Message from the Chairman

I am honored to launch the annual Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Fundraising Campaign. When disaster strikes, we are there – for our country, for our citizens, and for our Coast Guardsmen. CGMA remains one of the most vital and far reaching resources for our Coast Guard Family, and its ongoing financial strength is in everyone’s best interest. I heartily encourage everyone to give generously.

This year’s campaign theme is “Ready, Relevant and Responsive”. CGMA has been ready to support our members since it was founded in 1924, and has remained an element of CG life ever since. CGMA has been relevant not only in times of emergency, but in support of members undertaking new life challenges, such as the pursuit of education, adoptions and more. Finally, CG Mutual Assistance is responsive to the increasing demands of life in the Coast Guard through the implementation of new support programs.

In a typical year CG Mutual Assistance provides Coast Guard members over $4,000,000 in funds through its well established ongoing programs. However, as you are aware, 2018 was not a typical year, ending in the 35-day partial government shutdown which resulted in severe financial challenges for the CG family. CGMA quickly proved its ability to respond by providing $8.4 million in lapse assistance to the CG community.

In non-typical years it provides as much as an additional $2,000,000 or more in disaster relief. In 2018, CGMA continued to provide ongoing relief for those impacted by 2017 hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria by dispensing an additional $300,000 in new grants, as well as converting an additional $470,000 in loans to grants. Additionally, CGMA responded swiftly to 2018 hurricanes Florence and Michael, as well as Typhoon Mangkhut. As a 501(c)(3), CG Mutual Assistance is recognized by Charity Navigator and Guidestar as being high performers in financial health, accountability and transparency.

CGMA support for the Coast Guard family is broad, deep, and firmly entrenched in our community. It is called ‘Mutual Assistance’ because it is, at its core, Coast Guardsmen taking care of our own. Through your donations and leadership, CGMA takes care of the organization today, so the Coast Guard family can rely on it tomorrow. We are looking to improve on last year’s campaign with a 5% increase in donations and 100% reach of our people, ensuring everyone knows that CGMA is there, ready to help and actively supporting our families.

CGMA works because it has the resources needed to do the job, resources supplied almost exclusively by those who benefit from it. Notably, CGMA has traditionally distributed more assistance than donations received, hence my request that you please consider participating in this year’s fundraising campaign. Together, we can ensure that CGMA remains strong and ready for the next set of unexpected challenges.

Semper Paratus,
Karl L. Schultz
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Chairman
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
Help your shipmate. Give today!

1 in 8 shipmates use CGMA. By giving to CGMA, you are investing in this time-tested network that uniquely supports Coast Guard families in times of need. Use the CGMA Pledge Form to make your donation and return it to your CGMA Key Worker or CGMA Representative. Donations are tax deductible.

WAYS TO GIVE: Allotments/Payroll Deductions

Donating a little each pay period is a quick and easy way to show your support of Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. Simply complete a pledge form to start or change your contribution to CGMA. A small increase to your monthly or bi-weekly contribution will make a big difference in the lives of your shipmates.

Cash

Check or Money Order (payable to CGMA)

Credit Card

Donate securely online at www.CGMAHQ.org/give

In 2018, CGMA provided more than $5.4 million in assistance to over 5,222 Coast Guard Families through grants and interest free loans. During the Government Shutdown, CGMA provided an unprecedented $8.4 million in assistance in just one month.

Details about the many programs and resources offered by CGMA are available online at our newly updated website www.cgmahq.org, or by a toll free call to 800.881.2462.

If you find yourself in need of assistance, do reach out.

### Disaster and Emergency Response:
- Bills & Expenses
- Car & Home Repair
- Emergency Travel
- Evacuation
- Funeral
- Loss of Funds
- Medical & Dental
- Pay Issues

### Family Assistance and Support:
- Adoption
- Baby Supplies
- Breast Milk Shipment
- Housing Rental/Closing Costs
- PCS Childcare
- Respite Care
- Special Needs Camp & Adaptive Equipment

### Education Assistance:
- CGMA Education Loan
- Financial Education & Debt Management Counseling
- Tutoring: Military/Civilian Employees & Their Families
- Stafford/PLUS Loan Fees
- Supplemental Education Grant (SEG)

If you find yourself in need of assistance, do reach out.
“Thank you!!
We greatly appreciate your support and hard work. You brought peace of mind to CG members during a very dark time”

Kara Cawley Riemer, Active Duty Spouse

Message from the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

I am grateful for the opportunity to talk about the importance of Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) to the entire Coast Guard family. I strongly encourage everyone to consider providing support to this important resource. As you are aware, CGMA became fully engaged during the government shutdown this past January. Proving itself fully ready and responsive, it provided $8.4 million in assistance to over 6,000 Coast Guard members and their families in a period of less than three weeks. Your participation in this campaign is vital to CGMA’s continuity as well as to its ability to expand and create new inroads of opportunity for all of us.

CG Mutual Assistance is one of the farthest reaching resources within our community. It provides support to every branch in our family tree: Active Duty, Reservists, Civilians, Retirees, Widows, Auxiliarists, Dependents, Public Health Service, and Chaplains. CGMA leaves no group out in the cold.

Equally important to providing something for everyone is the wide range of grant and loan support programs:

- Shelter (rental assistance, closing costs, emergency repairs)
- Food (basic living expenses when pay and travel claims are missing)
- Clothing (grants for lost HHG not covered by insurance)
- Education (grants, loans, tutor.com); family (adoption and special needs grants)
- Child Care (PCS Child Care); health (medical and dental care)
- Pets (vet bills, quarantine costs)
- Death (burial costs, travel, grave markers)

From reporting to boot camp, and well beyond your retirement ceremony, CGMA provides for our members, our spouses, and our children.

CGMA excels at providing access. Over 500 CGMA Representatives and Assistant Representatives serve the Coast Guard literally everywhere we are. From Ketchikan, to Guam, to Boston, to Puerto Rico and Europe; CGMA is nearby.

And finally, CGMA is always improving. It remains constantly on watch for new programs to develop, and continually strives to provide greater levels of support. In 1924, CGMA provided small gifts to Coast Guard active duty members in hospitals or sick at home. In 2018 it provided over $5,400,000 in support to those with medical issues, housing costs, education needs, adoption expenses, child care requirements and disaster relief.

All of this support and development costs money. And this is where you come in. Please help sustain CGMA’s ability to be Ready, Relevant, and Responsive. Your contribution is needed for both today and tomorrow. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Semper Paratus,

Jason M. Vanderhaden
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard
Member Board of Control
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 220,
Arlington, VA 22201

www.CGMAHQ.org
800.881.2462

Over $200 million in assistance provided since 1924