



Disabled  
Veterans  
National  
Foundation

2017  
IMPACT



Over 60,000 veterans served and 80 organizations supported

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# OUR MISSION

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) exists to provide critically needed support to disabled and at-risk veterans who leave the military wounded—physically or psychologically—after defending our safety and our freedom.

We achieve this mission by:

- › Offering direct financial support to veteran organizations that address the unique needs of veterans, and whose missions align with that of DVNF.
- › Providing supplemental assistance to homeless and low-income veterans through the Health & Comfort program.
- › Providing an online resource database that allows veterans to navigate the complex process of seeking resources.
- › Serving as a thought leader on critical policy issues within the veteran community.



Dear Friends,



2017 was a remarkable year for the veterans and programs supported by the Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF). In an unprecedented show of support, we expanded our impact through new and existing programs to meet the needs of a larger population of veterans. In total we assisted more than 60,000 veterans and counting through our own initiatives and collaborations with like-minded organizations.

DVNF's Capacity Building Grant program aims to provide meaningful resources to like-minded organizations throughout the country. These organizations provide intensive, focused care and support to veterans in their communities. Our goal is to empower them to bridge existing gaps in services for veterans facing mental and physical health conditions. DVNF provided 80 organizations with funding in 2017, affecting thousands of veterans who depend on their programs.



DVNF's Health & Comfort program allows us to reach homeless and low-income veterans all over the nation. Through this program in 2017, DVNF distributed meaningful assistance through our support of 24 stand downs, resource fairs and other events. Tens of thousands of the nation's most vulnerable veterans were provided with brand new clothing, health and hygiene supplies and other basic comfort items.

These established programs increased DVNF's success this past year, but it was the launch of our new Tailored for Troops program that provided a new level of assistance for veterans. Through the generosity of Joseph A. Bank and their commitment to helping veterans, we provided new suits and business attire to approximately 400 veterans who were either transitioning into the civilian workforce after their military service, or who were trying to secure meaningful employment.



This report will demonstrate the incredible things DVNF accomplished this year, but it will also demonstrate the high level of need that veterans of all eras face and how we plan to change it. Through partnerships and the reach of our programs, you will see how we are working towards making life better for our heroes. In addition, you will hear directly from these men and women, and what these services mean for their wellbeing.

Of course, DVNF could not accomplish any of this without the steadfast support of our donors who care so deeply about those who have served our nation. Together, we are serving our heroes and improving lives, day after day.

I sincerely thank you for your continued support, and I hope to continue growing our efforts to serve those who stood in our defense.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph VanFonda".

Joseph VanFonda (USMC SgtMaj Ret.)  
Chief Executive Director

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## PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

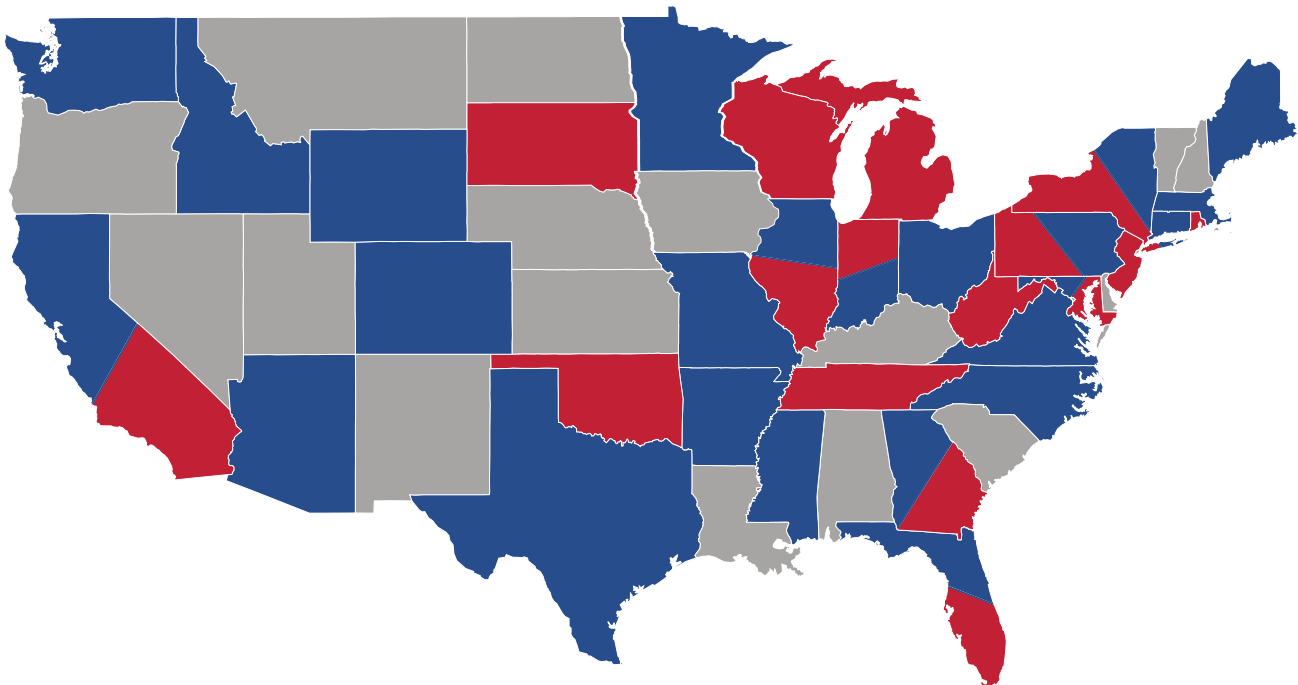
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# 2017 PROGRAM PARTNERS

## HEALTH AND COMFORT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

1. Jezreel Int'l
2. Black Hills Health Care System
3. Detroit VA Medical Center
4. Operation Troop Appreciation
5. Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
6. Volunteers of America - Knoxville
7. Aurora Veterans Advisory Council
8. Buffalo VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
9. Operation Stand Down Rhode Island
10. American Legion Mundy-Beck Post 911
11. Operation Stand Down Midsouth, Inc.
12. Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down
13. THE VIPER RIDE
14. Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa, SSVF Program
15. Goodwill Industries of Michiana
16. Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc
17. New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs
18. Operation Compassion of Mercer County, Inc.
19. Women Veterans Interactive



### LEGEND

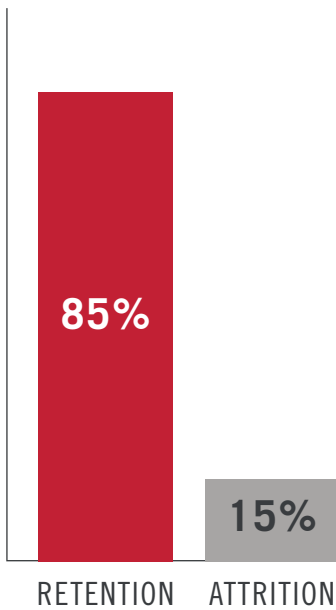
- States served by DVNF Health and Comfort Program Recipients
- States served by DVNF Capacity Building Grants Program Recipients

# CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

1. 21st Century Heroes
2. Adult Day Care Services, Inc dba The Susan J. Rheem Adult Day Center
3. Blue Star Ranch, Serving Our Nations' Veterans
4. Boise Rescue Mission Ministries
5. Camillus House, Inc.
6. CDS Monarch. Inc.
7. Companions for Heroes
8. Elysian Fields Transformational Community
9. Embrace A Vet
10. Family Endeavors
11. GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty)
12. Habitat for Humanity, San Fernando/ Santa Clarita Valleys
13. Healing Warriors Program
14. Heart of Horse Sense
15. Hearts & Hooves
16. Home for Heroes, Inc.
17. Honoring Our Vets
18. Human Engineering Research Laboratories
19. ICD-Institute for Career Development
20. Institute for Healing of Memories - North America
21. Join-Up International, Inc.
22. National AMBUCS
23. National Veterans Legal Services Program
24. New England Center and Home for Veterans
25. Operation Appreciation, Inc.
26. Operation Military Embrace, Inc.
27. Outward Bound, Inc.
28. Park Nicollet Foundagion
29. Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center
30. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc.
31. Project Sanctuary
32. Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.
33. Red-White and Blue Charity
34. Resounding Joy Inc
35. Rush University Medical Center
36. S.M.G.A. - Salute Military Golf Association
37. Sheepdog Impact Assistance
38. Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio
39. Soldier Strong
40. Stay The Course Veteran Services
41. The Fenwick Foundation
42. The Kentucky Center for the Arts Foundation, Inc.
43. The Veteran's K-9 Corps (America's Vet Dogs)
44. United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)
45. USA Cares
46. Veterans Bridge Home (formerly Charlotte Bridge Home)
47. Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas
48. Veterans Moving Forward VMF
49. Veterans Yoga Project
50. Veterans' Rowing and Kayaking, Inc.
51. VFW 8195
52. Volunteers of America Colorado Branch-Veteran Services Division
53. VSA Texas
54. Warrior Bonfire Program
55. Warriors' Best Friend Foundation
56. WITH Foundation, Inc.
57. Women Veterans Interactive
58. Won Institute
59. YMCA of Greater Indianapolis

# 2017 PROGRAM PARTNERS

## RETENTION VS. ATTRITION



**DVNF'S GRANTEEES HAVE SHOWN A DEDICATION TO SERVICE. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE OUTSTANDING RETENTION RATES DURING THE PROGRAM YEAR.**

## CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

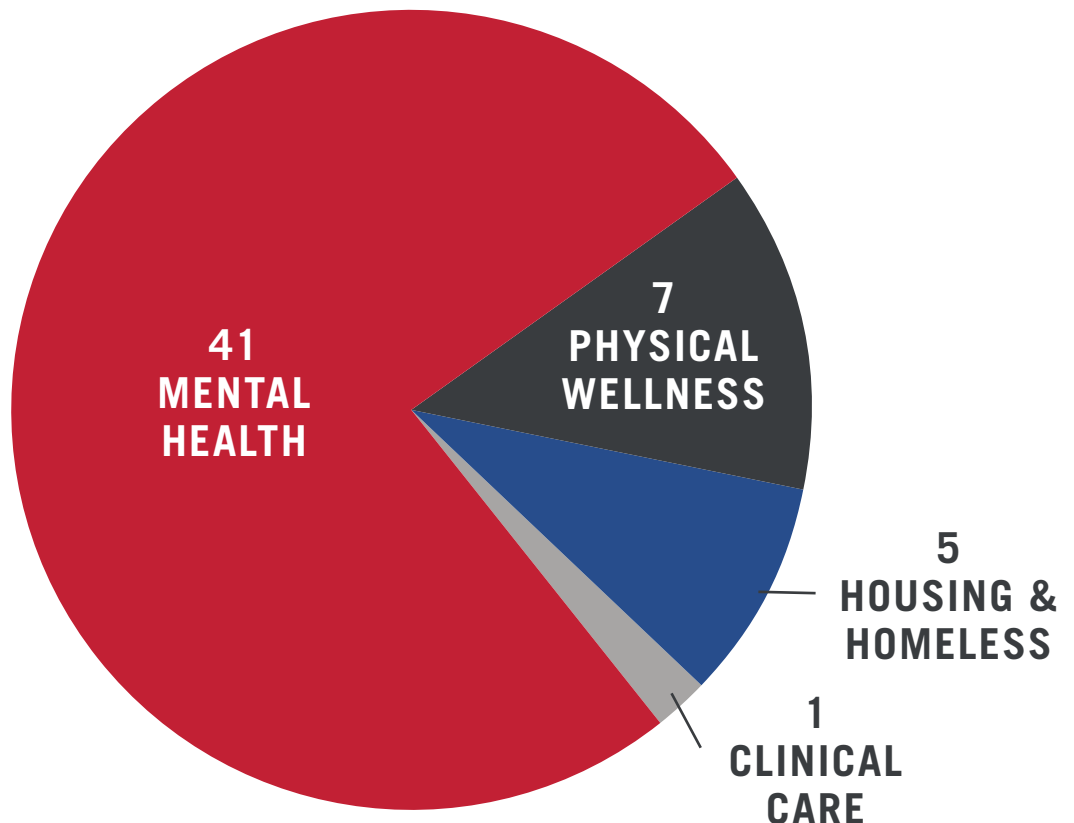
Veterans have an increased risk of experiencing homelessness than the general population if they have low socioeconomic status, a mental health disorder, and/or a history of substance abuse. Serving in the military correlates with higher risk of developing either a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). TBI and PTSD are among the top risk factors leading to homelessness and low socioeconomic status, which results in higher unemployment rates among the veteran population.

The Foundation believes that with an investment in 3 core areas through our Capacity Building Program; Housing and Homelessness, Mental and Physical Wellness and Employment we can change the reality for many veterans across America.

In 2017, the Foundation invested in:

- » 41 organizations that provide mental health services
- » 7 physical wellness programs
- » 5 housing and homelessness programs
- » 1 clinical care program.

## CATEGORIES OF SERVICE



# 2017 PROGRAM IMPACT

## MEETING THE MISSION

### CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to pay tribute to our nation's heroes. As they pick up the pieces of their lives, a community of organizations throughout the country is there to help them heal. But there's no standard, one-size-fits-all protocol for how a veteran overcomes the mental impacts of war, and outside of the initial recovery from physical wounds, it's often up to the veteran to ensure his or her own way back to a normal life.

These grants are given to organizations around the country who are addressing the mental and physical recovery of veterans in unique ways. Service dogs, equine therapy, yoga, art therapy, and recreational therapy are just a few of the innovative programs that DVNF supports.



### HEALTH AND COMFORT

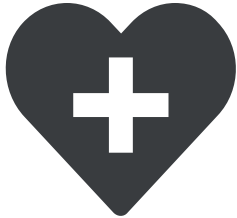
The DVNF Health & Comfort Program expands DVNF's reach into veteran communities throughout the United States, bringing tangible aid to veterans who are disabled, low-income, or homeless, in ways we otherwise could not.

By leveraging the in-kind support of individuals and corporate supporters, DVNF provides vital necessities like water, clothing, and health and hygiene items to veterans of all walks of life. Whether it's a year-round homeless shelter or veteran stand down event, or an outreach event like the Warrior Games, DVNF is there to make a positive impact on the lives of the men and women who stood in defense of our nation.





# 2017 PROGRAM IMPACT



**76%**

of our grantees have dedicated their services to addressing the barriers associated with veteran mental and physical wellness



**12,954**

Veterans were engaged with our grantees across the nation during the 2017 program year

## MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that there are an estimated 23.4 million veterans in the United States (2017). Approximately 18.5% of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and 19.5% report experiencing a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during deployment.

The IOM reports that the prevalence of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among returning service members range from 19.5 percent to 22.8 percent for TBI, and up to 24.4 percent for PTSD. 77.3 percent of active-duty service members hospitalized for PTSD had an additional mental health diagnosis, and this percentage increased every year from 2006-2012; alcohol abuse or dependence was a frequent comorbidity (27.8%).

Approximately 50% of returning service members who need treatment for mental health conditions seek it, but almost half of those that received treatment did not receive adequate care.

To address this gap in service, the Foundation has dedicated a portion of its funding in its Capacity Building Grants program to support organizations that provide mental and physical wellness support.

**\$800K**

**DVNF'S APPROXIMATE INVESTMENT IN MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS SERVICES IN 2017**

# HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, (2017) the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) states that the majority of the nation's homeless veterans are male, with roughly 9% being female. Many of these veterans suffer from "mental illness, alcohol and/or substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders". Approximately 11% of the adult homeless population in the United States are veterans.

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation has worked to reduce the rate of homelessness in America through its Capacity Building Grants and Health and Comfort Programs.



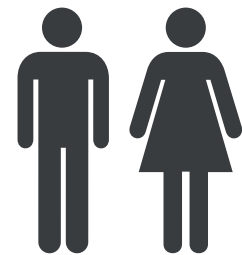
**9%**

of our 2017 Grantees have dedicated their services to addressing the challenges related to homelessness in their communities



**725**

People were engaged in the services provided by our grantees in Massachusetts, Florida, California and Texas



**96% / 4%**

the amount of men and women we served in 2017

**\$125,000**

INVESTED TO SUPPORT TRANSITIONAL, TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAMS AND EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

# 2017 PROGRAM IMPACT

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAILORED FOR TROOPS



DETROIT DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**DETROIT, MI**



ONWARD 2  
OPPORTUNITY

**CAMP  
LEJEUNE, NC**



DVNF RESOURCE FAIR

**WASHINGTON,  
DC REGION**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tailored for Troops is DVNF's new initiative that was developed to support at-risk veterans who are seeking employment or an improvement in their employment situation. During the 2017 Program Year the Foundation was successful in developing a partnership with the clothing retailer, Jos. A. Bank. Because of their generous support, DVNF provided brand new suits and work appropriate attire to 400 veterans in Detroit, North Carolina and the Washington, DC regional Area.



JOS. A.  
BANK



**\$752,615**

IN INVENTORY DISTRIBUTED IN THE 3 EVENTS

# EMPLOYMENT

## 2017 RESOURCE FAIR

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2017, DVNF hosted its first Resource Fair at the Silver Spring Civic Building at 1 Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring, Maryland. Participants were able to take a yoga class, receive a brand-new suit donated by Jos. A. Bank and have access to organizations providing a variety of food and resources.



### PARTICIPATING VENDORS

1. PG County Economic Development Corporation Workforce Service Division - C3 education assistance and supportive for Transiting Service member and Active Duty Spouses as well as IT education Path Guidance.
2. Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Employment and Resources information for Veterans.
3. Central Union Mission - Printed material, brochures.
4. Vietnam Veterans of America - Veterans Benefits Information.
5. The Fenwick Foundation - Passing out information about The Fenwick Foundation.
6. Metropolitan Institute of Health & Tech - General information about our school and its training programs. The School is approved with Department of Veterans Affairs.
7. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing - Providing PHWFF and promotional materials to attendees along with contact info to our local programs.
8. Veterans Upward Bound - Providing information about free classes at PG Community College. The primary goal of Trio VUB is to prepare eligible veterans to enter college, be successful in college, and to graduate from college by providing a unique experience for veterans of all ages to gain access to info about college and career awareness.
9. Virginia Department of Veteran Service - Information on Health Benefits, Disability Compensation, VA Pension, Survivor Benefits, Home Loan Guarantees, Education Benefits.
10. DoD National Resource Directory - Providing access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration.
11. Warriors at Ease – Free yoga sessions.
12. American Legion Post 41 – Information about the largest Veteran Service organization and free membership for active duty service members.
13. Clear Captions – Federally certified company that provides captioned telephones at no cost for people with hearing loss.
14. Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic (Easterseals) – Information regarding Behavioral Health Services along with additional military and veteran resources.
15. Department of Veteran Affairs – VA Benefits Information.
16. VETS Group/Nabvets – info on training for high demand occupations in the IT industry; Veteran support services; and Vets Entrepreneurship.
17. Maryland Cardiology Associates – Education about Peripheral Arterial Disease and free screenings for this disease.
18. Veterans Housing organization – Real Estate advice and information about the organization.

### EVENT SPONSORS

**CHICK-FIL-A**

**PAPA JOHNS**

**JIMMY JOHNS**

**CHIPOTLE**

**STARBUCKS**

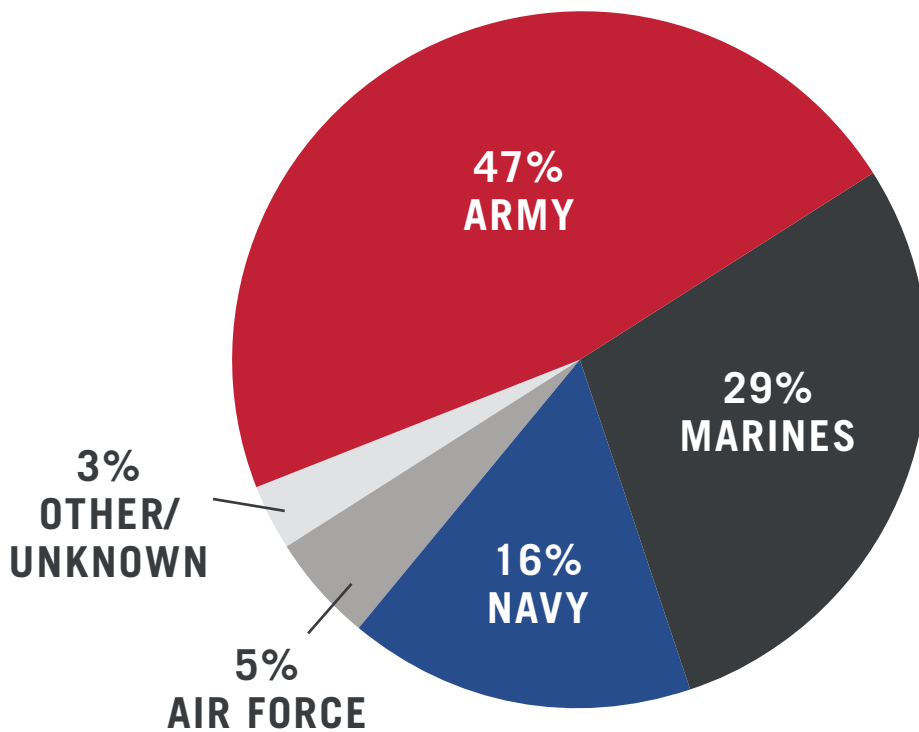
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# 2017 PROGRAM IMPACT

## EMPLOYMENT

### 2017 RESOURCE FAIR

#### BRANCHES SERVED



#### TOTAL VETERANS SERVED



CLOTHING

**119**  
TOTAL ITEMS OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED



**56 SHIRTS**



**29 SHOES**



**34 SUITS**



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# TESTIMONIALS

## OPERATION COMPASSION OF MERCER COUNTY, INC.

### COMMUNITY VETERANS BREAKFAST AND STAND DOWN

**Quote from Omar J. Aboulhosn:** “The items supplied by the DVNF were incredibly beneficial to the vets in attendance. It was overwhelming to receive such a generous shipment of products to distribute to at risk veterans and it was particularly heartwarming to see the looks of gratitude from the veterans upon receiving items. I hope that this becomes an annual event between Operation Compassion, DVNF and the Community Veterans Breakfast event. On behalf of Operation Compassion please accept our sincerest appreciation for your contribution.”

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA WOMEN VETERANS, INC.

### JACKSONVILLE STAND DOWN

**Natalie Carter, veteran:** “I wanted to thank N.E. Florida Women Veteran and Disabled Veterans Foundation for the blazers and clothing I received during the 2017 Stand down in Jacksonville, FL. I’m a homeless veteran and I often feel helpless and alone and not worthy of anything. I wore one of the blazers to Her Total Wellness class at N.E. Florida Women Veteran center and I received so many complements and it made me feel like somebody. It’s amazing how a blazer can enhance an entire outfit to make me look and feel like somebody. Thank you for actively caring about me.”

## WOMEN VETERANS INTERACTIVE TOTES OF HOPE

**Ginger Miller:** “Thank you to the Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) for the grant that provided the supplies used by volunteers to give back, and that were the ultimate benefit of homeless women veterans, women veterans in transitional housing and women veterans in VA hospitals!”

“As the Founder and CEO of Women Veterans Interactive, I commend the Disabled Veterans National Foundation on supporting homeless women veterans. It was an awesome event with a great show of community support for the homeless woman veteran population. The day would have not been possible without the support of the DVNF.”

## THE FENWICK FOUNDATION

Your generous support made it possible for us in making our Washington D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center a great place. The Washington D.C. Veteran Affairs Medical Center appreciates you for bringing purpose to our veterans’ daily routine. Your dedication and commitment continues to help us achieve our motto of “Putting Veterans First.”

# PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



### NEW ENGLAND CENTER AND HOME FOR VETERANS

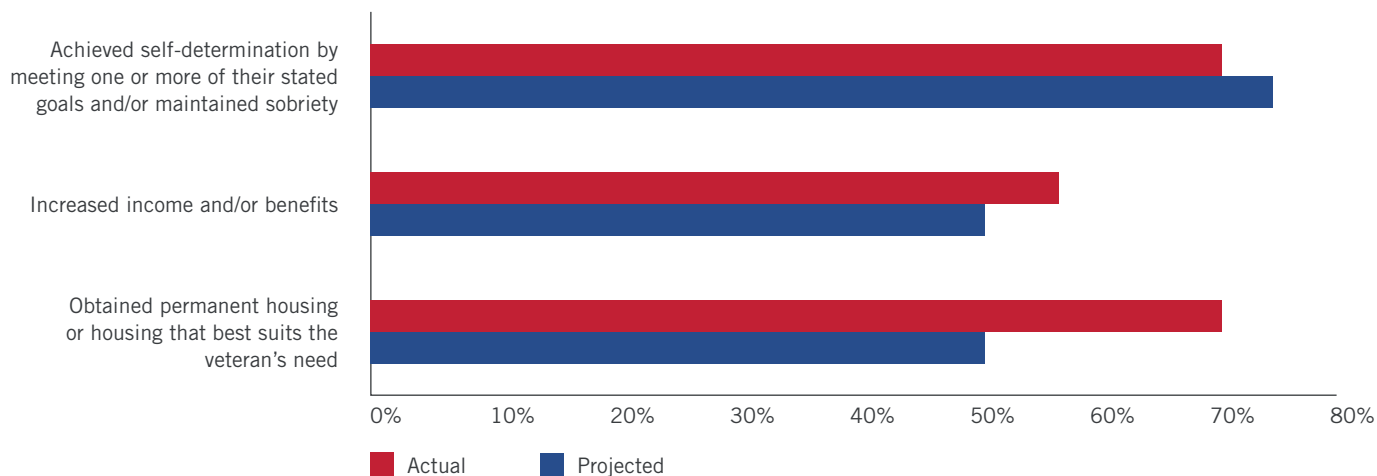
### SENIOR VETERAN WELLNESS PROGRAM

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The New England Center and Home for Veterans have been serving veterans for almost three decades. Since then, they have continued to refine and broaden their approach on health and wellness services to meet the need of veterans in their community. NECHV started as a shelter for veterans experiencing homelessness and has since transformed its focus to a “Veteran-centric health and wellness service provider.” NECHV programs are available to current and former residents, they offer a newly renovated space where veterans can learn skills that will assist them in achieving their goals for independent living by building social supports, reducing isolation, increasing self-sufficiency, and improving health and well-being.

The Senior Veteran Wellness Program is a comprehensive component of the Veterans 360 Behavioral Health Program for veterans age 55 and older, who reside and receive services from NECHV. This service is designed to provide social and educational service to improve quality of life through exposure and interaction within their community. The program provides positive outcome for veteran participants, while addressing the challenges of homelessness, addiction, trauma, severe mental illness, and unemployment.

To learn more about New England Center and Home for Veterans visit their website [www.nechv.org](http://www.nechv.org).





## MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS

# VETERAN K-9 CORPS AMERICA'S VET DOGS

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

America's VetDogs began in 2003 as a special project to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind. As a response to the growing number of post-911 veteran applicants and the aging of veterans from past wars, the Board of Directors gave veterans with disabilities top priority as recipients of our specialized dogs, and in 2007 it became its own 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to help those who have honorably served our country live with dignity and independence. We help all American veterans who have served honorably, regardless of when or where they served, or how they became disabled.

America's VetDogs is a national 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides guide dogs for individuals who are blind or have low vision; hearing dogs for those who have lost their hearing later in life or in combat; service dogs for veterans with other physical disabilities; facility dogs as part of the rehabilitation process in military and VA hospitals, and PTSD service dogs to help mitigate the effects of PTSD in an effort to provide the emotional and physical support needed. We breed, raise and train our own puppies, instruct and train persons on their use, and provide a lifetime of aftercare support for the active team of handler and dog.

Headquartered in Smithtown, New York, America's VetDogs and the Guide Dog Foundation share a ten-acre campus which includes: training center with kennel space for up to 174 dogs; National Administrative center and student union; student residence hall with 17 private rooms and private baths; breeding facility and puppy nursery. The Foundation breeds its own pure Labrador and Golden Retrievers, and first-generation Labrador/Golden crosses.

In April 2015, America's VetDogs PTSD Service Dog Pilot program was launched. The program places specially trained service dogs with veterans whose primary diagnosed disability is combat related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), to help mitigate the emotional symptoms caused by the disorder. The program's goal is to help veterans resume contact and engagement with the public, and with their "battle buddy" by their side, regain confidence, independence and self-sufficiency. After the initial 10 veteran/PTSD service dog teams were placed, America's VetDogs assumed the program as a permanent addition to its program offerings. To date, we have placed 34 PTSD service dog teams.

To learn more about America's Vet Dogs, please visit their website at [www.vetdogs.org](http://www.vetdogs.org).



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# PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

## EMPLOYMENT

### ONWARD TO OPPORTUNITY



#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Onward to Opportunity in Partnership with the Veterans Career Transition Program (O2O – VCTP) is a free, comprehensive career training, certification and employment program designed to launch veterans into their next career with over 30 industry-recognized career tracks and courses.



The organization's mission is to empower qualified transitioning service members and military families with the specific skills, certifications, and training required to start successful civilian careers in growing industries. O2O-VCTP connects hiring employers to veteran talent that is prepared to meet current, real-time labor market needs.

O2O-VCTP brings civilian career training to eligible service members up to six months prior to their transition date and any active duty military spouse, regardless of where their partner is in their military career, any member of the selected reserve and Post-9/11 veterans with an honorable discharge status. O2O-VCTP combines industry-validated curricula, strong partnerships, and comprehensive career coaching and placement services to match program candidates with civilian job opportunities.

O2O-VCTP works closely with our industry partners to understand current labor demand and define the skills and qualities required of the ideal candidate. These findings directly impact the design and deployment of our industry-specific curricula, which is tailored to these market needs.



Transitioning service members, veterans and military families can benefit from this unique military employment pipeline with direct connections to career-path counseling, job-ready training and access to over 400 brand name employers.

Onward to Opportunity was founded in an effort to train service members and their spouses in industry certification areas and assist them with employment placement upon their end of service. Our goals are to ensure that every service member and their spouse gain meaningful employment upon separation of the service. We provide free training and certification training in the areas of: Customer Service, Information Technology, and Project Management.

To learn more about Onward to Opportunity, please visit their website at [www.onward2opportunity.org](http://www.onward2opportunity.org).

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## DISABLED VETERANS NATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- » Benny Bachand, *President*
- » Barry Walter, *Vice President*
- » Joshua Johnson, *Secretary*
- » Marla Brunell
- » Lionel Harris
- » Steven Weyher
- » Scott Carson
- » CAPT Adam Street, *DO*

## DISABLED VETERANS NATIONAL FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

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To learn more about DVNF, please visit us at:

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