

DVNF

NEWSLETTER

“VETERANS SPEAK FROM THE HEART: YOUR SUPPORT MADE THE DIFFERENCE”

Army Veteran Daniel A. found himself facing a financial burden that threatened not just his peace of mind, but the well-being of his entire family. A proud father of four and husband, Daniel, knew he had to do something—and asking for help wasn't easy. But when he did, DVNF's Veterans Food Assistance Program (VFAP) answered.

*“They provided me and my family with an opportunity to rebound,” Daniel shared. “Without having our diets change in an unhealthy way.”*

Thanks to the assistance provided by DVNF, Daniel and his family of six received a month’s worth of healthy, nutritious food and household essentials—ensuring that their holiday season was filled with comfort and dignity.

For Daniel and his wife, the support was more than a box of food, it was a chance to breathe, regroup, and look ahead. “Although my children would never have to skip a meal, my wife and I have certainly eaten less in the past so that our children don't have to,” he admitted. Now, with the shelves full and their hearts lifted, their family can focus on creating memories, not just making ends meet.

At DVNF, we believe no veteran should have to choose between feeding their family and covering essential expenses. Stories like Daniel’s remind us why this work matters — and why we’ll keep showing up for veterans in need.



**“At a time when life was questionable, VFAP was there...”**

**These words from Daniel capture the profound impact of the Disabled Veterans National Foundation’s Veterans Food Assistance Program (VFAP) during a time of real struggle.**

AN AMAZING BLESSING: ONE VETERAN MOTHER'S GRATITUDE FOR VFAP



For many families, the holiday season brings joy—but for some, it can also bring overwhelming stress. For one Army Veteran and single mother of three, the burden of providing for her children while trying to rebuild her life felt especially heavy this past year. But then, help arrived—quietly, compassionately, and right on time.

Through the Veterans Food Assistance Program (VFAP), this resilient veteran received the support she needed, just when she needed it most.

*“This was such an amazing blessing and gift,” she shared. “It helped out more than you will ever understand.”*

Raising three children on her own is no small task, especially while trying to get back on her feet. The assistance provided by DVNF not only put food on the table, but it also brought peace of mind, a sense of relief, and the powerful reminder that she’s not alone.

**“This is a huge help for individuals that are trying to get ahead and back in the right direction,” she said. “I am forever grateful for this program.”**



# FRESH FOOD, FULL HEARTS: A VETERAN MOM FINDS HOPE THROUGH VFAP

Sometimes, it’s the little moments that remind us that we’re not alone: a warm meal, a child’s smile, a box of groceries arriving at just the right time. For one Army Veteran, that moment came when she opened her front door to find a delivery filled with fresh produce, pantry staples, and peace of mind.

Through the Veterans Food Assistance Program (VFAP), she received a lifeline when her family needed it most.

*“This was a surprisingly easy to use, quick, and helpful program,” she shared. I was approved only a few days after submission. Everything was handled for me based on the questionnaire about grocery preferences, and the quality and quantity of the produce was high. It felt like I got more than the grant amount in groceries even.”*

The groceries—delivered directly from Walmart—were not only on time but also matched her family’s preferences thoughtfully.

*“We were struggling with making decisions on what to buy because of our budget, sticking to some cheaper staples,” she explained.*

*“This gave us ample food options and security—especially important when I have a toddler who loves fresh fruits and vegetables.”*



**“The moment I got my delivery; he started pointing and grinning at some of the food he wanted. I cooked some fresh corn and washed some berries, and my boy ate them right up. He hadn’t been that enthusiastic about eating in weeks.”**



At DVNF, this is exactly why we do what we do. Because every veteran—and every veteran’s family—deserves stability, dignity, and the comfort of knowing someone cares.

**From our hearts to yours, thank you for helping us make stories like this possible.**



# HEALTH & COMFORT “GRAB N GO” ON THE MOVE

## From Las Vegas to Los Angeles: A Mission to Honor and Support Our Veterans

Henry Schein and the ADA Foundation Join Forces with DVNF to Serve 1,000 Veterans in Need

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) is proud to announce a partnership with Henry Schein and the American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation—a collaboration that is changing lives from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

With a generous \$10,000 contribution, Henry Schein and the ADA Foundation have joined DVNF in a coast-to-coast effort to provide critical support to veterans facing homelessness, hunger, and hardship. The initiative kicks off on May 1st, 2025, at Thrive Live 25 in Las Vegas, where hundreds of volunteers will come together to assemble 1,000 Health & Comfort Kits for veterans in need.

Each kit is filled with essentials: personal hygiene products, oral health supplies donated by the American Dental Association, a note of appreciation—offering not only relief, but also dignity, compassion, and a powerful reminder that these veterans are not forgotten.

Following the Las Vegas packing event, the mission will continue in Los Angeles with two major Grab-N-Go events. On Monday, May 5th, DVNF will host the first event at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, where 700 veterans will receive a Health & Comfort Kit, a hot lunch, and a \$25 gift card. The second event will take place on Tuesday, May 6th, at New Directions for Veterans, serving an additional 300 veterans with the same compassionate care and resources.

*“These events are about more than distributing supplies,” said Joseph VanFonda, CEO of DVNF. “They’re about restoring dignity and letting our veterans know they are still seen, still valued, and never alone.”*

For some veterans, this may be the first meal they’ve had in days. For others, it’s the first time in months that someone has looked them in the eye and said, “You matter.” Thanks to the unwavering support from Henry Schein and the ADA Foundation, that message will be delivered loud and clear.

### From Nevada to California—And Beyond

This mission started in Las Vegas. It continues in Los Angeles. And with your support, it will go even further. DVNF is honored to work alongside Henry Schein, the ADA Foundation, and our dedicated volunteers to carry this message of hope and healing to veterans across the country.

Because together, this Mission is Possible.





# MISSION POSSIBLE PODCAST: WHEN ONE MISSION ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS



### What happens when the mission ends?

For **Jessy Lakin**, U.S. Army veteran and founder of Alaska Warrior Partnership, leaving the military meant facing a whole new battlefield—transitioning to civilian life. In the first episode of the Mission Possible Podcast, DVNF CEO **Joseph VanFonda**, USMC SgtMaj (Ret.), and Dr. **Marty Rossman** sit down with Jessy to talk about the journey beyond the uniform.

Jessy opens about the realities veterans often face: PTSD, career changes, and rediscovering identity and purpose. Through his honest storytelling, he reminds us that while the challenges are real, so is the strength to overcome them.

Because of Jessy’s powerful commitment to helping fellow veterans, DVNF awarded him \$10,000 to continue his mission. We believe in his work—and we believe that this mission is possible.

Whether you’re a veteran, a supporter, or simply looking for an inspiring story of resilience and purpose, don’t miss this episode.

**Listen. Watch. Be inspired. Join the mission.**

Available now on [YouTube](#) and [Spotify](#)/[Apple Podcasts](#).

Empowerment and Innovation w/ Special Guest Dr. Rory Cooper

60 views • 4 weeks ago

RTM Protocol and the Reverse Engineering of PTSD w/ Special...

102 views • 2 months ago

Turning Worries Upside Down | Mission Possible Podcast

43 views • 3 months ago

Weeding Your Mental Garden w/ Special Guest Emanuel (Manny)...

169 views • 4 months ago

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Building Resilience w/ Special Guest Josh Jabin

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Veteran Suicide Prevention w/ Special Guest Nick Howland

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Regrets and Self-Judgment w/ Special Guest Modesto De La O

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Empowering Veteran Stories, Military Transition, Life Challenges...

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Goal-Setting for Veterans: USMC SgtMaj Ret. VS. Mind-Body Expert

60 views • 9 months ago



# LEAVE A LEGACY THAT HONORS THEIR SACRIFICE

What if your legacy could change a veteran’s life—not just today, but for generations to come?

At the Disabled Veterans National Foundation, we believe that true impact endures—and that your generosity can become part of something bigger. That’s why we offer a Free Legacy Planner to help you take the first step in creating a future that uplifts and empowers disabled and at-risk veterans across the country.

By using our Free Legacy Planner to include DVNF in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations, you’re not just making a gift—you’re joining a mission to ensure no veteran is forgotten.

Your legacy supports life-changing programs such as:

- Veterans Food Assistance Program (VFAP) – delivering essential groceries and household items directly to veterans and their families.
- Grants to Provide Stability (GPS) – offering urgent financial aid to help veterans stay in their homes and avoid crisis.
- Homeless to Housing (H2H) – helping homeless veterans transition to stable housing and a new beginning.
- Health & Comfort (H&C) – providing hygiene and comfort kits to veterans in hospitals, shelters, and underserved areas nationwide.

These programs provide direct, compassionate support—meeting veterans where they are, with the help they need most. And with your planned gift, that help will carry on, year after year.

Our veterans stood for us. Now, we stand for them. Will your legacy stand with us?

[Get Started with Your Free Legacy Planner Today](#) and make a lasting difference for generations of veterans to come.

## TEAM SPOTLIGHT: PATRICK HERON — LEADING WITH HEART



At the Disabled Veterans National Foundation, we’re fortunate to have dedicated individuals who lead with heart—and Patrick Heron is a shining example.

As DVNF’s Direct Mail Director, Patrick applies his background in Business Analytics and Project Management to drive one of our most important outreach programs. But his impact extends far beyond the office.

Patrick is a familiar face at our Grab N Go events, Resource Fairs, and Comfort Kit distributions, always showing up with energy, compassion, and a can-do spirit. His hands-on involvement demonstrates just how deeply he cares about DVNF’s mission and the veterans we serve.

Outside of work, Patrick enjoys playing in his church’s co-ed softball league and is an avid basketball fan—bringing the same team spirit and enthusiasm to every part of his life.

Thank you, Patrick, for being a vital part of the DVNF family and for the passion you bring to supporting our heroes!

Your support reaches beyond words—it delivers real change.  
We couldn’t do it without you.