

VET NET Newsletter
June 2026



VETERANS'
OUTREACH



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



Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

The Story Woven Into Our Flag

A Message from John Ely, Founder & President, Veterans' Outreach

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th year of independence, I find myself reflecting on one of the most powerful symbols ever created, the American flag. Through wars, triumphs, hardships, and victories, the Stars and Stripes have flown proudly over a nation built on courage, sacrifice, and freedom. Few symbols in the world inspire the emotion, pride, and gratitude that our flag does.

For generations of Americans, it has represented hope. It has welcomed service members home from war, comforted grieving families, marked historic achievements, and stood strong during our nation's most difficult moments. Its meaning runs far deeper than cloth and thread, it represents the ideals, sacrifices, and unwavering spirit that built and continue to sustain this country.

Thirty-two years ago, when I founded Veterans' Outreach, I knew our mission would always center on serving those who served us. Every morning begins with a prayer circle. At the center stands the American flag. Together, we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, honor our nation, and pray for veterans who may be struggling physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

Three years ago, when I purchased what is now our National Headquarters—the original corporate headquarters of Arby's, I wanted every veteran who passed by to know exactly what stood inside those walls: hope, service, compassion, and unwavering support.

As we restored and renovated the property, one question remained: How would we proudly display the symbol that means so much to our veterans?

The answer was simple.

We installed a 50-foot flagpole in front of our main building and raised an American flag measuring 18 feet wide. I wanted it visible from every direction along the roadway. I wanted every veteran, family member, volunteer, and supporter to see it and immediately know they had arrived at a place that honors service and values sacrifice.

When I look at our flag, I don't simply see red, white, and blue. I see generations of Americans who stood in defense of freedom. I see the courage of those who

answered the call when their nation needed them most. In many ways, the blood, sweat, sacrifice, and DNA of countless patriots are woven into its very fabric.

Even after all these years, it never gets old.

When I stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, I still become emotional. My heart fills with gratitude for the men and women who carried our banner through battlefields, across oceans, and into history. Many returned home. Many did not.

Yet their stories remain forever written in the pages of freedom.

This month, I encourage you to take a few moments to learn about the remarkable history of our American flag and the meaning behind every star and stripe. It is a story of perseverance, unity, and the enduring spirit of a nation that has overcome great challenges and achieved extraordinary things.

As our country approaches 250 years of independence, may we never forget those who protected it, those who sacrificed for it, and those who continue to serve it today.

God bless our nation.

God bless our veterans.

And God bless the flag that has proudly waved over America for nearly 250 years, and, with His grace, will continue to wave for generations to come.

John Ely

Founder & President
Veterans' Outreach

Please visit VeteransOutreach.org, and feel free to reach out with any questions or inquiries at JEly@VeteransOutreach.org.

Get to know us. Get involved.

To serve is an honor.

Veterans' Outreach is honored to announce that we have earned the 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, the highest level of recognition a nonprofit can achieve for accountability and openness.

This designation reflects our long-standing commitment to doing things the right way—serving veterans with integrity, stewardship, and respect. The Platinum Seal ensures that our supporters, partners, and the public can clearly see how Veterans' Outreach operates, how resources are used, and the real impact being made for veterans and their families.

For more than three decades, Veterans' Outreach has remained focused on one mission: never turning our backs on veterans in need. Earning this seal affirms that our work is not only driven by heart, but guided by responsibility and transparency.

We invite you to visit our Candid nonprofit profile to learn more about our programs, leadership, and impact:

<https://app.candid.org/profile/7081231/veterans-outreach-22-3272976?>

To our donors, volunteers, and community partners—this recognition belongs to you. Your trust, dedication, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible. Together, we remain committed to honoring service, strengthening lives, and standing up for those who once stood for us.

Platinum
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Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 30 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 →](#)



Come On In!

GREAT FINDS FOR EVERYONE!

CLOTHING * FURNITURE * ANTIQUES * & MORE!

Sales Benefit Veterans Financial Services

20% Discount to Veterans

Vouchers Available for Veterans in Need by Request

Open Monday-Wednesday & Saturday!

17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH

10am-4pm



Youngstown Foundation Event Center

Located at Veterans' Outreach,
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505

Book Your Event Today!

- 4,000 sq ft of space
- Perfect for any occasion
- Kitchen available
- Tables and chairs provided for up to 80 guests
- Available for bookings on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with some evening availability during the week
- All proceeds benefit Veterans' Outreach
- Accessible bathrooms on-site
- Call for pricing and availability

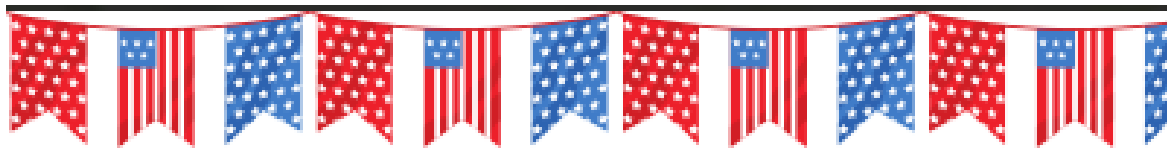
tely@veteransoutreach.org

330-755-5792 x2

Support our veterans and book your event at the Youngstown Foundation Event Center today!



Events



HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS: NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE & PET FOOD COLLECTION

**"Saving Our Seniors" of Mahoning Valley in
collaboration with Home Instead and First Light
Home Care to gather non-perishable food items for
local veterans and their pets.**

APRIL 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

Drop-Off Locations:

Home Instead

**657 E. State St., Suite 2,
Salem, OH 44460
P: 330-729-1233**

First Light

**4390 Mahoning Ave,
Youngstown, OH 44515
P: 330-318-3234**



"Saving Our Seniors"
of
Mahoning Valley



VA NORTHEAST OHIO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Carl Nunziato Youngstown VA Clinic

VET FEST

JUNE 6TH, 2026
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Resources & Support for Veterans & Their Families
On-site Registration for VA Healthcare • Walk-In Immunization Clinic

RESOURCES - BBQ - MUSIC - FAMILY FUN

1815 Belmont Ave. Youngstown, OH 44504



Join Us!

Veterans' Outreach
will be at the

4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT!

A FUN DAY FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

STOP BY THE VETERANS' OUTREACH TABLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES WE PROVIDE TO VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

BASKET RAFFLE!

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

BIKE GIVEAWAYS!

**SATURDAY
JUNE 27, 2026**

**12:00 PM –
3:00 PM**

Walmart
1300 DORAL DR.
POLAND, OH 44514

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY TEAMS

TACTICAL & EMERGENCY VEHICLE DISPLAYS

SAFETY EDUCATION & TRAINING

GAMES, PRIZES & RAFFLES

FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!

BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Veterans' Outreach CAR SHOW & Swap Meet



Cars, Trucks, Jeeps, Motorcycles

Food & Drinks
Entry Fee: \$15

Vendor Fee: \$20

Tool Basket

Raffle! Tickets: \$5 for
1 & \$10 for 3



9AM-3PM

Sign in at 9AM

Judging at 1:30PM

Trophies at 2:30PM

Veterans Outreach

512 East Main St
Grayson, KY 41143

For More Information Contact Us: 606-475-0216
www.veteransoutreach.org

Support For Our Veterans

Your generosity has been instrumental in propelling Veterans' Outreach toward new heights, and we extend our deepest thanks for your continued commitment to our mission.

Honoring a Gift of Hope: Thank You to the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington



Veterans' Outreach is honored and grateful to announce that we have been selected as one of 164 nonprofit organizations to receive funding through the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington's Healthy Communities Initiative. This year, the Foundation awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants across 20 counties to address critical health and wellness needs throughout Appalachia and the tri-state region.

We are especially thankful to receive a grant of \$21,862 to support our project:

Helping Veterans in Grayson, KY – Building Services & Food Support

This funding will allow us to expand our outreach to veterans in Eastern Kentucky — a region facing significant challenges related to rural poverty, limited access to services, food insecurity, and health disparities.

Because of the Pallottine Foundation's generosity, Veterans' Outreach will be able to provide:

- Healthy food and clean water through our Freedom Food Pantry
- Warm clothing, hygiene items, and essential resources for veterans in need
- Phone and gas cards to help veterans reach medical appointments and critical services
- New computers and a cash register system to improve recordkeeping and pantry operations
- Safety supplies, including opioid reversal kits, a secure medication cabinet, and sharps containers

Thank You to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous \$2,500 donation to Veterans' Outreach. This meaningful gift will be used for Direct Aid, helping us provide immediate support to veterans and their families when they need it most. From essential supplies to critical assistance, contributions like this make a real difference in the lives of those who have served our country.

We are grateful for organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution who continue to honor the spirit of service and patriotism by supporting our nation's veterans.

Thank you for standing with us and for helping us continue our mission.

Thank You to TCC



Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the TCC for \$2500. This support assists us to be able to serve and support our veterans.

Trumbull County Corrections

We are beyond excited to announce that the Trumbull County Corrections has donations for Veterans Outreach from their Food drive.

Thank You, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley



Veterans Outreach sincerely thanks the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley for their generous \$5,000 grant supporting our Direct Aid Program. This funding helps us provide timely, essential assistance to veterans and their families during moments of urgent need. We are grateful for their continued commitment to strengthening our community and supporting those who have served.

Thank You, Saving Our Seniors of the Mahoning Valley

Thank You for the food & pet food drive.

Thank You, Walmart Foundation!



Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their continued generosity and unwavering commitment to veterans in need. Their support has allowed us to expand our programs and services, providing crucial assistance to those who have served our country. With their help, we can ensure that veterans receive the care, stability, and resources they deserve. Thank you for making a real difference!

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust



Charitable Service Trust

With Gratitude to the DAV Charitable Service Trust

Veterans' Outreach is incredibly grateful to the DAV Charitable Service Trust for their generous support through a \$35,000 restricted grant awarded to our Veterans' Outreach Empowerment Initiative.

This funding will directly support the work we do every day, providing case management, supportive services, and financial assistance to at-risk veterans and their families. It allows us to step in when it matters most and help create stability for those who have served our country.

Support like this makes a real difference. Because of the DAV Charitable Service Trust, we are able to reach more veterans, meet more needs, and continue standing in the gap for those who need us most.

Because of your support, we can continue showing up for veterans and their families when they need it most, thank you for helping make that possible.

Hollywood Gaming



For years now, Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course has been a steadfast supporter of ours. We are so grateful for them and their kindness. These

much-needed funds go towards renovating our new building location. Thank you, Hollywood Gaming!

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



News

June



PTSD Awareness Month
Month of June

D-Day
June 6

Women Veterans Day
June 12

Army Birthday
June 14

U.S. Flag Day
June 14

Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
June 23

PTSD Awareness Day
June 27

PTSD Month



The VFW continues its advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, fighting to expand VA's mental health care tools and programs, including moving beyond standard treatment options, championing written, informed consent, and eliminating the administrative red tape so veterans in rural and underserved areas can access mental health specialists without delay. Throughout June, the VFW encourages all veterans, their families and communities to:

- **Educate and Recognize:** Learn the signs of PTSD and how to better support the veterans in your life.
- **Break the Silence:** Foster open, compassionate conversations about mental wellness so we can break down the outdated stigmas that keep someone from seeking help.
- **Offer Connection:** Reach out and check on your battle buddies. A simple call or visit can help bridge the gap of isolation.

[Read More →](#)

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



Ohio Corporate	Alabama	Florida	Kentucky	New York
17 Colonial Drive Youngstown, OH 44505 Phone: 888-2VETNET Fax: 330-755-5930	807 Midway St. Hartselle, AL 35640 P: (256) 778-3266 F: (256) 778-03267	5650 Park Blvd. N Ste. 3 Pinellas Park, FL 33781 P: (727) 317-3712 F: (727) 317-3713	512 E. Main St. Grayson, KY 41143 P: (606) 475-0216 F: (606) 475-0217	P: (888) 283-8638 West VA P: (888) 283-8638

Veterans' Outreach | 17 Colonial Drive | Youngstown, OH 44505 US

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