

Mark E. Robbins, CAE
Executive Director
Yellow Ribbon Fund

Mark E. Robbins, CAE, was appointed executive director of the Yellow Ribbon Fund on March 1, 2008, after 25 years in the non-profit arena.

Under Mark's leadership, programs and services for injured service members have grown. Two notable programs are the Family Caregiver Program and the expansion of their Ambassador program.

The Family Caregiver Program has turned a much-needed focus to the mothers and wives of the injured. Through interaction with the caregivers, it was apparent that many of them sacrifice so much to be by the side of their loved one. For some caregivers, their own health was being threatened by the commitment they kept to help their injured service member. The Yellow Ribbon Fund began by providing therapeutic massages, nights out for dinner and a movie, and visits to day spas and salons. Expanding the programs to include events with their children helped to bring normalcy to a less-than-normal environment.

The Ambassador Program reaches out to injured service members after they separate from the military. A group of nearly 100 individuals around the country contact the injured veterans after they return to their hometowns. Support with securing VA benefits, social security issues, jobs and education are among the services provided on a one-on-one basis

The Yellow Ribbon Fund has received great support from the Colbert Report on Comedy Central and boasts of coverage in *Washingtonian* magazine, *Bethesda Magazine*, WUSA-9, WTOP and in *Sports Illustrated*. YRF has also been named one of the best small charities in the Greater Washington region by the *Catalog for Philanthropy* and by *Washingtonian* magazine.

The Yellow Ribbon Fund has a staff of 10 with more than 1,200 volunteers.

Mark graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and holds the Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives.