

VETERANS SUPPORT FOUNDATION & THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION



ADDRESSING THE UNMET NEEDS
OF VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY
MILITARY AND MILITARY FAMILIES



Every day, millions of Americans in uniform serve their country bravely while facing daunting challenges. Yet returning home brings challenges, too. Many veterans face physical and emotional injuries, prolonged recovery periods and the lingering effects of service-related illnesses. Finding a job, supporting a family or affording a home can be difficult. And military families struggle, too—from the loss of a wage-earner, the need to provide constant medical care or the pain of watching a loved one suffer.

WHAT WE DO

Founded by and for veterans, Veterans Support Foundation (VSF) and the U.S. Armed Forces Association (USAFA) provide vitally important housing, health and outreach services to deserving veterans and their families—particularly those unconnected to communities of support. We strive to be there when they need us most.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve active-duty military, veterans and military families, regardless of age, branch of the military or era of service.

WE PROVIDE SUPPORT THROUGH THREE MAIN PROGRAMS

Supportive Housing Program for Homeless Veterans

Homelessness among veterans is one of our nation's most pressing problems. On any given night across the United States, some 68,000 veterans are homeless. VSF strives to be part of the solution. Our Supportive

Housing Program provides housing and a support system for veterans in need.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) refers homeless veterans to us. We offer the veterans a safe place to live and encouragement in overcoming the issues that have caused their homelessness. Our case managers help residents with money management and interpersonal skills, and they help veterans work toward their health, vocational and educational goals.

In exchange, veterans set clear goals for health, employment and life skills. They agree to follow their VA-approved treatment programs, stay drug- and alcohol-free, help to clean and maintain the households and to treat staff and other residents with respect. By following VSF's program, most veterans are ready to transition to their own homes or apartments within eight to 24 months of referral.



Top and bottom: VSF transitional houses offer comfortable and secure living quarters for formerly homeless veterans working toward independence. Center: Vets enjoy a cookout at our house in Manchester, CT.

Service Officer Program

Veterans are often afflicted with health conditions unique to their military service. Exposure to Agent Orange caused an increase in diabetes and prostate cancer among Vietnam

veterans; Gulf War Illness affects many who served in Iraq and Kuwait; and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer increasingly from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations and paraplegic injuries. Without someone to advocate for them, veterans often do not receive the health care and other benefits they are entitled to by law. Moreover, only qualified individuals can represent veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In cooperation with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), VSF and USAFA support Service Officer Programs across the United States. Through these programs, veterans receive the support of trained, accredited Service Officers *free of charge*. Service Officers—many of whom are veterans themselves—help veterans secure the compensation they've earned through serving their country.



Outreach to Veterans

VSF and USAFA have supported veterans and their families in a variety of other ways. We have:

- provided emergency assistance funds for military families in need;
- supported sports programs and therapeutic horseback riding for disabled veterans;
- offered help for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- sponsored “stand-downs”—events that allow homeless veterans to access health, housing, and legal assistance in one location;
- helped Alaskan Bush Pilots bring services to veterans in rural Alaska; and
- sponsored tool kits to help teachers address the special needs of military children whose parents are deployed overseas.

You Are a Key Part of Our Work

Veterans Support Foundation and the United States Armed Forces Association depend on donations from foundations,

businesses, community organizations and individuals. Your charitable dollars allow us to be a reliable resource for veterans, whether they face health and mental health challenges, homelessness or financial hardship. With a donation to VSF/USAFA, you can give back to veterans who have sacrificed their own wellbeing to preserve our freedom and way of life. And because VSF/USAFA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, your donation is fully tax deductible.

Please Join Us Today

Visit www.vsf-usa.org to make an online donation, or call us at 1-800-882-1316 ext 126.

You can also help Veterans Support Foundation through the Combined Federal Campaign. Please designate #11324 on your CFC form.



If you prefer, you can mail your donation via personal check to:

Veterans Support Foundation
8719 Colesville Road
Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910



PHOTO: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/CHERIE A THURLBY

Thank you for supporting America's veterans, active-duty military and military families.



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info@vsf-usa.org

