

VET NET Newsletter
December 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

Legacy of Hope

December 7, 2023

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, marked a pivotal moment in world history. It is unbelievable that my father, William Ely, was a medic on that fateful day stationed at Hickam Field. It was 82 years ago, and I am hopeful that people of the world will remember that day 100 years from now.

Lest we forget!

Our nation joined the free people of the world in battle against the forces of tyranny that sought to enslave the masses and impose a new world order of blind hatred and oppression.

The long struggle that ensued came to a merciful end on September 2, 1945. As the guns went silent the world awoke to a new reality.

The destructive potential of nations at arms had been realized on a scale never before seen and left our world scarred and broken.

In the fall of 1945, the bitter and costly work of war was over, and now the hard work of peace had begun; a peace that could only be realized if former foes could become allies and the price of war too costly.

The wreckage of the USS *Arizona* remains as a monument to the events of World War II and to the legacy of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve our most cherished values and secure victory.

The sculpture of the Tree of Life, chiseled in the side of the USS *Arizona* Memorial reminds us that the ultimate prize of victory was not just the cessation of arms, but an expression of hope for the realization of a lasting peace.

In 1941, our nation "Remembered Pearl Harbor" in order to defeat a determined foe. Now we remember to embrace, not just the victory of arms but the promise of a renewed commitment to that hope.

Our generation, and the generations to follow will always honor the sacrifice of our veterans by tirelessly striving to maintain and cherish the legacy of hope.

My father would be proud that Pearl Harbor is still remembered that day and the

event is still etching such a profound message to all of humanity that Liberty is worth dying for.

Pacific Historic Parks National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 82nd Commemoration



Wreaths Across America



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 →](#)

Humana's Compassion

Dear Veterans' Outreach Community,

In the spirit of sharing stories that inspire and uplift, we're overjoyed to bring you some wonderful news. Humana, a beacon of compassion and community commitment, has recently approved our sponsorship request, marking a significant milestone in our shared mission.

A Legacy of Service: 29 Years and Counting

For nearly three decades, Veterans' Outreach has stood as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives. Our programs, including the Direct Aid Program, Freedom Food Pantry Program, Heroes' Closet Program, and Outreach Program, have collectively impacted over 100,000 veterans in their times of need.

The Direct Aid Program swiftly addresses immediate needs such as shelter, utilities, and auto repair, having assisted 734 veterans in 2023 alone. The Freedom Food Pantry Program provides a consistent supply of nutritious meals, while the Heroes' Closet Program offers clothing, household goods, and health essentials. The Outreach Program not only supports part-time employment for senior and disabled veterans but also raises awareness and vital funds for our cause.

Humana's Sponsorship

We're deeply honored to announce Humana's sponsorship. This invaluable support ensures the continuity of our programs, allowing us to reach more veterans facing challenging times and expanding our impact on their lives.

A Transparent Commitment: 80/20 Financial Split

Transparency has always been at the core of our operations. Our financials proudly maintain an 80/20 split, with 80% of the funds directly allocated to veterans' services and only 20% toward management expenses. This commitment ensures that your support goes where it matters most.

Celebrating Impact: Join Us on Social Media

Our journey with Humana is not just about financial support; it's about building a community that cares. Join us on our Facebook page for regular updates and inspiring stories. Let's amplify the positive impact of Humana's sponsorship together!

Looking Ahead: Together, We Make a Difference

We invite each of you to be a part of our story. Together, we can create a ripple effect of change, transforming the lives of those who have dedicated themselves to preserving our freedom.

With sincere gratitude and excitement for the future,

Teri Ely

Teri Ely

Executive Director

What We Do Everyday



We are beyond honored to express our deepest gratitude to WRTA for including Veterans' Outreach in the 2023 Holiday Lights campaign. This spotlight on service not only brightens our organization's mission but also illuminates the incredible work of 11 other outstanding organizations.

Hats off to the incredible Co-Chairs – Shari Harrell, Barb Ewing, and Vince Brancaccio! Your leadership has not only sparked the magic of this campaign but has also given Veterans' Outreach the opportunity to share our dedication to our veterans.

A big shout-out to the sponsors who made this possible – WKBN 27 Youngstown OH, BOP Social, and First National Bank. Your support has added a special glow to our collective efforts.

WRTA, your commitment to community engagement and spotlighting local organizations is truly commendable. Thank you for being a guiding light and providing us with a platform to share our mission of supporting veterans during the holiday season.

As we bask in the warmth of this acknowledgment, we eagerly anticipate future collaborations. Together, we can continue making a positive impact on the lives of our veterans.

To our supporters and fellow organizations, let's keep the light of service alive this holiday season and beyond. Your continued support fuels our mission.



Generosity Knows No Bounds

We were touched by the kindness of a sweet retired couple who paid us a visit yesterday. Their donation, a pickup truck filled to the brim with non-perishable foods for the Freedom Food Pantry, left us in awe. Among the treasures they brought were all kinds of soups, vegetables, boxed items, and an abundance of holiday "fixins." Their heartwarming gesture comes from a place of pure generosity, as they simply want to make a difference in the lives of our soldiers. Join us in saluting this remarkable couple for their selfless dedication to supporting our troops and contributing to a brighter, more nourished community.

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.

Event

December 6 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Veterans Warming Items Distribution

Veterans Outreach New Complex 17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH, United States
Youngstown Blue Coats will be providing Free Winter Essentials for Veterans Location:
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44505 Coats, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Boots &
More Joining Us for a day of giving back to the brave men and women who've
sacrificed so much for our nation. Make this winter a little warmer!

Veterans Warming Items Distribution

**Youngstown Blue Coats will be providing
Free Winter Essentials for Veterans**

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Veterans' Outreach New Complex
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505

◆ **Coats, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Boots & More** ◆

**Join us for a day of giving back to the brave men
and women who've sacrificed so much for our
nation. Make this Winter a little warmer.**

◆ **This event is exclusively for veterans.** ◆



Target Circle

We've partnered with Target Circle.

Vote by December 31.



NONPROFIT PARTNER



News

December



First Sunday Of Advent
Dec. 3rd

Somalia Campaign Began
Dec. 5th 1992

National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
Dec. 7th

Hanukkah Begins
Dec. 7th

War Declared on Japan
Dec. 8th 1941

Human Rights Day
Dec. 10th

Germany and Italy
Declared War on U.S

Military Discounts for Christmas and Holiday Decorating



1. Christmas Decor

Christmas Decor is continuing its [Decorated Family Program](#) to "transform the homes of service men and women into magical winter wonderlands this holiday season." The program is designed as a morale booster for military families across the nation who will spend the holidays separated from their loved ones.

2. Trees for Troops

Christmas isn't the same without a festive tree. Trees for Troops, a

Dec. 11th 1941

Iraq War Ended 2011

Bill Of Rights Day

Dec. 15th

Panama Campaign Began 1989

U.S. Space Force Established

2019

Dec. 20th

Winter Begins

Dec. 22

Christmas Day

Dec. 25th

Kwanzaa

Dec. 26th

Official End of WWII 1946

Kosovo Campaign Ended 2013

Dec. 31st

program of the [Christmas SPIRIT Foundation](#), provides free, farm-grown Christmas Trees to military service members and their families through donations, sponsorships, grants and the work of many volunteers.

3. Home Depot and Lowes

No matter the holiday, Home Depot and Lowes have both indoor and outdoor decorations and lights you need for your home. And when the holiday season is officially over, you can conveniently store away your artificial tree, ornaments and wreaths in one of their many Christmas decor storage options. Military families love the 10% year-round military discounts offered at both [Home Depot](#) and [Lowes](#). If your house needs it, Home Depot and Lowes will have it.

4. Michaels and Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores

Spouses, kids and service members can all get crafty with DIY holiday decorations for little cost. Stock up on arts and crafts supplies by using military discounts at [Michaels](#) and [Jo-Ann Fabric](#).

[Read More →](#)

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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