

# VET NET Newsletter

## October 2023



# VETERANS' OUTREACH



Serving our veterans in Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia & New York since 1994



Platinum  
Transparency  
**2023**

**Candid.**

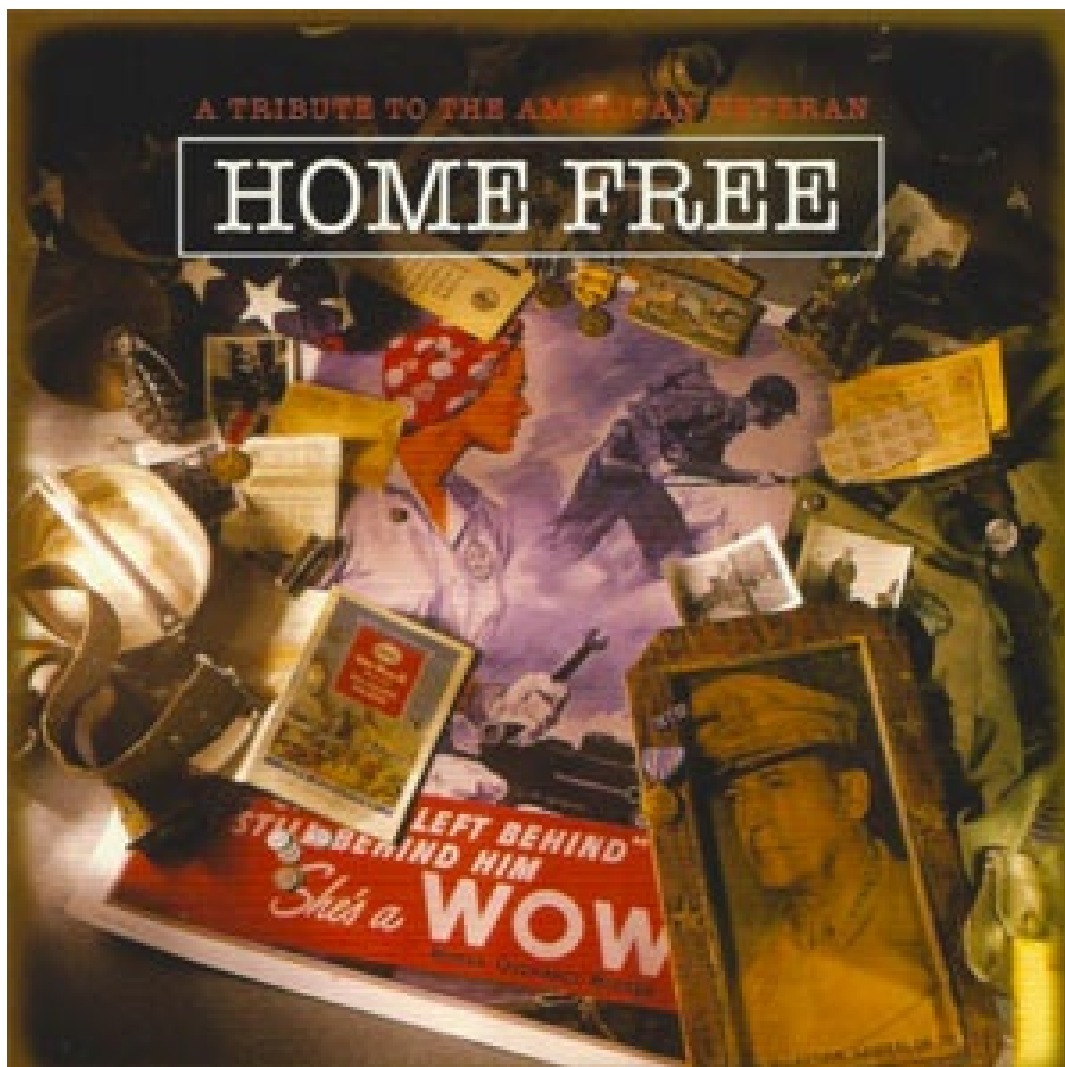
Charity Navigator

100%



Four-Star Charity

## Patriotic Music Project



Around the turn of the century, Veterans Outreach was in its infancy. Only 6 years out of the gate and still learning to figure out how to raise funds to help with the mission.

Our mission was to help as many disadvantaged veterans as possible.

I came up with the idea about developing a patriotic CD. I was fortunate enough to have a director of the charity, Bob Julian, join me in the advisement of the development as well. His background was music, and he was a promoter.

Not knowing what talents we might get, but it was quite an experience to put it together. The ups and downs, disappointments, surprises; what a roller coaster ride!

Filled with all kinds of emotions trying to get to the goal of making one of the finest patriotic CDs ever.

So, I started to advertise in the Pittsburgh press. I was an entertainer in Pittsburgh and with the city's music heritage and background, I thought it would be a good place to start.

I was advertising for artists and what I got was a plethora of cassettes with renditions of patriotic music. Not the professionals that I was hoping for, but people coming up with ideas like playing a tuba in a bathroom environment! I think the song, or the rendition was "America the Beautiful"! What was he thinking?

One gentleman had contacted us out of the Pittsburgh area, and it was one of the few professionals that did contact me. I was surprised that he was from the same school that I was from, and it was amazing to learn of the accomplishments and his contacts

and relations were really strong in Nashville. It was the Corbin/Hanner band. They had a huge following in the region. They created a great deal of jingles for Pepsi-Cola, King's restaurants, and songs for the Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, Kenny Rogers, and the list of accomplishments are unbelievable.

I remember walking into David Hanner's home and witnessing a dozen or so guitars that were hanging on the walls of his home. You could see this guy is serious about his trade. Anyways, as I started meeting with them, they directed me, not to just advertise in Pittsburgh, but if I wanted real results, I needed to advertise in Nashville.

I was led to a magazine newspaper called Music Row. Corbin/Hanner also directed me towards a friend of theirs named Rick Lance from Nashville. Rick was extraordinarily instrumental and helped us pull together the CD. Corbin/Hanner and Rick Lance offered a song, each for the start of our CD. "Son of America" and "Sarge", respectively, were the first two. We were going to give the name "American Pride" to the CD. Rick started using his label to compile those songs, and others, that would come through the pipeline and orchestrated basically all the artists and business that were coming our way. He also did the photography and artwork for the entire CD, and he helped with the music development and orchestrated the Sound Studio for other artists that would come through. Bob Corbin was also the engineer on the music mix, and he helped put the entire CD together.

As things progressed, I was getting cassettes and offerings by a myriad of famous artists that included Lee Greenwood, Kenny Rogers, Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, The Gatlin Brothers, T Graham Brown, Mo Brandy, etc. We selected 21 artists to be on the CD.

I thought this was bigger than big. If it wasn't for Bob Corbin and Rick Lance, I don't think I would have gotten the response that we did.

We went out looking for a manager to pull all these groups together and we found somebody, which gave us one hell of a setback because she took our money and ran. We didn't have a lot of money for development at that time and so the theft was almost unbearable and almost broke the back of the development for the CD. We picked up the pieces and went forward without a collaborator and Rick Lance stepped up for us again and took over the reins.

Another setback was when we went to orchestrate the recordings, Rick Lance's label, we found out that we couldn't because of the licensing that 10 of the artists were signed to Universal Records, which had them tied up.

The reason we didn't go with Universal Records was they required an upfront order of 50,000 CDs. We would be on the hook for close to a quarter million dollars and certainly we couldn't afford that or have it underwritten, especially being a young charity.

We ended up with just 11 of those artists. Some of the artists came to us and recorded their offering and the legendary Sound Emporium in Nashville. One of those artists was T. Graham Brown.

I will never forget for when I was standing in the hall and T was entering the building and rushing down the hallway and blew past me in a half gallop. Then when he was about 15 ft. past me and he made a U-turn and came back to me and asked one question, is this for the veterans? I said yes, it is Mr. T! Then he said great proceeded

to sing and record our signature song,  
"Home Free".

Now the timeline on this of all this happening was about 3 years. That time frame included the tragedy of 9/11. Then Rick got together with us after the incident and said he was thinking that the term American pride now is being overused and he was afraid that people would get a feeling that we were using a popular phrase which was American Pride. So that's when he determined that T's song would be best to describe our CD and its meaning... of protected freedoms by our military, the watchmen of us all.

Another memorable group of artists that came into the Sound Emporium to record their song was the "Chandler Sisters". Bob Corbin was their agent and they just got done with a tour for Kenny Rogers - identical triplets.

I had never met triplets before, they were all three standing in front of me talking to me and I was sort of mesmerized and taken back by their identical looks. I kept on looking at pieces of jewelry or some sort of thing that I could try to remember their names with, but I still found myself confused.

The cost factor was reduced greatly by Rick Lance's negotiating for us a special deal on the studio and he thought it was proper that we would offer \$1,000 to all the artists that would donate their song to our charity and of course our CD development. I believe they all donated their time and their talents and their songs to our charity. I am very grateful and honored that they would do this for the mission.

All the struggles of pulling it together were very much worth it. It would never have been completed without Rick Lance Bob Corbin, helping finish the project and helping create one of the finest patriotic compilations of tremendous artists and songs that I believe ever was created.

The songs are timeless and uplifting.

At this printing, I think that we were up around 25,000 downloads and CDs over the years. A far cry from where it should be, but we are still offering it and selling it online.



This product is sponsored by **Veterans' Outreach, Inc.**

All proceeds from CD sales and related merchandise fund the PROGRAM SERVICES of "**Veterans' Outreach, Inc.**"

Membership Information and single digital downloads are available at **veteransoutreach.com**

In America - **Ricochet**

Home Free - **T. Graham Brown**

Somewhere In America - **James Dean Hicks**

Sarge - **Rick Lance**

Katie And John - **Chandler**

Son Of America - **Corbin Hanner**

Can't Kick The Country Out Of Me - **New Glory**

Americana - **Moe Bandy**

The Unknown Soldier - **Don Ellis**

Letter To The Front - **Sheri Jo Porter**

Arlington - **Chris Ward**

All The Unsung Heroes - **Lane Brody**

Executive Producers: John Oliver Ely and Robert Julian

**DUKE**  
records

Home Free CD Collection copyright © 2003 Duke Records, Nashville, TN

Unauthorized duplication is prohibited.



I promise you it will be addictive. We all need a lift of patriotism in our lives and that's one way that you can keep that promise of freedom in front of you, as a true reminder of what we have is so very precious to all of us.

<https://veteransoutreach.org/product/home-free-mp3-download/>

Any feedback, suggestions, interest in getting involved, I want to talk to you.  
Email me at [jely@veteransoutreach.org](mailto:jely@veteransoutreach.org)

May God bless our veterans.

John Ely

President Veterans' Outreach

**U.S. Navy Established 1775**



## Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 29 years, we have helped veterans more than 100,000 times. Our motto is to "respectfully serve and honor all veterans".

We have developed programs that perform our mission to help veterans that include the **Direct Aid Program**, the **Outreach Program**, the **Heroes' Closet Program**, and the **Freedom Food Pantry Program**.

[Read More →](#)

## Spotlight on Service



### Man's Best Friend (A Sincere Thanks to Buster's Brigade)

A couple of weeks ago, we received a crucial call from a church in Stark County, reaching out with an urgent request. They were determined to assist a homeless veteran who had his loyal companion, a bully-breed dog, by his side. The veteran faced a critical need to enter a rehabilitation facility, but a significant hurdle stood in his way – the facility's strict no-pet policy. Consequently, he adamantly refused to go, torn between seeking help and leaving behind his faithful friend.

In their search for guidance and support, the church contacted us, seeking assistance in this heartwrenching situation. That's when Buster's Brigade came to the rescue!



Buster's Brigade, an exceptional rescue organization, has consistently demonstrated their dedication. They provide us with monthly supplies of cat and dog food for veterans in need, and they have even gone the extra mile by covering medical expenses for some of our veterans' dogs facing various health issues.

Thanks to Donna from Buster's Brigade, a ray of hope emerged. She was able to secure a rehab facility for the veteran where he wouldn't be separated from his beloved canine companion. This outcome fills us with immense gratitude, and we will forever be indebted to Buster's Brigade for their unwavering support.

Here's part 2 of a story that unfolded on the same day. Bob was assisting another homeless veteran who had arrived with his faithful dog by his side. This veteran, just like the previous one, was facing a challenging situation. We provided him with essential supplies, including food, and arranged for a week-long stay in a hotel to ensure he had a safe and comfortable place to stay. Additionally, we offered him valuable information about future housing options to help him get back on his feet. Remarkably, during this very moment, Donna from Buster's Brigade happened to be in our office, generously delivering 100 Daffin candy bars that they had donated to our veterans. Donna's commitment to our cause knows no bounds. She immediately recognized the urgent need of the homeless veteran's dog and took swift action. Donna secured a veterinarian appointment for the dog and, incredibly, Buster's Brigade is covering the entire veterinarian bill. The veteran was visibly moved to tears with relief, understanding that his dog is not just a pet but his only family. These two stories encapsulate the remarkable support we have received from Buster's Brigade and the incredible impact it has had on the lives of homeless veterans and their beloved companions.

## Donate Now

We thank all of you that have supported our Mission through your donations, thoughts, and prayers. You made it possible to **help tens of thousands of Veterans** with financial assistance, food, and clothing. Your pledge of support is needed to continue our mission to serve and honor all veterans. **Will you make a small monthly pledge of \$10 or more? This gift can immediately make a difference for a Veteran in need.**



**Donate Now**



You can also call 888-2-VET-NET and speak with Teri Ely to donate.

## Columbus Day



Columbus Day 2023 will be celebrated as a Federal Holiday. This day has been celebrated in the United States since the 18th century to commemorate Christopher Columbus' arrival to the Americas in 1492. The holiday has been observed on the second Monday in October since 1971. This year, Columbus Day falls on October 9th, and all federal offices will be closed to honor this day in American history. We encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the impact of Christopher Columbus' journey and the lasting effects it has had on our country.

## Indigenous Peoples' Day





**Indigenous Peoples' Day** is a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. It began as a counter-celebration held on the same day as the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day, which honors Italian explorer Christopher Columbus.

## Halloween and Mexican Day of the Dead



Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2023 will occur on Tuesday, October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

[Read More →](#)



The Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos), is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration. A blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture, the holiday is celebrated each year from October 31-November 2. While October 31 is Halloween, November 2 is All Souls Day or the Day of the Dead. According to tradition, the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 and the spirits of children can rejoin their families for 24 hours. The spirits of adults can do the same on November 2.

[Read More →](#)

## Events





**Now Open! Mon-Wed & Saturday!**

**10am-5pm**

*Come See Us!*

**VO DEPOT**  
**17 COLONIAL DRIVE**  
**YOUNGSTOWN, OH**

**GREAT FINDS FOR EVERYONE!**

**CLOTHING \* FURNITURE \* ANTIQUES \* & MORE!**

★ **Proceeds Benefit Veterans** ★

Learn more about us at [www.veteransoutreach.org](http://www.veteransoutreach.org)

Have something you would like to donate?

Contact us at [vodepot@veteransoutreach.org](mailto:vodepot@veteransoutreach.org)

Call 330-755-5792



Use this link to get all information on  
WRTA Holiday Lights Campaign

<https://www.wrtaonline.com/about/community-connections/holiday-lights/>



WRTA is once again putting the spotlight on organizations that Light Up the Valley all year long with the 2023 WRTA Holiday Lights Campaign! Leaders of area non-profits who believe the work they have done has been exceptional and beneficial to the Valley can nominate their organizations.

Click the link to nominate your organization by October 20 — <https://bit.ly/45mmzDI>



wртаonline.com

**Nominate Non-Profits for WRTA's  
Holiday Lights Campaign - Western R...**

[Learn more](#)



**Bosco's**

FRIENDS  
**HELPING**  
FRIENDS

IN-STORE  
ONLY



**FRIENDS  
HELPING  
FRIENDS**

*is a day to enjoy great shopping,  
super savings and the chance  
to help thousands of charitable  
organizations at 49 Bosco's  
stores in Pennsylvania, Delaware,  
New Jersey, Maryland, New York,  
Connecticut, Ohio and Rhode Island.*

*\*\*Excludes West Virginia.*

**WIN A  
\$100  
BOSCO'S  
SHOPPING  
SPREE**

**EACH STORE WILL  
GIVE AWAY A  
\$100 BOSCO'S  
GIFT CARD**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2023**

**ALL BOSCO'S STORES\*\*  
8AM-11PM**

Shopping Pass Proceeds Benefit the  
Participating Non-Profit Organization  
of Your Choice

**BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT  
FRIENDS ARE FOR!**

**25% OFF** \* **LOWEST  
SALE PRICE**  
**SHOPPING  
PASS**

DONATE \$5 TO YOUR FAVORITE PARTICIPATING NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION AND GET A 25% OFF\* SHOPPING PASS THAT  
CAN BE USED ALMOST **ANYWHERE** IN THE STORE.

\*15% and 10% off certain items. Exclusions are listed on the "Friends Helping Friends" shopping pass. If you do not have a shopping pass, you will be able to purchase one on the day of the event from a participating non-profit organization.





IRON WORKERS

# FALL RAFFLE

Saturday, November 11th

Drawing at 3pm at YHD

Benefitting:

**VETERANS OUTREACH**

VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG

**\$10 DONATION  
ENTERS YOU TO WIN!**

1st Prize - Queen size H-D T-shirt quilt

2nd Prize - 2, H-D T-shirt Pillows

3rd Prize - 1, H-D T-shirt Pillow



FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL:

Mike (330) 792-4365

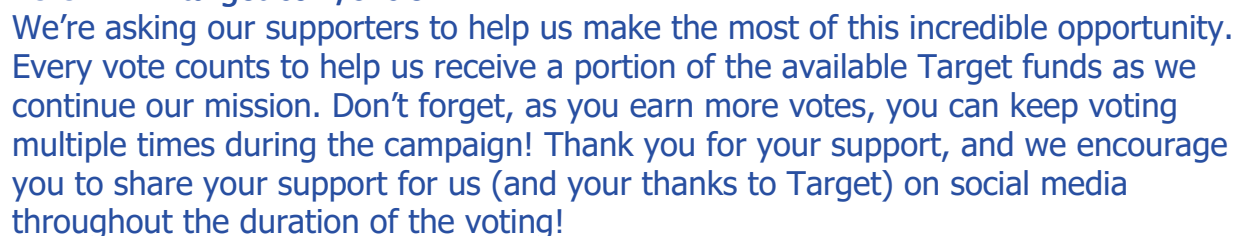


**Keepsake**  
T-SHIRT QUILTS

tshirtquilts.com







# We've partnered with Target Circle.

Vote by December 31.



NONPROFIT PARTNER

## Calendar Of Important Dates

### October

#### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Month of October

#### Ms. Veteran America Pageant

Dates Pending

#### Columbus Day

Second Monday in October

#### Afghanistan War Began 2001

Oct. 7th

#### U.S. Navy Established 1775

Oct. 13

#### Military World Games

October (Summer Games to be held in 2023) TBA

#### Grenada Campaign Began 1983

Oct. 23rd

#### Day of the Deployed

Oct. 26

#### Navy Day

Oct. 27

#### Halloween

## Heroes' Passage In Kentucky

Veterans' Outreach was donated 110 acres of Kentucky wilderness. Plans are underway for the development of Heroes' Passage, a veteran retreat with a healing environment for veterans that are having problems with transitioning to civilian life.

[Read More →](#)



### Veterans' Outreach



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F: (330) 755-5930

**Alabama**  
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Hartselle, AL 35640  
P: (256) 778-3266  
F: (256) 778-03267

**Florida**  
5650 Park Blvd. N  
Ste. 3  
Pinellas Park, FL  
33781  
P: (727) 317-3712  
F: (727) 317-3713

**Kentucky**  
512 E. Main St.  
Grayson, KY 41143  
P: (606) 475-0216  
F: (606) 475-0217

**New York**  
P: (888) 283-8638  
**West VA**  
P: (888) 283-8638

Veterans' Outreach | 7 Belgrade Ave, Liberty, OH 44505

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