

# DVNF



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DISABLED VETERANS NATIONAL FOUNDATION





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

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking a review our 2020 Annual Report! This was a critical year in the growth and development of the Disabled Veterans National Foundation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In this report, you will see the scope of our work, and our dedication to serving our American Heroes.

In 2020, DVNF developed a New National Job Board that provides an easy navigational platform that links veterans to employers, offers an MOS translator to help veteran's narrow down their employment search, provides a toolkit for the preparation of possible interviews and employment services. Although logistics for shipping goods was hampered by the pandemic of 2020, DVNF still moved forward with its Health & Comfort Program sending 7 shipments of supplies to stand downs and other events around the country. By sending items like basic hygiene necessities, clothing, and so much more, DVNF helps thousands of homeless and low-income veterans to alleviate some of their financial strain during these difficult times.

DVNF also built vital partnerships through its Capacity Building Grants program. 19 organizations were supported in 2020, and this has substantially benefitted thousands of veterans. Funding programs like recreational therapy, Canine support training, art therapy, yoga, and other unique approaches to combatting mental stress, PTSD and Suicide Prevention has given countless veterans a new outlook on life. These grants will also better equip our partner organizations with resources to continue growing their important programs, and we're proud to be a part of what they're doing in their respective communities.

Our partnership with Montel Williams "Military Makeover" Show was DVNF's 2020 special initiative. DVNF provided a \$40,000 donation towards the refurbishment of Army Staff Sergeant Burgess' home in order to make it more adaptable for his injuries that were sustained in Afghanistan during combat operations and affording him time to spend more quality time with his family and give back to their local community.

We are pleased with how 2020 progressed, and look forward to even more great things in 2021. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to keep making such a vital difference around the country, and we thank all of our supporters for their commitment to giving back to our veterans.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott Carson

Board President  
Disabled Veterans National Foundation

## DVNF Board of Directors

Scott Carson, *President*  
Benny Bachand, *Vice President*  
Adam Street, *Secretary*  
Lionel Harris, *Treasurer*  
Tashawnya McCullough  
Bill McQuaig  
Greg Smith  
Barry Walter

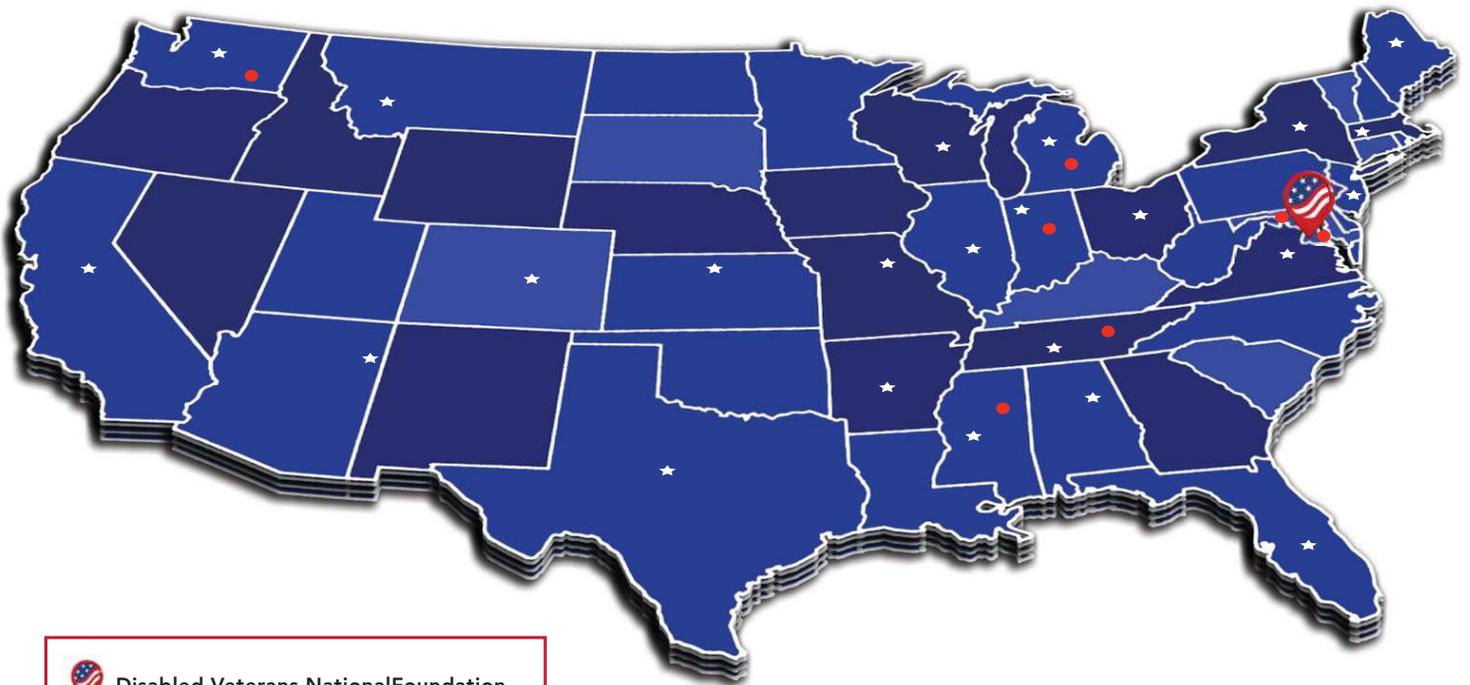
# 2020 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## VETERANS SERVED ACROSS THE PROGRAMS

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS	17,528 people served (\$288,000)
HEALTH AND COMFORT	2,650 kits (Value of \$188,415)
GRAB N GO	81 people served (100 bags/boxes given away)

## HEALTH AND COMFORT

This year DVNF sent 7 shipments of our Health & Comfort supplies to stand-downs and other events around the country, for a total of 2650 kits and a fair market value of \$188,415.00. By sending items like basic hygiene necessities, clothing, and so much more, DVNF helps thousands of homeless and low-income veterans to alleviate some of their financial strain.



Disabled Veterans National Foundation



Capacity Building Grant Locations



Health and Comfort Shipment Locations

***"I have lived on the streets for 5 years hygiene is important to me, and this bag will help me stay clean, Thank you DVNF and FOB HOPE."***

## 2020 PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Capacity Building Grants program is a way for the Disabled Veterans National Foundation to partner with like-minded organizations around the United States. Our Capacity Building Grants aid these organizations as they strive to provide exceptional service to our nation's wounded warriors. In 2020, the Disabled Veterans National Foundation provided support to programs focused on mental and physical health services through its Capacity Building Grants and Health and Comfort Programs. The Capacity Building program helped 42 organizations reach new heights of service and enabled them to increase their services by an average of 15%.

The Health and Comfort program is a way for the organization to directly support low-income, homeless and at-risk veterans across the nation. DVNF provides Comfort Kits to our partners which enables them to support veterans in need. Comfort kits include items such as: first aid kits, hygiene items, clothing, shoes, bug spray, emergency blankets and other goods.

As a result of our support, our partners are better equipped with resources to continue growing their important programs, and we're proud to be a part of what they're doing in their respective communities.

ORGANIZATION	STATE
Adaptive Sports Program Of Ohio	Ohio
Ayuda Smiles Inc.	Arizona
Camillus House, Inc.	Florida
Catholic Charites Of Kansas City St Joseph Inc	Kansas City
Central Union Mission	Washington
Disabled American Veterans East Valley Chapter 8	Arizona
Easter Seals New Hampshire Inc	New Hampshire
Easter Seals Tristate LLC.	Ohio
Easterseals DC MD VA	Washington
Embrace A Vet	Maine
Flagstaff Shelter Services Inc	Arizona
Grace After Fire	Texas
Heart of Horse Sense	North Carolina
Heroes & Horses, Inc.	Montana
Horses For Healing, Inc. 501(c)3	Arkansas
Hospice of the Bluegrass, Inc.	Kentucky
National Veterans Legal Services Program	Washington
NBCC, dba New Beginnings	California
Operation New Uniform Inc.,	Florida
Paralyzed Veterans Of America	Wisconsin
Patient Airlift Services	New York
People for People Foundation of Gloucester County	New Jersey
Possibilities Inc DBA The Onsite Foundation	Oklahoma
Preble Street	Maine
Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.	California
S.M.G.A. - Salute Military Golf Association	Maryland
Salute Inc	Illinois
Sanctuary Foundation For Veterans	New Jersey
Soldier Strong	Connecticut
That Can Be Me Inc	Ohio
The Fenwick Foundation	Virginia
The Independence Fund Inc	North Carolina
The Mustard Seed of Central Indiana	Indiana
The Veteran's K-9 Corps (America's Vet Dogs)	New York
USA Cares Inc.	Kentucky
Veterans Alternative Inc.	Florida
Veterans Furniture Center	Arizona
Veterans Moving Forward VMF	Virginia
Veterans Of Foreign Wars 7807	Georgia
Village For Vets	California
Welcome Home Inc	Missouri
Wounded Heroes Fund Kern County Chapter	California

***"Living on the streets is tough, but knowing there are people who care, well that is something, Thank you."***

# FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

To Our Friends and Supporters:

On behalf the Disabled Veterans National Foundation, I would like to thank all of you for showing your interest in the DVNF by engaging with our Annual Report.

As we look back, despite the awful parts of 2020, much happened this year that was admirable and impressive during these difficult times, including the following:

- DVNF built a new National Job Board for all veterans and refurbished our website to showcase our program impacts
- DVNF sent 7 Health & Comfort shipments to veteran stand-downs throughout the United States during the Covid-19 lockdowns.
- Funded 19 like-minded non-profits organizations that were struggling more than \$304,000.00 using our Capacity Building Grants program
- DVNF had its 4th annual Resource Fair, however, due to the pandemic, DVNF created a "Grab-N-Go" program in order to continue to serve our veterans during these complicated times.
- DVNF had its 4th year of special initiatives while partnered with the Montel Williams "Military Makeover" Show, DVNF funded 40k towards the refurbishment of Staff Sergeant Burgess (U.S. Army) Ret. and family in Cape Coral, Fl.
- Our fundraising costs and deficit were reduced significantly in 2020.



The pandemic is an ever-present reality. Without denying the anxiety and precarity that the COVID has created, the DVNF staff worked very hard to continue to provide program and services to the disabled and at-risk veterans during these difficult times. It's our mission at DVNF to fill the void where we can and to speak out loudly and clearly when veterans are not getting the resources and benefits they deserve.

We appreciate your enthusiasm and support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Joseph VanFonda".

Joseph VanFonda  
SgtMaj USMC (Ret)  
Chief Executive Officer

## DVNF Executive Team

Joseph VanFonda CEO  
Delese Harvey, *Deputy Director*  
Leander Brereton, *Director of Operations*  
Mildred Mesembe, *Director of Finance*  
Patrick Heron, *Director of Direct Mail*

**The Disabled Veterans National Foundation has launched its National Job Board platform this year.**

**By Partnering with “Montel Williams” DVNF’s National Job Board is connecting the Veteran Community with Leading Employers.**

**[Jobs.dvnf.org](https://jobs.dvnf.org) or [www.dvnf.org](https://www.dvnf.org)**

**1. Get the best resources and advice to set your self up for career success by using the **VETERANS TOOL KIT**.**

- Search Jobs Nationally
- Military to Civilian Occupation Translator; This tool will help you find the civilian job titles best for your skills, serving all branches of the military.
- Tools to help you create a great Resume and LinkedIn Profile
- Get Extra In-Demand Skills to stand out even more.
- Tips to Nail Your Interview

**2. **EMPLOYERS** hiring Veterans can give your business significant advantages. Learn how your business can benefit from hiring a Veteran within your community.**

- Civilian to Military Occupation Translator; This tool will help you know what Military experience to look for by matching your job opening to military careers that use similar skills.
- Post your jobs for FREE
- Employer Resources
- Create your Job Dashboard
- DVNF will feature your Business and the Veterans that you hire in our **Veteran Highlight** section on our job board and social media.

**3. When you **PARTNER** with DVNF you’re empowering America’s Best, Bravest and Brightest to have a successful return to civilian life.**

- Through DVNF’s **Special Initiatives** like our Annual Resource Fair, The US Veterans Wheelchair Games and many more, your Partnership will impact hundreds more Veterans in very positive ways.
- **Health & Comfort Program** provides the necessities for homeless and disabled and at-risk veterans. Comfort Kits are distributed primarily through Veteran Stand Downs Nationally.
- **Capacity Building Grants Program** supports like-minded organizations that provide a wide variety of therapeutic programming, homeless services, run shelters, engage in physical rehabilitation and conduct employment services for disabled and at-risk veterans.





WITH *Montel*

**Military Makeover with Montel** is a very special home improvement series that aims to respect those who have served our country, rebuild the homes-and even the loves-of those brave service men and women, and repay veterans for the service and sacrifices they've made for us.

DVNF contributed with \$40,000 to the special home improvement of the Army Staff Sergeant, Daniel Burgess. Daniel was working with Marines in Helmand Province to clear a village of 42 improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Tragedy struck as Daniel worked with a local villager to determine the location of an IED. Suddenly, a terrible explosion ripped through the Afghan desert. Daniel had stepped on a hidden IED. He lost his right leg, sustained severe damage to his left leg, and suffered traumatic brain injury, burns, fractures and multitude of other injuries. The arduous recovery process from his catastrophic injuries is still ongoing.



***"I can finely get the mud out of my hair."***

***"This is great, I have not had anything to shower with for 2 weeks, Thank you."***

***"DVNF ROCKS, Thank you."***

***"Thank you for the Health & Comfort Kits, I am going to put it to good use, cleaning myself. Thank you."***

***"Being a female a Veteran and homeless it is hard to keep my body clean, this is the best gift I have ever received. Thank you DVNF and FOB HOPE for showing Love and support."***



- For Veterans, the lasting impacts of combat, or traumatic experiences from their military service continue for years.
- With approximately 20 veterans on average taking their own lives every day, 40,000 homeless Veterans and 3.8 million disabled at-risk Veterans, it's our goal to ensure these men and women aren't left behind.
- We help Veterans who have fallen through the cracks in the system get what they need.



## DVNF Grab-N-Go

DVNF brings light to the fact that many military veterans are struggling just to survive. This is unfortunate, but should also create awareness of the need to reach out and help those most in need. DVNF's Resource Fair hosts not only employers and educators, but also organizations that can help veterans find housing, meals, physical and mental health assistance, donations, and more. DVNF donates brand new work attire to veterans to assist in the job search after transitioning out of the military. DVNF also made sure to provide Comfort Kits and meals, both of which are invaluable when living on the street. While the event is a resource fair, DVNF has also incorporated a few Stand Down practices to ensure that every veteran's needs are met regardless of gender, race, living situation etc. Due to the pandemic, the Foundation was unable to host its regular event in 2020 and shifted its method of supporting Veterans.

The DVNF Grab N Go is an abbreviated version of the Annual Resource Fair where the organization provides bags and boxes of food and hygiene items to veterans in a walk up or drive through manner. The Foundation's first Grab N Go was held in partnership with Project PLASE (People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment) in Baltimore, Maryland. Project PLASE addresses homelessness in Baltimore by providing temporary housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults and families. They serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities, and ex-offenders. With Project PLASE's help, the Foundation served 81 Veterans and distributed approximately 100 food bags/boxes. The DVNF boxes included

- Groceries
- Comfort Kits
- Face Masks
- Gift cards

***"Thank you for the hygiene bag, I am going to put it to good use, cleaning myself. Thank you."***



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

### **How you can help**

**Become a Corporate Sponsor:** By becoming a corporate sponsor-your company is aligning itself with an organization providing much needed support to our wounded warriors. To learn more, contact the Chief Executive Officer, Joseph VanFonda at [jvanfonda@dvnf.org](mailto:jvanfonda@dvnf.org).

**Join the Force-Become a Monthly Donor:** Your reoccurring gift provides reliable support to the thousands of veterans we serve yearly. To help these wounded warriors, consider becoming a member of the Force Multiplier giving program. Your gift of \$20 or more a month can help provide a disabled veteran the mental and physical help needed upon returning home.

**Join the Mailing List:** The Disabled Veterans National Foundation prides itself on being a thought leader in the veteran community. To keep up with the latest veteran trends or learn from expert leaders in the veteran community, please subscribe to our mailing list by visiting [www.dvnf.com](http://www.dvnf.com)





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