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Guild Mortgage Donation Enables Disabled Veterans to Walk Again

Award-winning independent lender institutes new Guild Giving Foundation, new scholarship

SAN DIEGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Guild Mortgage, one of the largest independent mortgage lenders in the U.S., has launched the Guild Giving Foundation, a vehicle for administering the company's philanthropic and charitable giving initiatives in the communities it serves.

As its first major commitment, Guild donated \$116,000 to the [Infinite Hero Foundation](#), which helps provide access to innovative rehabilitation programs that make an enormous positive change in the lives of disabled military veterans and their families. At Guild's request, the foundation used this donation to purchase a wearable robotic exoskeleton from [ReWalk Robotics](#), designed for individuals with spinal cord injury.

ReWalk's technology enables individuals with spinal cord injury to stand upright, walk, turn, and climb and descend stairs. The integration of a wearable brace support, a computer-based control system and motion sensors allow independent, controlled walking while mimicking the natural gait patterns of the legs.

Guild's exoskeleton is donated to the VA San Diego Healthcare System Spinal Cord Injury Center, which provides care to veterans and active duty personnel with spinal cord injuries and disorders in San Diego and Imperial Counties, Arizona and Southern Nevada.

"Rather than directing this exoskeleton to one single individual, this unit will serve hundreds of patients who would otherwise be wheelchair-bound," said Jeff Tarbell, Regional Vice President at Guild. "We wanted to honor those who made the biggest sacrifices for our country, by giving back with a gift that makes a huge difference in their lives."

To view a video of what this gift means to a disabled veteran, [see this clip](#) from Guild's Leadership Summit in San Diego last week, during which individual attendees gave another \$24,000 in donations to assist veterans.

The goal of the Guild Giving Foundation is to encourage volunteerism among Guild's more than 3,600 employees, provide shelter, support financial literacy and deliver on its mission to inspire positive change. Guild currently supports dozens of local and national charities through direct donations and company-backed volunteer time under its [Guild Giving program](#). The new foundation will track individual charitable activities and initiatives nationwide, report on results and recognize best practices during an annual awards program.

"Supporting our communities through providing shelter, financial literacy and education are critical elements of the work we do every day," said Mary Ann McGarry, president and CEO.

“Our Guild Giving initiative is about much more than writing a check. We encourage all of our employees, from the leadership team and home office staff, to branch managers, loan officers, and local staff to be positive contributors and sources of inspiration to every community we serve.”

As part of the foundation, Guild has introduced a new company match program to amplify the impact of contributions members of the Guild family make to qualified organizations. Additionally, Guild employees are granted 16 hours of paid time each year to spend volunteering in their local communities.

The Guild Giving Foundation also features a new scholarship program to further support the communities it serves. Guild employees and dependents, along with their customers and neighbors, can apply to receive one of 10 scholarships of \$1,500 offered each year for full-time collegiate programs.

Guild offers a wide range of residential mortgage products, with in-house underwriting and funding, which provide consistency and speed throughout the loan process. Its loan professionals can serve the needs of any homebuyer, from helping first-time homebuyers achieve their dream of home ownership, often through government loan programs, to providing jumbo home loans. Guild also specializes in helping active duty and retired military personnel to secure VA loans, which provide 100 percent financing and flexible qualifying standards.

About Guild Mortgage

Founded in 1960 when the U.S. mortgage industry was just forming, [Guild Mortgage Co.](#) is a nationally recognized independent mortgage lender offering a wide range of residential mortgage products and local in-house processing, underwriting and funding. Its collegial and entrepreneurial culture enables it to deliver unsurpassed levels of customer service. Having been through every economic cycle, the company has grown 16-fold since 2007, and now has more than 3,600 employees operating from 250 branch and satellite offices in 25 states. Guild’s highly trained loan professionals are experienced in government-sponsored programs such as FHA, VA, USDA, low down payment assistance programs and other specialized loan programs. The company generated \$15.9 billion in loan volume in 2016, as compared to \$1 billion in 2007. In addition, Guild services more than 155,000 loans, and has correspondent banking relationships with credit unions and community banks in 47 states. (Equal Housing Lender- Company NMLS #3274).

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