



**DONOR
IMPACT
REPORT
2021**

25+ YEARS serving



1993

HVAF first incorporated as a Far From Home Chapter

HVAF opens its first home and serves its first veteran

1995



1998

Case management is made available to veterans

The Loyd House, named after co-founder Louise Loyd, opened for all female veterans

1998



HVAF's Workforce Development program launches VetWorks: a 3-phase program that leads veterans to good and promising jobs in Central Indiana.

2021



2020-2021

COVID-19 pandemic hits - but HVAF pushes through and provides 33,000+ services to 1,400+ veterans

Don Moreau, Sr. Apts gets remodeled and turns into Permanent Supportive Housing unit known as Veterans Villa

2020



2019

HVAF receives funding from The Indianapolis Housing Agency to open its first Permanent Supportive Housing units

Thanks to Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance - HVAF opens its first hospitality room for veterans to eat snacks, play games, and watch television

2019



HOOSIER

HEROES

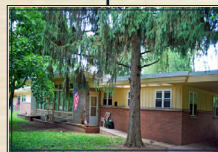


2000

HVAF developed its Veteran Services Center, and opens Carson Apartments

HVAF opens up Warman Woods Property - 45 units available for homeless veterans

2002



2007

HVAF Headquarters move to 10th Street - home to 70+ employees and food, clothing, & hygiene pantry

Don Moreau, Sr. Apartments opens for veterans (known as Moreau Veterans Villa today)

2008



2018

New housing programs - including Transition in Place & Emergency Service Grant - become available for near homeless veterans and their families

HVAF's food, clothing, and hygiene pantry turns into an in-person shopping experience for veterans

2017



2013

HVAF hires its first Employment Specialist

Supportive Services for Veterans And Families (SSVF) program added to service offerings

2011



2011

Manchester Apartments opens for homeless veterans - a 51-unit building connected to HVAF's Headquarters

The photos throughout this report are the veterans HVAF has served. We are thankful for their vulnerability and strength to share their story with us.

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LAST YEAR,
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

INCREASED BY **16%**

WE ARE WORKING TO CHANGE THAT.

Since 1993, HVAF has been helping homeless veterans return to self-sufficiency and engages at-risk veterans and their families to prevent them from becoming homeless by providing supportive housing assistance, case management, employment support, and basic needs including food, hygiene and clothing. In 2021, we served 1,329 veterans and provided over 35,000 life-changing services!

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN TONY VESPA



It is a privilege, a blessing, and a truly humbling experience to serve on Team HVAF - witnessing the relentless pursuit of the HVAF Mission by the staff, volunteers, board, and donors. I offer my sincerest thanks to all who have donated their time and treasure to the Team, with a special thanks to the HVAF staff who have made it their life's work to Serve our brothers and sisters in need.

The Team continues to reach new levels, expand our services in both scope and reach, and shows great resiliency in very dynamic times. These accomplishments are not easily achieved and are a testament to the professionalism, dedication, talent, and generosity of the Team. Every contribution of time, treasure, and talent, no matter the size nor the status or rank of the person contributing, plays an invaluable role in executing our Mission. I thank all those that have generously given, and I humbly challenge our staff, volunteers, board, and donors to find additional ways to support the Mission. Thank you and God Bless!

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EMMY HILDEBRAND NAMED HVAF'S

FIRST FEMALE CEO

In September 2021, The Board of Directors voted to promote former HVAF VP for Strategy Emmy Hildebrand to be the organization's newest CEO. Brian Copes decided to retire to spend more time with his wife and family. We thank Brian for 5.5 years of service to HVAF. Under his leadership, the agency grew significantly, serving more veterans with additional programs and services. And we look forward to seeing where Emmy will take HVAF and Indy's Hoosier Heroes next!

GET TO KNOW HVAF'S NEW CEO:

Q: What all have you done at HVAF prior to receiving your new promotion?

A: I joined HVAF in October 2012 as the organization's first Public Policy Coordinator. I was able to use my previous experience in government to help educate and inform our elected officials about HVAF and the work we are doing to end veteran homelessness. I've also worked on grants, special projects and supervised the Community Center.

Q: Why are you excited to be the new CEO?

A: I am excited to continue working with such an incredible team! We are so fortunate to have a team of compassionate staff that are here to serve veterans. Over the last few weeks, it's been really rewarding to see how the team supports and encourages each other. I want to make a difference in our community, and the collective impact of all of us at HVAF is an extraordinary thing to be a part of.

Q: What are some of your goals/future plans at HVAF?

A: Thanks to our team, we have so many great things already happening at HVAF! Our programs are amazing—we've been able to grow and adapt to meet the needs of veterans and their families, and I look forward to HVAF continuing that effort. Our Advancement Department also just finished the best year in HVAF history, so I am excited to work with Ashlee and her team to keep growing that effort as well. The Support Team wrapped up a very busy couple of years leveraging COVID related funding to make major upgrades to our properties, so we want to keep the high standards going! We are also working to bring more efficient processes to our business functions, finance and HR, to ensure they're more appropriately designed for an agency of our size.

Q: Why do you choose to work for a veterans' agency?

A: My entire career has been dedicated to serving veterans, members of the military and their families. Before I joined HVAF, I handled military and veterans issues for Senator Lugar, so I was thrilled to be able to continue my service at HVAF. We owe the men and women who serve in our military such a debt of gratitude, and I can think of no better way to begin to pay that back than to be a resource in times of need.

Q: When you are not at HVAF, where can we find you?

A: I'm probably driving our kids somewhere!

Q: What's a fun fact about yourself?

A: I feel like I'm a pretty boring person, so I surveyed my friend group for this question! The responses included that my first job was at Video Express in Greencastle—and I loved it! I guess I'm officially old, because Video Express closed when Blockbuster came to town. And, now of course, Blockbuster has closed as well. Also, that I'm a good cook and sometimes make my own jam and pickles.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

A: By many accounts, we are in the midst of one of the toughest times during the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to share with you my hope that, just as we have done for the last two years, we will all work together to get through this. We'll continue caring for each other and our veterans, just as we have been doing since HVAF was founded in 1993.



EMMY HILDEBRAND

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends:

It is my honor to thank each of you for your support of HVAF of Indiana over the last year. We are grateful for your compassion for the veterans we serve and for your generosity that helps accomplish our mission. Simply put, we could not do this without you!

Like many of you, the years 2020 and 2021 (and now into 2022) seem like one very long year. I know that is certainly true for our staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to serve vulnerable veterans. Each and every day, Team HVAF comes to work to make a difference. And, I'm so proud that throughout the pandemic, we've remained open and ready to serve. Last year, over 1,300 veterans received life-changing, life-saving assistance at HVAF!

2021 was also a year of growth and change for HVAF. Most notably, we added a comprehensive workforce development program to our offerings. VetWorks is a three-phase learn and earn program designed to help veterans prepare and compete for the careers of today and tomorrow. We broke ground on Proctor Place, our first Low Income Housing Tax Credit project. We are also making several back-office improvements, including new technologies and processes to help with our finance and accounting, as well as our human resources functions.

Lastly, in 2021, we celebrated the retirement of Brigadier General (Retired) Brian Copes. We are grateful for the years he spent at HVAF pushing the agency forward. I am humbled to be the CEO of HVAF and I look forward to continuing the important work of our agency.

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support of HVAF! We are excited for the future and we will continue to offer hope, housing and self-sufficiency for every veteran in our community.

Respectfully,

HVAF HELPS MARINE CORPS VETERAN JENNIFER EVERY TIME, NO MATTER WHAT!

After military life...

When Jennifer received her honorable discharge in 2002, she felt lost.

“It definitely was a culture shock. I didn’t have that purpose that I had before,” Jennifer said. “I didn’t know where my place was.”

She coped with her mental health struggles by using drugs.

“I dealt with it the unhealthy way,” Jennifer said. “I didn’t really know what resources were out here at the time.”

For years, Jennifer continued to use drugs. She finally received treatment at the Indianapolis Veteran Affairs Hospital and overcame her drug addiction.

Coming to HVAF

In 2017, she received the terrible news that her husband had cancer. They came to HVAF for help, as she needed to be his full-time caregiver. For the next six months, HVAF took care of their bills while Jennifer took care of her husband.

“That time I was able to spend with him was very valuable,” Jennifer said. “It was time where I look back and know it meant a lot.”

After her husband passed away, she turned to a new substance – alcohol. In just a few years, she had three DUI’s and faced federal prison. Thankfully – Veterans Court helped her. The Indianapolis Veterans Court focuses specifically on veterans’ and active duty military members’ unique needs by creating a therapeutic environment that addresses their criminal activity.

At IVC, they referred her to the VA’s vocational rehabilitation program – where she could work for the VA while receiving treatment at the same time. Because the stipend she would receive working for the VA wasn’t enough to keep the lights on, she came back to HVAF for help.

HVAF’s help

HVAF took care of Jennifer’s rent and utilities while she went through the program. After successfully completing the program, Jennifer now has a full-time job at the VA.

“This is something I’ve never been able to do, so to be able to have that chance is amazing,” Jennifer said, “It’s doing logistics, like what I did in the military.”

According to her case manager, Ashley, Jennifer was able to save her money during this time to be able to purchase her own car. Now she has a reliable means of transportation for getting to work and necessary appointments.


“Jennifer was super communicative,” Ashley said. “She was very open and honest about what she was using her money for. It’s rewarding when veterans share how they use their finances in a proactive way.”

Jennifer is so thankful for HVAF as she believes she wouldn’t be where she is today without the case managers’ constant support.

“When you come into HVAF’s building, there’s a support network here,” Jennifer said. “There’s just something that feels like home when you’re here.”

You can WATCH Jennifer share her story on HVAF’s YouTube Channel: [YouTube.com/HVAFVeterans](https://www.youtube.com/HVAFVeterans)

WHAT IS VET COURT ?



In 2015, Judge (and HVAF Board Member) David Certo established a Veterans Court in Indianapolis. According to the Indianapolis Government website:

IVC provides a specialized court docket that focuses on veterans’ and active duty military members’ unique needs. It also creates a therapeutic environment where structured treatment, close court supervision, and supportive interventions address impairments that can lead to criminal activity.

When Judge Certo started working at the Indianapolis Community Court, he learned there wasn’t an established Veterans Court. He knew this would be a necessary addition to the city in order to make it a better community for everyone.

“Veterans typically aren’t dangerous once they leave the service. Their job is to become great civilians, but the military doesn’t do that because that’s not their mission,” Judge Certo said. “Our job as a community is to help veterans get their feet under them again and help them find their way in this big free world that can be really disorienting especially if you’re used to structure and a schedule.”

HVAF works alongside IVC in several different ways. IVC connects their veterans to HVAF to receive case management, essential items, housing, employment, and other necessary resources. We also allow the veterans who need to complete community service the opportunity to volunteer in the community center.

“Really the community has rallied to help. HVAF is an enormous help for us – especially for housing resources or things like volunteering, food from the pantry, and understanding and connecting with benefits,” Judge Certo said. “And that’s really great.”

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 497
American Legion Auxiliary Post 410
American Legion Post 276
American Legion Post 500
American Structurepoint
Anonymous
Applied Engineering Services, Inc.
Bailey & Wood Mortgage Lender
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
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Blacksheep Radio Control Modelers
Club Inc.
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Church of the Nativity
CNO Financial Group, Inc.
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Common Ground Charities Inc.
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EdChoice, Inc.
Enterprise Holdings Inc.
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GallantFew, Inc.
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Peterman Heating, Cooling & Plumbing
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Navy Club of the USA Indiana Squadron
Navy Club USA, USS Indianapolis Ship
35
Pittsboro United Methodist Church
PNC Bank
Raytheon Company
Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Salesforce
Solo Seniors of Indianapolis
St Anne Knights of Columbus Assembly
258
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Stitched Designs
The Enduring Campaign
United Health Group
University of Indianapolis
VFW Post 5864
Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws
Your Image Works

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Indiana Refined Water Consultant
IT & Cleaning Professionals
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Mutual Savings Bank
Novo Nordisk Research Center India-
napolis, Inc.
Regions Bank
St. John AME Church

TRIBUTES

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Lana Dee Barnes
in memory of Sgt. Joseph Russell
Barnes
Helen J. Beaver
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Steven Benz
in memory of Pete Dougherty
Karen Burns
in honor of James Shippee
Indiana Funeral Care
in memory of Bobby Parker
Edgewood Preschool Cooperative
in memory of Michael James Evans
Denise Cotter
in honor of Anadarian Sanchez
Dean & Bec Donnelson
in memory of Roy Sam Jones

Eric Gambill
in honor of all veterans
Thomas & Cynthia Hackett
in memory of John Ross & Aaron
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Carol Rawlins
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in honor of Louise Loyd
Mari Lee Worrell
in memory of Judith Ann (Worrell)
Haines

**Every effort
has been made
to ensure the
accuracy of
this listing. We
apologize for
any inadvertent
errors or
omissions.*

THANK YOU TO OUR

IN KIND

DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

Tamara Arive
Kelly Baldwin
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Jason Beatty
Steven Benz
Paul Bischoff
Warren Blackwell
Gene Boucher
Susan Bradtmueller
Tony Brancheau
Larry & Betty Brookins
Brady Brooks
Terrence Brown
Jackie Buckner
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Robert Shoobridge
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Sally Sloan
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William L. Spellman
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Sandra Stiles
Sandy Stiles
Paul Stratton
Barry Styles
Ellen Sudduth
Mark Sullivan
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Christopher Taylor
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& Brent Davis

Stuart Tollison
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Allan & Michelle Ware
Walter Watson
Vikki R. Watts
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Ms. Karen M. Zweck

ORGANIZATIONS

5.11 Tactical
Absolute Lending Logistics LLC
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Legion Auxiliary 11th District
American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 145
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 182
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 34
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 497
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 500
American Legion Post 145
American Legion Post 155
American Legion Post 34
American Legion Post 464
American Legion Post 497
American Legion Post 500
American Legion Riders Post 103
Anew Hospice
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CNO Financial Group, Inc.
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Cub Scout Pack 198
Daughters of the American Colonists
Dem Kentucky Boyz BBQ
Epsilon Sigma Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter
Epsilon Sigma Alpha: Eta Pi Sorority of Fishers

F2 Labs
Fall Creek Baptist
Family of God Church
Franklin Elks Lodge #1818
Freedom Staffing
Girl Scout Troop 1154
Girl Scout Troop 973
GoldMember Cigars
Greenfield Elks Lodge 1720
Hamilton County Extension Homemakers
Hankey Law Office
HC1
Home Depot
Hotel Tango Whiskey, LLC
Impact Networking, LLC
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Indiana Dames of The Court of Honor
Indiana Department of Workforce Development
Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
Indiana Members Credit Union
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital
Indianapolis Colts
Indianapolis Urban League
Inktel
J Cares
Jasonville American Legion Auxiliary Unit 172
John Conner DAR Chapter
JP Morgan Chase
Kings Cleaners
Knights of Columbus #3228
Knights of Columbus Council # 12387
Krush Kamp
Labcorp- VERG
Ladies Philoptochos Society
Lambda Chi Fraternity
Lavelle Gossett VFW Post 908
Major Hugh Dinwiddie DAR Chapter
Mercy Road Church
MIBOR Foundation
National Bank of Indianapolis
National Society of the Colonial Dames of America/Indiana
Navy Club USA, USS Indianapolis Ship 35
New Bethel Chapter DAR
New Hope Presbyterian Church
New Whiteland VFW Auxiliary 6978
Old National Bancorp
OVE Decors ULC
Pentecostal Bread of Life
Pepsico
Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
Phoenix International Publications
Pleasant View Elementary
Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order Of The Eastern Star, P.H.A., Jurisdiction Of Indiana, Union Chapter #1
Realife Church
Recovery Cafe Indy
Roche Diagnostics Corporation
RPM Technologies
Salesforce
Sammy L. Davis VVA Chapter 295

Samuel Bryan Chapter, NSDAR
Second Helpings
Shiel Sexton Company Inc.
Speedway Christian Church
St. Francis and Clare Catholic Church
St. Francis Leclair
Stifel Investment Services
Sun King Brewery
Task Force Omega Indiana 1
The American Legion National Headquarters
The Enduring Campaign
The Mission Continues
The Wine Group
TriHealth
Turner Construction Company
UAW Local 933
Upland Brewing Company
Urology of Indiana
US Bankruptcy Court
Veterans Memorial Chapel, Inc.
Veterans Support Council of Indiana, Inc.
VFW Auxiliary Post 6978
VFW Auxiliary Post 98
VFW District 11 Auxiliary
Walmart

**Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.*

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

CUMMINS, INC.



Cummins, Inc. has been a huge supporter with volunteering and providing monetary & in-kind donations. Last fall, they donated 530 move-in kits for our veterans!

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR STRATEGIC FUNDING PARTNERS



**SALUTE TO
SERVICE**



BOB WOODRUFF
FOUNDATION



FIFTH THIRD BANK



indy.gov



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Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority



Indiana University Health



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A Private Philanthropic Foundation



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BONE • JOINT • SPINE • MUSCLE



United Way
of Central Indiana

2021 OUTCOMES



1,329
veterans
served



270
veterans
permanently
housed



139
veterans
employed



3,442
pantry visits



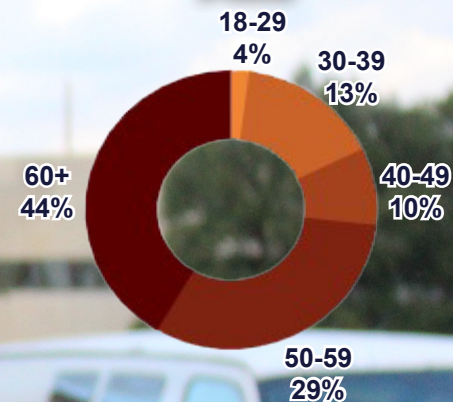
35,817
services
provided
to veterans



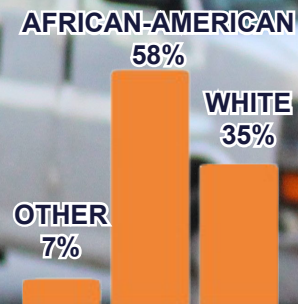
60,667
lbs of food and
clothing items
distributed
to veterans

HVAF VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS

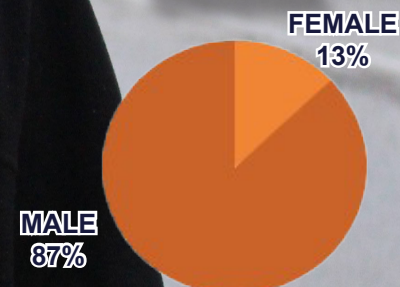
AGE



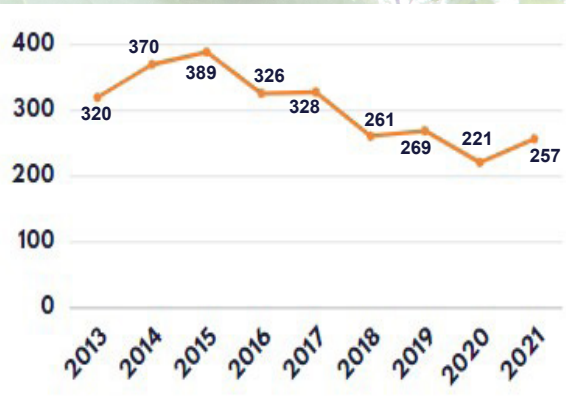
RACE



GENDER



NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS OVER TIME (2013-2021)



DISABLING CONDITIONS BY VETERAN & NON-VETERAN STATUS (2020)

Disabling Condition	Veterans	Non-Veterans
Alcohol Abuse	30.8%	15.5%
Drug Abuse	30.8%	15.6%
Physical Disability	33.3%	17.8%
Mental Illness	37.6%	25.8%

INDY'S HOMELESS VETERANS

OTHER KEY FINDINGS:

VETERANS COMPRISE 5.4% OF THE POPULATION IN MARION COUNTY (INDIANAPOLIS), BUT REPRESENT 16% OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

VETERANS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NON-VETERANS TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN

WHAT IS HVAF DOING ABOUT THIS?

STREET

OUTREACH

Day in and day out, Rodney Jackson goes out to Indy's homeless camps and develops relationships with veterans. He gives homeless veterans food, clothing, and hygiene items - and encourages them to come to HVAF for help.

Rodney served in the U.S. Navy for 17 years, before being honorably discharged. After his time in the military, Rodney experienced homelessness himself for a bit. Now, he spends his days giving back to his fellow veterans.

"I don't come here to judge, I just try to come out here to try to help them out," Rodney says. "But it takes a community to help these people. They need help with housing, mental health, hygiene, food, and clothing."

Rodney is always accepting donations such as canned foods, warm winter clothes, water, and more that he can provide to Indy's homeless veterans.

Learn more at hvaf.org.



OPERATION ALPHA

Hotel Tango Artisan Distillery's Founder and CEO, disabled U.S. Marine Corps veteran Travis Barnes, started Operation Alpha in 2014, as a way to raise funds for HVAF's operations, programs, and services.



Thanks to our amazing sponsors & attendees – HVAF raised more than \$131,000 at Operation Alpha 2021! That's about \$50,000 more than what was raised last year!

Over the years, HVAF has raised thousands at each event – through ticket purchases, silent auction items, games, whisk(e)y pulls, cigar purchases, and more. At first, the event was held at Hotel Tango, but eventually we outgrew the space. 2019 and 2021's events have taken place at The Biltwell Center (with 2020 being a virtual event).

The evening started with attendees enjoying Hotel Tango spirits, including a signature cocktail, & delicious food while playing games – including a whisk(e)y pull, cigar pull, and wine toss. A huge shoutout goes to freelance journalist Sarah Jones for being our virtual emcee. She went live on our Facebook page to show viewers everything that was happening, and interviewed attendees as well.



Virtual OA is on
YouTube!
Watch it now:
[YouTube.com/
HVAFVeterans](https://www.youtube.com/HVAFVeterans)

Save the Date!

Operation Alpha 2022
November 11 | Biltwell Event Center

For more information on tickets and sponsorship information:

hvafofindiana.org/events/

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic continued into 2021 and HVAF received increased governmental support from the Department of Veterans Affairs and City of Indianapolis to provide assistance to veterans facing homelessness. Approximately \$2M in additional revenue allowed HVAF to ensure safe and healthy living environments for veterans and their families as we experienced unprecedented rates of COVID-19 infection in our community.

In April, HVAF was also honored to receive funding for VetWorks from the Lilly Endowment as part of the Enhancing Opportunities Initiative. This five year grant allowed HVAF to launch a comprehensive workforce development program to ensure that veterans are prepared for the jobs of today and the future. We are grateful for the continued grant support of the federal, state and local governments, as well as United Way of Central Indiana, the Lilly Endowment, the Realtor Foundation, Cummins, Ortho Indy, Fifth Third, and many others who help support our mission.

We are also pleased to announce that through the generous support of our donors and those who participated in Operation Alpha, HVAF raised more funds from individual and corporate donors than ever before. We are so thankful for each of you!

We remain committed to providing high quality services to veterans in our community, and as a result, 81% of total cash revenues were spent on programs, services, and assistance to support and improve the lives of our clients in 2021.

2021 CASH EXPENDITURES

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

81%

ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT

19%

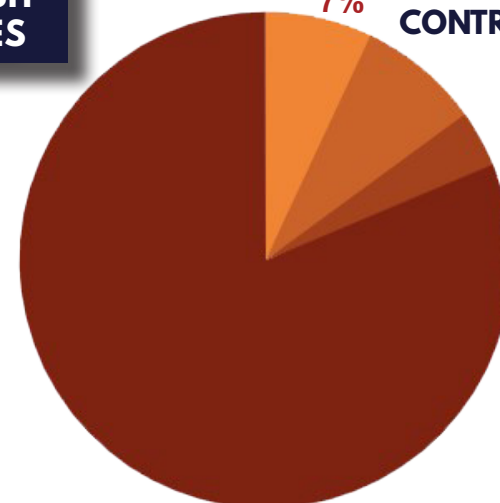
2021 CASH REVENUES

GOVERNMENT GRANTS
81.3%

OTHER GRANTS
7%

CONTRIBUTIONS
8%

PROGRAM INCOME
3.7%



#TWEETLVE TWEETLVE



Each December, we celebrate the 12 Vets of Christmas. For 12 days, we shared how a veteran's life was changed because of your support in 2021.

These are veterans who were homeless one day and in a warm safe place the next, went from joblessness to a new career, or received a life-changing gift. These are veterans who were hopeless one day and had hope the next. These are veterans YOU helped - **THANK YOU!**

1

ROBERT J.



Army veteran Robert lost his business, his home, and was fighting a mental health battle inside. He turned to HVAF for help. Robert was able to get back on his feet while living in HVAF transitional housing and, for the first time ever, could focus solely on his mental health.

2

ROBERT S.



Recovering addict, Army veteran Robert S., found himself in need of a job, an apartment, food, and clothing. HVAF helped him get every single thing he needed, starting with food & clothing, and soon followed by a job and an apartment. HVAF was even able to help him pay for training to become a Recovery Specialist to help other veterans overcome addiction.

3

LOLITA



Navy veteran Lolita was living in an abandoned house before HVAF case managers placed her into transitional housing. After 8 months of working with her case manager to overcome the barriers keeping her homeless, Lolita moved into her own apartment and started school for cyber security.

7

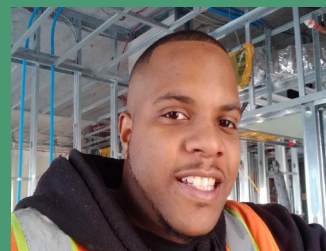
JENNIFER



HVAF took care of Marine Corps veteran Jennifer's rent & utilities while she received addiction recovery assistance and gained employment experience in the VA's vocational rehabilitation program. After successfully completing the program, Jennifer now has a full-time job at the VA and has been able to save enough money to buy a car.

8

DARNELL



Navy veteran Darnell lost his job as an electrician. Instead of being upset, he saw it as an opportunity to reevaluate his career choices. HVAF's Employment Team encouraged Darnell and turned his dreams into plans. HVAF was able to cover the tuition for Darnell to attend classes and earn his CDL license!

9

MICHAEL P.



Navy veteran Michael works as a cook for a senior care facility while living at one of HVAF's transitional housing properties. Not only did he need transportation for his job, but also to find an apartment. When his case manager called and said he is receiving a free car – he couldn't believe it. It's already life-changing as he is now able to pick up extra shifts and earn overtime!



4

STEVE



Marine Corps veteran Steve moved into HVAF transitional housing after experiencing homelessness. Soon after, his case manager nominated him to receive a life-changing gift - a new car! Not only can he get back and forth to work more easily, but he is also able to see his 12-year-old twin sons more often.

5

JAMARLON



After being incarcerated, National Army Guard veteran JaMarlon needed help finding a home and a job. He turned to HVAF, and not only was happy about receiving essential items such as food and clothing, but he was also so thankful for the case managers he worked with. JaMarlon now has a job and is living self-sufficiently in his own apartment.

6

RANDALL



With nowhere else to go, Marine Corps Randall had been recovering from major surgery in a hotel and has limited mobility. His HVAF case manager helped him get everything he needed including an electric scooter. The scooter came from a generous donor who donated in memory of her late father who also served in the Marine Corps.

10

LUCAS



HVAF helped Air Force veteran Lucas achieve his dreams of learning computer coding by helping with school tuition and a laptop. Lucas graduated from the coding program and is now gaining experience by interning with a local tech company while being groomed to work for a fortune 500 company.

11

BIANCA



When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit, Navy veteran Bianca lost her home. Thankfully, HVAF stepped in immediately and provided her with a hotel room. In April, Bianca moved into HVAF's Permanent Supportive Housing apartments: Veterans Villa. Now in permanent housing, she is able to focus on her job and working her way up.

12

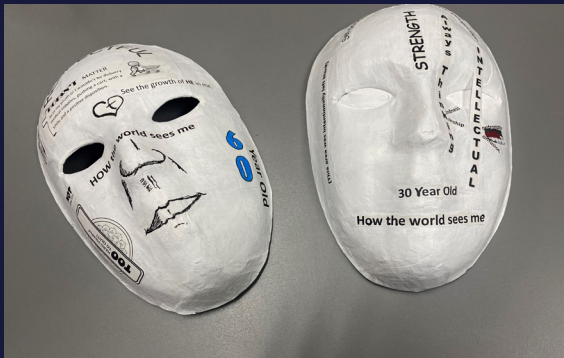
MICHAEL S.



After years of drugs and alcohol, Army veteran Michael S. knew he needed to make a change. He turned to HVAF for help, and with the support of his employment specialist, he found a job that has turned into a career. In his first interview with Toyota, Michael got hired and he plans to retire there.

**CHECK OUT
THESE STORIES
AND MORE**

**ON OUR
BLOG:
HVAF.ORG**



ROBERT: IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ASK FOR HELP!

Serving in the 70's

In 1977, Robert J. graduated from high school in Indianapolis and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army. When he left for basic training in June, it was his first time leaving the state.

"That was the best moment of my life," Robert said. "It changed me from the little shy kid that I was. My sergeants helped me learn to speak up. And they helped me learn to take pride in myself, and dig deep to find a desire that I didn't know how to find myself."

He mentioned that while serving in the military in the 1970's, he experienced discrimination as an African American. During his time in the military, he said white soldiers were favored over colored soldiers, and the sergeants were segregated.

"There were some moments where you were targeted as being a young African American," Robert said. "But I live by a mantra – too hard headed to quit."

He said that mantra helped him overcome years of racism and discrimination that he experienced.

The struggles

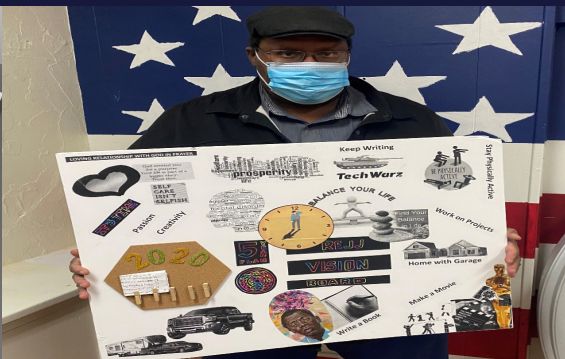
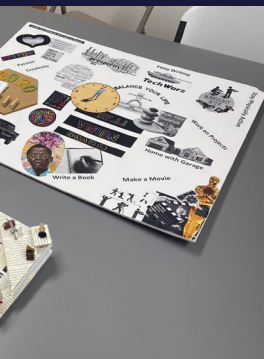
On the outside – life after the military seemed great for Robert. He ran his own computer programming and training company, and taught classes at the local college. He even got married and had a child. But on the inside – he really struggled and he didn't understand why. He spent years sweeping his problems under the rug.

"I did wind up with some mental health issues that no one wanted to talk about," Robert said.

At age 14, he said he attempted suicide twice. He said no one around him would address it. It wasn't until recently that he recognized that he couldn't hide it anymore. He knew he couldn't deal with it all alone and needed to ask for help.

"I'm just thankful these days that people are open to talk about it, back in those days no one wanted to talk about it," Robert said.

"You were labeled as one word back then: crazy."



Last year, he ran into an old friend while he was at the VA. After reconnecting, she told him how she lives at HVAF's Manchester Apartments. Manchester HVAF's largest transitional housing units for veterans to live in while they are getting back on their feet.

He decided to go on HVAF's website and fill out the form for help. The very next day, he received a phone call. Later that week – he received the keys to one of our transitional units!

Receiving help

Fast forward to one year later, Robert is now a resident at Manchester. He receives intensive case management to overcome his barriers, while also working part time at the VA.

He was also one of the first participants in HVAF's art therapy group. One of HVAF's case managers – Jaulane – started art therapy classes in spring 2020 to help the veterans with their mental health. Her goal is to help veterans process their feelings and emotions, and an opportunity for them to occupy their minds in a healthier way. One of the projects included creating a vision board. On Robert's vision board, you can find plans to make a movie, write a book, and buy a truck.

"I'm very thankful for these therapy classes," Robert said. "Each one is helping me to find me."

In addition to art therapy and housing, Robert has also enjoyed our food pantry, as well as Thanksgiving meals and Christmas presents.

Now living at Manchester for almost one year, Robert said he cannot believe how much HVAF has given him since moving in.

"HVAF is taking care of everything I need so I can take time to focus on what's going on up here," Robert said, as he pointed to his head. "I could not have asked for anything more than what HVAF has provided for me since I've been here."

You can WATCH Robert share his story on HVAF's YouTube Channel: [YouTube.com/HVAFVeterans](https://www.youtube.com/HVAFVeterans)

**READ STORIES & WATCH VIDEOS
ABOUT OUR VETERANS
ON OUR BLOG:
HVAF.ORG**



THANK YOU TO OUR

VOLUNTEERS

720

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

6,044

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$170,810

TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SISTERS VOLUNTEER IN HONOR OF KOREAN WAR VETERAN FATHER



Jen & Carolyn (left & middle), along with their friend - Jen (right), come in every Thursday to spend their day making sure the clothing pantry is organized for veteran shoppers.

When deciding where to volunteer, sisters Jen and Carolyn knew they wanted to volunteer at a veterans organization. Carolyn looked through an e-mail that listed volunteer opportunities, and one organization caught her eye: Helping Veterans And Families.

“We looked in particular to volunteer for something that meant something to us,” Jen said. “And one that resonated with our history and to honor our father.”

Jen and Carolyn’s father – Army veteran Jack Grams – fought on the front lines of the Korean War.

“He was our hero,” Jen said. “A king among men, a great husband and the best father.”

After coming to HVAF to learn more, they decided to come in once per week to organize the clothes in the basement. Their friend, also named Jen, wanted to help as well – and joins them each week. Due to COVID-19 – volunteers were cut for months, but donations kept flooding in. This led to lots of clothes piling up everywhere.

“Not many people would walk down here and be excited about the job – but we were!” Jen said. “Because we are really into organizing. We like to do that for fun.”

Their goal was to make the basement so organized to where a HVAF employee or volunteer can come down and easily grab what a veteran needs. After a few months, we could already tell a HUGE difference in the basement thanks to their hard work!

“Since day one, Jen and Carolyn (and their friend – Jen), have been some of the most enthusiastic volunteers we have here at HVAF,” HVAF’s Volunteer Coordinator said. “We are so thankful for their hard work and dedication not just to the basement – but to HVAF’s cause.”

Carolyn said she thinks their father would cry knowing they volunteer at a veterans organization.

“His service meant a great deal to him,” Carolyn said. “So he would be touched and proud.”

In 2022, they have continued volunteering each Thursday, as they were instrumental in reopening the clothing pantry to in-person shopping.

“We are happy to be here,” Carolyn said. “Whoever is interested – you should come and volunteer here because it’s great.”

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT HVAF?

E-MAIL US:
Volunteer@HVAF.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MISSION:

HVAF of Indiana houses, supports, and advocates for all veterans and their families to help them achieve the best possible quality of life.

VISION:

Hope, housing, and self-sufficiency for all veterans and their families.

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