



Spirit of America is the Philanthropy Magazine Cover Story

Media Release

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Winning Friends and Influencing Enemies

Philanthropy Magazine features Spirit of America's work

Arlington, VA—April 9, 2020 In late 2019, Karl Zinsmeister of the Philanthropy Roundtable spent ten days embedded with Spirit of America in the Republic of Georgia, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Serbia. The experience caused him to reflect upon an important question: can everyday Americans directly support the mission success of our nation's troops and diplomats? The answer is a resounding YES!

Zinsmeister's experience with Spirit of America is chronicled in the feature story for the Spring 2020 edition of [Philanthropy Magazine](#).

"There is a tradition in the U.S. of businesspeople supporting our military. But Spirit of America lets everyday folks become involved in defending the nation. It's a new category of philanthropy."

As the Vice President of Publications for the Roundtable, Zinsmeister donned his reporter cap and immersed himself in the story of Spirit of America. His journey began in the small but strategic country of Georgia, where he learned about the kind of community-based projects that Spirit of America has executed in support of the US mission there: investments in a wheelchair factory in Tbilisi, expert technical assistance to a Georgian Army Radio station, and the provision of walnut trees to a school on the edge of a region occupied by Russia. He then traveled to Iraqi Kurdistan to chronicle Spirit of America's work with US troops and diplomats as the counter-ISIS campaign continues: providing generators and fuel to a refugee camp, outfitting a K9 unit sniffing out the remnants of explosives with metal detectors, and funding a pilot English language training for Peshmerga officers. His last stop was Serbia, where Spirit of America has worked with the US Embassy in Belgrade to implement a campaign of small-scale projects to win over the hearts and minds of local populations.

Karl Zinsmeister's article captures the essence of our mission: whenever our nation sends our people abroad, the American people will be by their sides. For our national defense and foreign policies to succeed, we need to apply not just our military might but all of America's capabilities—our broad wealth and generosity, our can-do spirit, our goodwill toward others.

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Recognized in law by Congress, Spirit of America works alongside US troops and diplomats stationed in more than 70 countries across the globe. Founded in 2003, Spirit of America is a privately-funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported entirely by private contributions from citizens, foundations and businesses. We do not receive nor accept government funding.

For more information please contact: Isaac Eagan at Isaac@spiritofamerica.org / 571.970.1370

Website: www.spiritofamerica.org

Twitter: @SpiritAmerica