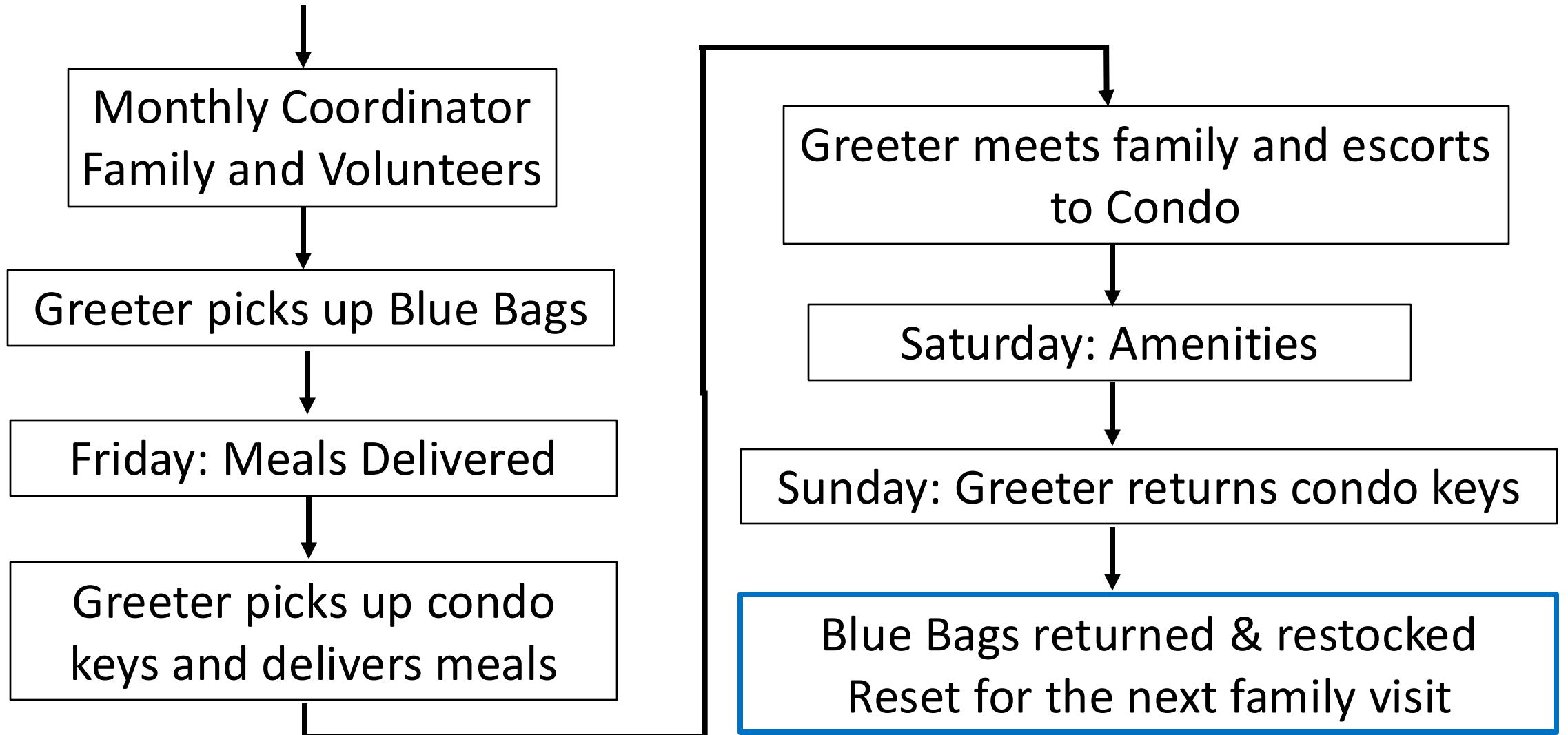


Operation at Ease (OAE) – Process





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Operation at Ease (OAE)

- Monthly Coordinators
- Greeters
- Photographers
- Boat Captains
- Meal Preparers



Operation at Ease (OAE)





Operation at Ease (OAE)

Families per year - 45

Costs per family visit

Condo - \$490

Travel - \$ 90

Food Vouchers - \$40

Amenities - \$50

Donated

Photography

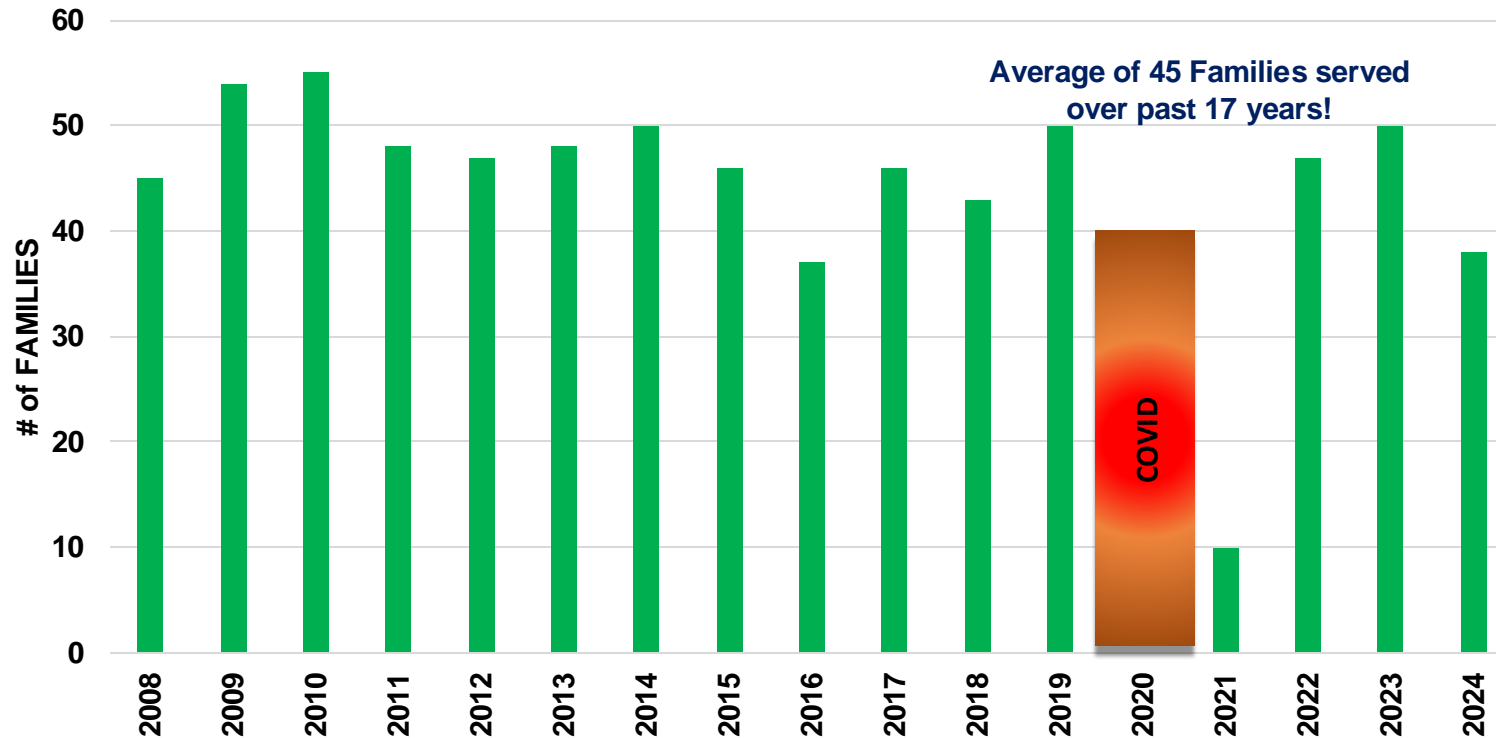
Boat rides

Breakfasts/Dinner Meals

Fixed costs per family

Supplies - \$50

OAE- MISSION

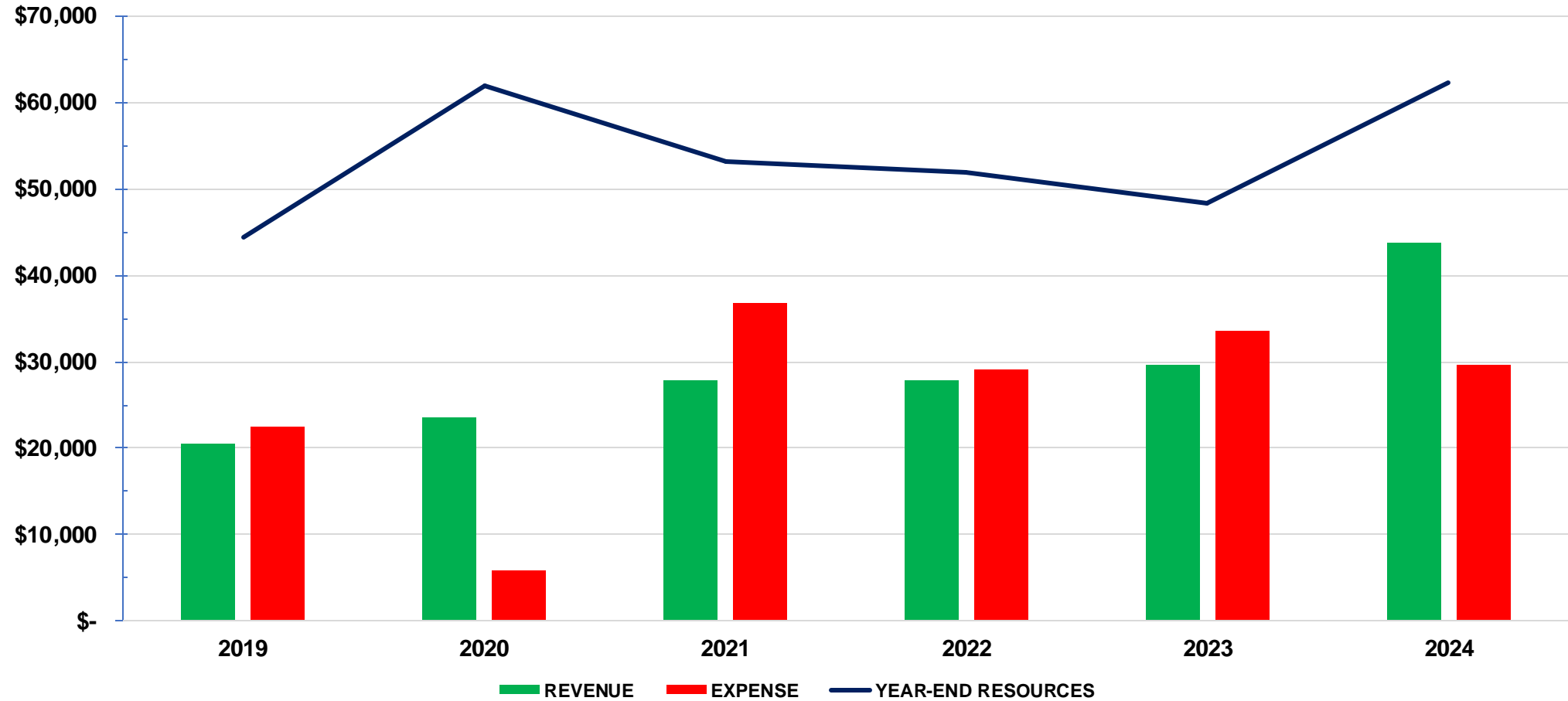


It takes 73 Bow Sales to support 1 Military Family



Operation at Ease (OAE)

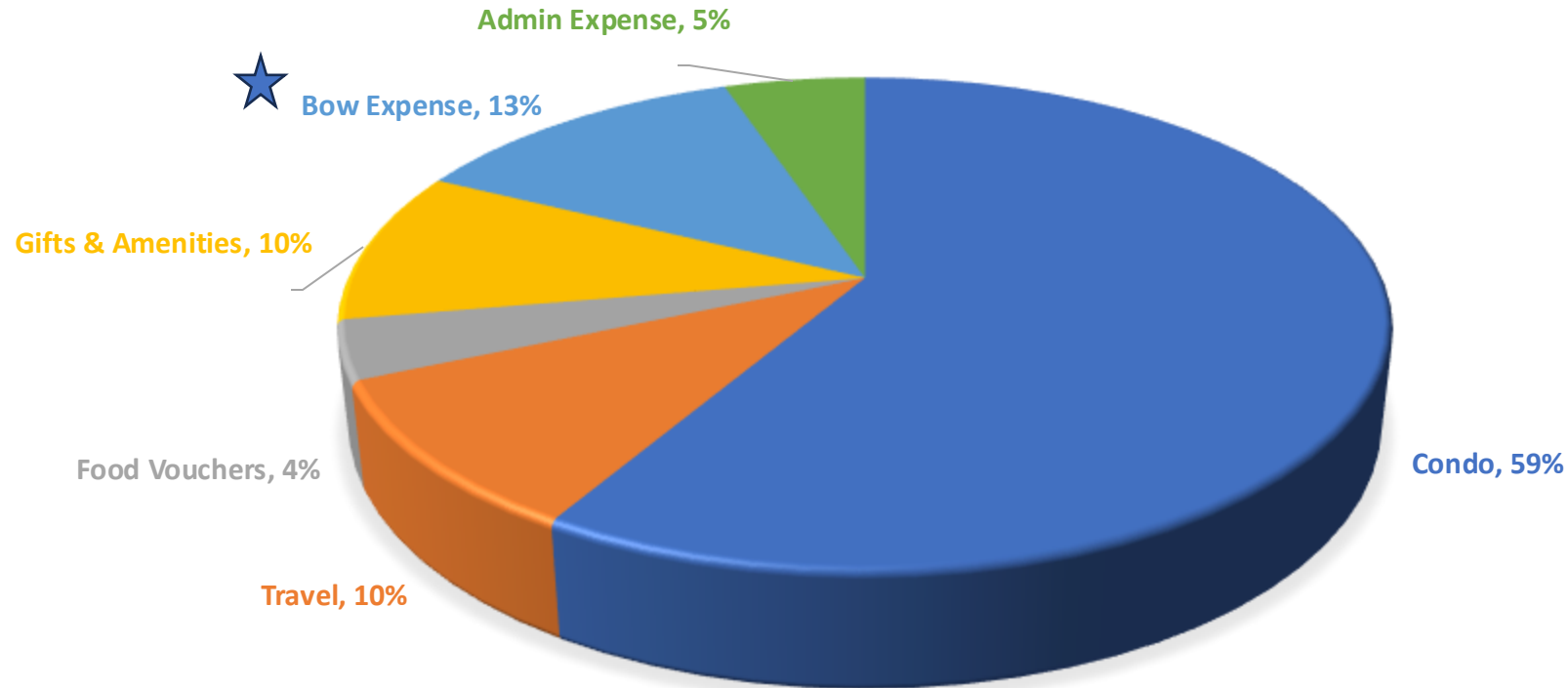
OAE FINANCES





Operation at Ease (OAE)

OAE 2024 EXPENSES



82% Funds used in direct support of the military family

Direct mission funding not in budget – Meals and Photography Services, and Boat Rides



Operation at Ease (OAE) - Volunteers

Active Greeters (53%)



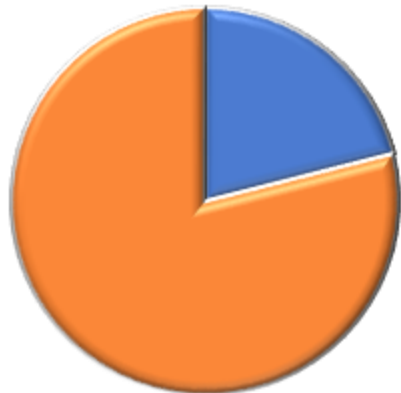
■ Active ■ Non-Active

Active Photographers (35%)



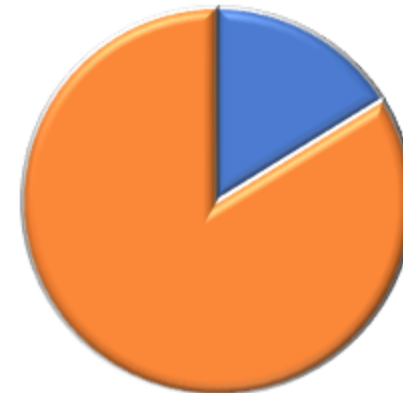
■ Active ■ Non-Active

Active Boat Captains (21%)



■ Active ■ Non-Active

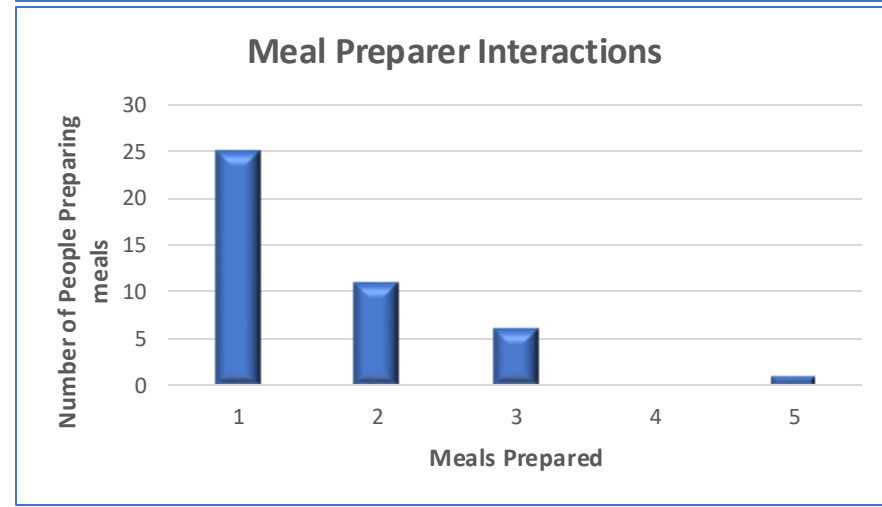
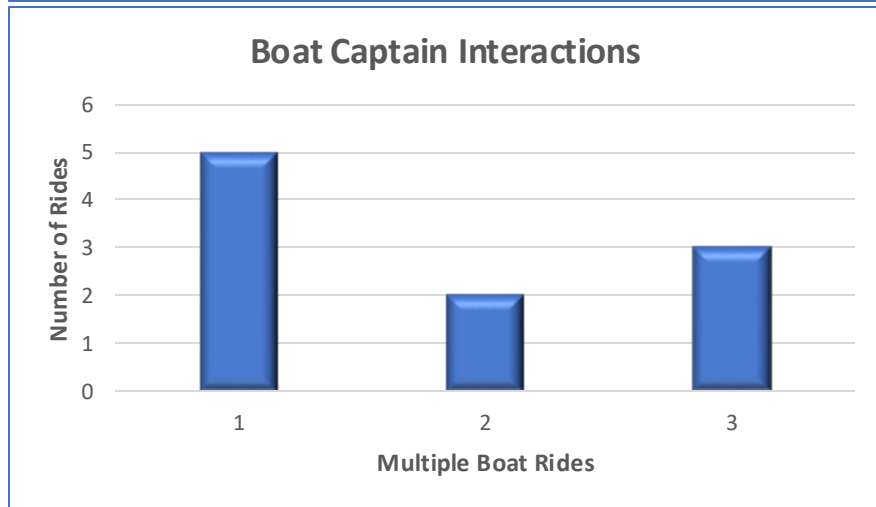
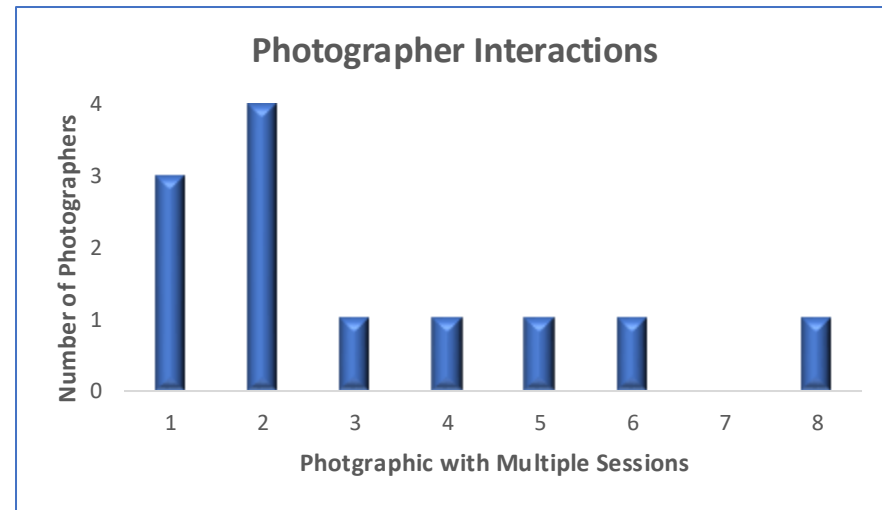
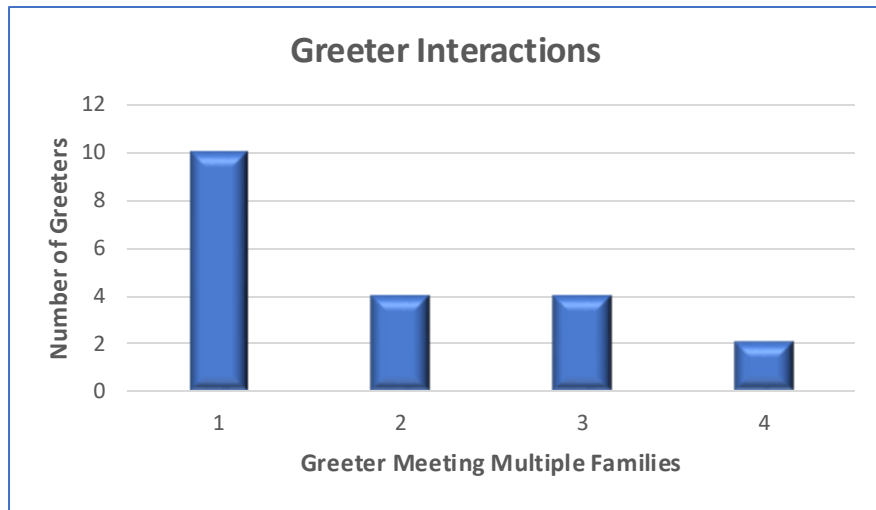
Active Meal Preparers (16%)



■ Active ■ Non-Active



Operation at Ease (OAE) - Volunteers



Many Hands Make Light Work



Operation at Ease (OAE)

2025 OAE Season

Month	Date	Date
May	2-4	16-18
June	May 30-June 1	20-22
July	11-13	18-20
August	1-3	15-17
September	5-7	19-21

March 28 - 9:30 Monthly Coordinator Meeting
April 1 - 9:30 Greeter Training at Event Center



Operation at Ease (OAE)

May						
Weekend	Monthly Coordinator	Greeter	Photographer	Breakfasts	Dinner	Boat Captain (When selected)
2 May						
2 May						
2 May						
2 May						
16 May						
16 May						
16 May						
16 May						

Fill in the blanks

How to Signup?

- Tonight
- Signup Genius
- Emails

Initial Signup

- Limit to 2 roles
- Allows everyone an opportunity to signup

Follow-up Signups

- We will send out a calendar format that shows the entire season. RSVP to signup.



Operation at Ease (OAE)





Operation at Ease (OAE)

- ROI: Military Family thank you notes is our reward!

OAE Team and Volunteers, Thank you so very much for this incredible experience. We hadn't realized how necessary it really was until both finally being here. You have enabled us to put our phones away, leave the busy world of stress and connect as a married couple again! So thank you infinitely for that. Because of y'all generosity we have couples' photos (our first together), we ventured out on the intercoastal and learned about the beauty of North Carolina! We also played some tennis and relived our college experiences together! It's been a pleasure to experience the people, the area and to re-connect as a couple. Thank you infinitely.

The Theirren Family



Operation at Ease (OAE)

- ROI: Military Family thank you notes is our reward!

Thank you so much for your warm welcome and thoughtful hospitality during our stay. The food in the fridge for breakfast was a delightful surprise and made our arrival stress-free. The gift cards and toys for our kids were incredibly considerate and greatly appreciated. We thoroughly enjoyed our walks around the harbor and our adventures in Southport. We are grateful to have been accepted into the 'Operation at Ease' program, which gave us the precious opportunity to spend quality time together as a family. Our boys bonded with their dad which was especially important after his 9-month deployment. Your kindness made our stay truly memorable. Thank you for everything.

- The Leonen Family



Operation at Ease (OAE)





Operation at Ease (OAE)

- Town of St James
 - Citizens Recognition Award
- May was OAE month
- Without you we can not complete our mission!
- Questions?