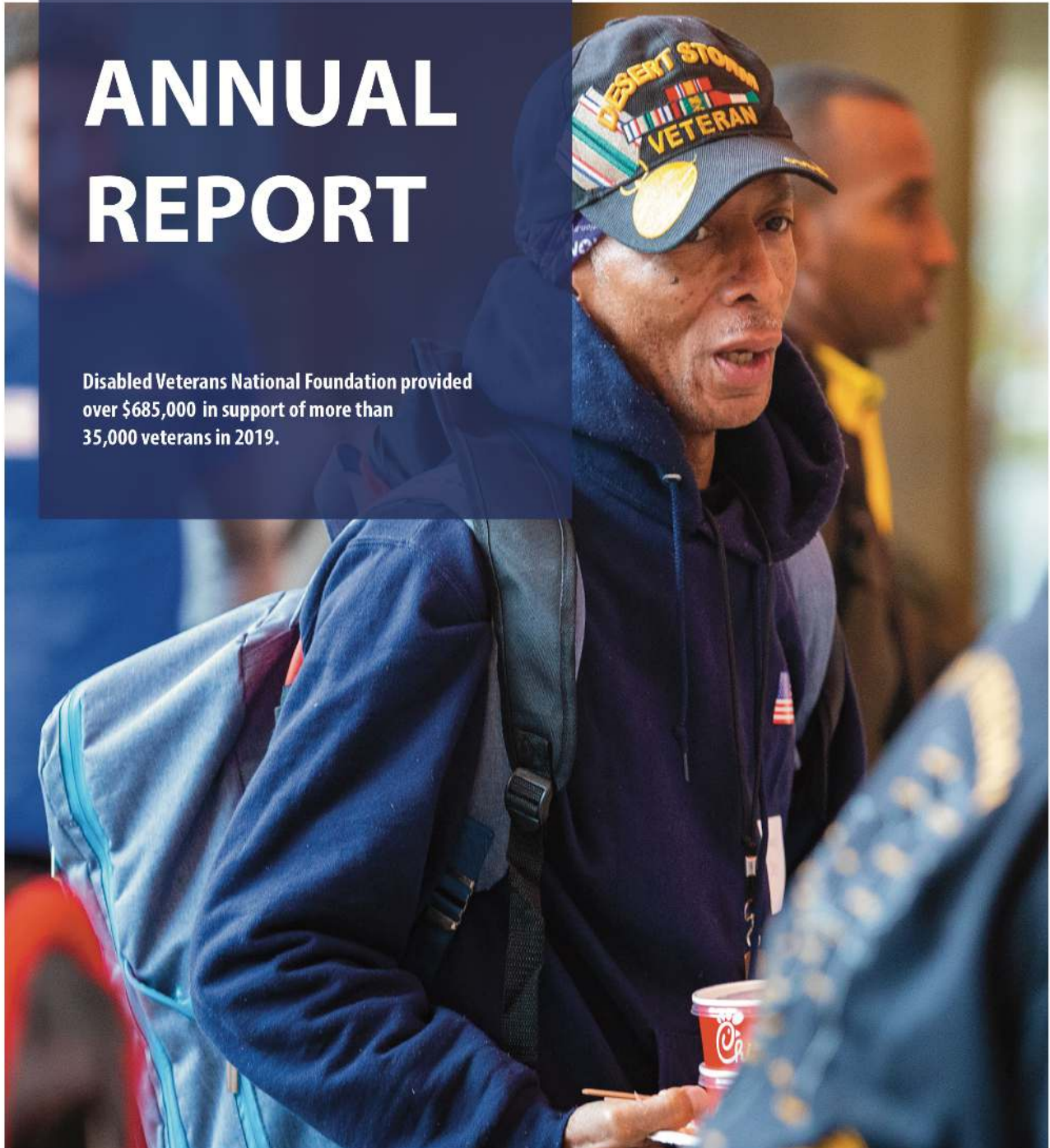




ANNUAL REPORT

Disabled Veterans National Foundation provided over \$685,000 in support of more than 35,000 veterans in 2019.



Disabled Veterans National Foundation
4601 Forbes Blvd. – Suite #130 Lanham, MD 20706

Annual Report for the year ended
December 31, 2019

An aerial, black and white photograph of a cityscape. In the center, a large, classical-style building with a prominent dome and arched windows sits on a street. Surrounding it are numerous modern, multi-story office buildings with glass facades and balconies. The streets are filled with cars and some trees. The sky is filled with scattered clouds. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image, containing the table of contents.

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INTRODUCTION

For many years after the Vietnam War, America saw relatively few casualties from combat overseas. However, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have caused a geometric increase in the number of wounded. And the types of wounds are different because warfare is different. In addition to physical injuries, more and more soldiers are returning from combat with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other psychological and emotional impacts that can make the transition to civilian life extremely difficult.

The impact is borne out in the statistics: high rates of veteran poverty, unemployment and homelessness.



And – most tragically of all – according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, an average of 20-22 veterans commit suicide every day.

The lack of adequate capacity at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is also becoming ever more apparent. Already struggling to meet the needs of veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts, the VA has been overwhelmed by men and women who have returned from the carnage of war.

That's where nonprofits like Disabled Veterans National Foundation come in. Through the generosity of millions of Americans, DVNF provides services and support to disabled and at-risk veterans – everything from helping them navigate the benefits they deserve by utilizing DVNF's website, to providing them with clothing and other essentials through our Health & Comfort program, as well as funding other non profit organizations who are on the front lines of serving the

nation's veterans.

Inside this report, you will find details of our programs, our mission, our leadership and our financials. We encourage you to read it, to explore our website at www.dvnf.org, and to contact us with any questions you may have.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



To our Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of you for showing your interest in the Disabled Veterans National Foundation by engaging with our Annual Report. As we look back, 2019 was a breakout year for DVNF. It was a year of major accomplishments and organizational advancement. In 2019, the organization:

- Sent 22 Health & Comfort shipments to veteran stand-downs throughout the United States delivering items such as deodorant, toothpaste and body wash to over 10,000 Veterans.
- Provided over \$685,000 to 46 like-minded non-profit organizations, through our Capacity Building Grants program.
- DVNF celebrated its 4th year.
- The introduction of a focused initiative to confront and tackle the devastating effects of PTSD and the resulting homelessness and suicide that are often the result of neglecting early signs and symptoms.

All of these accomplishments are in furtherance of our Mission – which you'll see on the facing page – of providing services and support for veterans who are living with physical disabilities or emotional/psychological wounds that often go unnoticed. Our nation has become too complacent about the needs of these veterans, and too often, we (myself included) assume that our returning service members are well taken care of by government programs. Sadly, in many cases, that couldn't be further from the truth.

It's our mission at DVNF to fill the void where we can speak loudly and clearly when veterans are not getting the benefits and the care they deserve.

We appreciate your enthusiasm and support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Carson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Carson
President

DVNF Board of Directors

Scott Carson, Board
President

Benny Bachand

Adam Street

Lionel Harris

Tashawnya McCullough

Bill McQuaig

Greg Smith

Barry Walter

Steven Weyher

Dear Friends,

In 2019, DVNF developed a new Website that provides an easy navigational platform that captures our program impacts and services. This year DVNF sent 22 shipments of our Health & Comfort supplies to stand downs and other events around the country. By sending items like basic hygiene necessities, clothing, and so much more, DVNF helps thousands of homeless and low-income veterans to alleviate some of their financial strain.

DVNF also built vital partnerships through our Capacity Building Grants program. 46 organizations were supported in 2019, and this has substantially benefitted thousands of veterans. Funding programs like recreational therapy, art therapy, yoga, and other unique approaches to combatting mental stress, has given countless veterans a new outlook on life.

These grants will also better equip our partner organizations with partner organizations with resources to continue growing their important programs, and we're proud to be a part of what they're doing in their respective communities.

We are pleased with how 2019 progressed, and look forward to even more great things in 2020. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to keep making such a vital difference around the country, and we thank all of our supporters for their commitment to giving back to our veterans.

Sincerely,



Joseph VanFonda, SgtMaj (USMC) Ret.
Chief Executive Officer
Disabled Veterans National Foundation



Joseph VanFonda, SgtMaj (USMC) Ret

DVNF Executive Team

Joseph Vanfonda **CEO**

Delese Harvey
Deputy Director

Leander Brereton
**Director of
Operations**

Mildred Mesembe,
Director of Finance

OUR MISSION



The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) provides critically needed support to disabled and at-risk veterans who leave the military wounded — physically or psychologically—after defending our safety and our freedom. DVNF was created to help address the needs of our veterans, and to give comfort to those who need it most.

Our staff works hard to reach out into veteran communities throughout the country, and through partnership, collaboration, and hard work, we are working to make veterans' lives better.

Through selective grants and strategic outreach, DVNF has its hand in many emerging trends in the care and support of veterans. We accomplish this by granting funds to pilot projects like PTSD service dog initiatives, unique new therapy methods for combat veterans, or by sending

comfort Kits to low-income and homeless veterans.

DVNF serves veterans of all eras, but we have a special emphasis on helping men and women who are homeless, disabled, and those in need of mental and physical support. We also strive to be a vital resource to our friends around the country who are finding unique ways to touch the lives of veterans in their respective communities.





PROGRAM IMPACT

35,000

In 2019 DVNF served 45 Organizations in 21 States through the Capacity Building program which directly impacted over 35,000 Veterans.

10,000

In 2019, through its Health & Comfort Program, DVNF directly impacted the lives of over 10,000 Disabled & At-Risk Veterans through the Health & Comfort Program.

\$685K

The DVNF in 2019 awarded \$685,000 in grants to 45 veterans services organizations across America.

\$1M+

In 2019, DVNF supplied over 1 million dollars worth of basic supplies to veterans. This includes wardrobe assistance for 86 Veterans seeking to re-enter the workforce.



HEALTH & COMFORT

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) delivers immediate impact and relief through its Health and Comfort Program. It provides items like Comfort Kits, first aid supplies, hygiene items, clothing and more to make life a little bit easier for homeless, and at-risk veterans. DVNF brings light to the fact that many of our military veterans are struggling just to survive. This is unfortunate, but should also create awareness of the need to reach out and help those most in need. Many disabled veterans who return home from war suffer due to lack of long-term support.

In 2019, DVNF delivered shipments valued at just over 1 million dollars to 21 cities across America. Additionally, clothing and supplies were provided to over 115 veterans in need at our annual resource fair held in Maryland in November, 2019.

The concept of making a difference is something we have pushed as a core value and we will continue to drive this element of our program with every additional resource we receive. To learn more or donate to our Health and Comfort program, please visit www.dvnf.org.

115

veterans served at
Maryland resource fair

Each year the Foundation provides our signature comfort kits to veterans around the country as well as at our local Annual Resource Fair. In 2019, 115 Veterans were given suits, comfort kits and resources at the fair held in Silver Spring, MD

2020 Health and Comfort Partners

| Month | Organization | City | State |
|-----------|---|---------------|-------|
| January | Vaughn Respite | Detroit | MI |
| January | Winterhaven Stand Down | Washington | DC |
| March | Jezreel/Veterans Miracle Center | Albany | NY |
| March | Hershel Wood Williams VA Medical Center | Huntington | WV |
| March | Bay Pines VA Healthcare System | Bay Pines | FL |
| April | NineLine Veterans Services | Tacoma | WA |
| April | A Place for Heroes | Charlotte | NC |
| May | Lance Davison Memorial - High Country Stand Down | Flagstaff | AZ |
| May | Operation Stand Down Midsouth | Memphis | TN |
| May | A Safe Haven Foundation | Chicago | IL |
| June | Goodwill Industries of Michiana | Ekat | IN |
| June | Buffalo VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans | Buffalo | NY |
| July | New Vision House of Hope | Baltimore | MD |
| July | Cincinatti VA Medical Center | Cininatti | OH |
| August | Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down | Marysville | CA |
| August | Convoy of Hope Hawaii Oahu Veterans Community Event | Honolulu | HI |
| September | Above and Beyond | Chicago | IL |
| September | Southeast Texas Stand Down - Beaumont VA Center | Beaumont | TX |
| September | Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc. | Cherryhill | NJ |
| October | Northeast Florida Women's Veteran | Jacksonville | FL |
| October | Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down | Santa Barbara | CA |
| November | Operation Compassion of Mercer County, Inc. | Princeton | WV |

CAPACITY BUILD

DVNF partners with organizations that create innovative strategies and programs that support veterans and disabled veterans alike. Our capacity building grants are designed to strengthen the ability of these nonprofit organizations to achieve their objectives.

In 2019, 45 organizations across 21 states were granted \$685,000 in grants from the Disabled Veterans National Foundation to help continue providing programs and services to disabled veterans.



\$685K

In 2019, 45 organizations across 21 states were granted \$685,000 in grants.

2019 Capacity Building Grant Partners

| Organization | Grant Award | State |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| Alabama's Mountains, Rivers, and Valleys RC&D | \$ 24,750.00 | Alabama |
| American Freedom Fund | \$ 25,000.00 | DC |
| Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. dba Homes for the Brave | \$ 13,000.00 | Conecticut |
| Blue Star Ranch, Serving Our Nations' Veterans | \$ 10,500.00 | California |
| Central Union Mission | \$ 25,000.00 | DC |
| Companions for Heroes | \$ 25,000.00 | Georgia |
| Dog Tag Buddies | \$ 20,000.00 | Montana |
| Eagle Rock Camp | \$ 25,000.00 | North Carolina |
| Easterseals DC MD VA | \$ 25,000.00 | Maryland |
| EQUI-KIDS | \$ 25,000.00 | Virginia |
| Gold Coast Veterans Foundation | \$ 25,000.00 | California |
| GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty) | \$ 15,000.00 | Washington |

DONATING GRANTS

| Organization | Grant Award | State |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs | \$ 25,000.00 | Florida |
| Hampton University | \$ 25,000.00 | Virginia |
| Heart of Horse Sense | \$ 24,420.00 | North Carolina |
| HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship | \$ 20,000.00 | Washington |
| Helios Warriors | \$ 9,825.00 | North Carolina |
| Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary | \$ 25,000.00 | Texas |
| Homes for Families | \$ 25,000.00 | California |
| Institute for Healing of Memories - North America | \$ 25,000.00 | New York |
| K9s on The Front Line | \$ 21,000.00 | Maine |
| Kingman's Healing Hooves | \$ 11,000.00 | Arizona |
| Lubbock Regional MHMR DBA StarCare Specialty Health System | \$ 25,000.00 | Texas |
| Making A Difference Foundation (MADF) | \$ 20,000.00 | Washington |
| Next Step Service Dogs | \$ 21,500.00 | California |
| Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc | \$ 25,000.00 | Florida |
| Paws and Stripes | \$ 25,000.00 | New Mexico |
| Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc. | \$ 25,000.00 | Maryland |
| Project Healing Waters, Inc. dba North Texas Patriot Anglers | \$ 25,000.00 | Texas |
| Quality of Life Plus Program | \$ 15,000.00 | Virginia |
| Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. | \$ 25,000.00 | California |
| S.M.G.A. - Salute Military Golf Association | \$ 25,000.00 | Maryland |
| Saddles In Service | \$ 25,000.00 | California |
| Semper K9 Assistance Dogs | \$ 25,000.00 | Virginia |
| Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital | \$ 21,420.00 | Massachusetts |
| StableStride | \$ 9,000.00 | Colorado |
| Sunny Creek Ranch Equine Services | \$ 10,080.00 | Texas |
| Teachers College, Columbia University | \$ 25,000.00 | New York |
| The Mission Continues | \$ 25,000.00 | Missouri |
| The Root Farm | \$ 20,080.00 | New York |
| USA Cares, Inc. | \$ 25,000.00 | Kentucky |
| Veterans Yoga Project | \$ 13,060.00 | California |
| Warrior Expeditions | \$ 20,000.00 | Virginia |
| Warrior's Ranch, Inc | \$ 23,000.00 | Kansas |
| Wounded Warriors in Action Inc. | \$ 25,000.00 | Florida |
| YMCA of the Ozarks - Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood | \$ 15,000.00 | Missouri |

ANNUAL RESOURCE FAIR

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) delivers immediate impact and relief through its Health and Comfort Program. It provides items like Comfort Kits, first aid supplies, hygiene items, clothing and more to make life a little bit easier for the homeless, veterans and their families.



DVNF brings light to the fact that many military veterans are struggling just to survive. This is unfortunate, but should also create awareness of the need to reach out and help those most in need.

DVNF's third Annual Veterans Resource Fair and our most successful. Over 115 veterans and family members attended this year, making it the largest turn out since the event's inception. One of the most amazing aspects of DVNF's Resource Fair is its variety.

While the event is a resource fair, DVNF has also incorporated a few Stand Down practices to ensure that every veteran's needs are met regardless of gender, race, living situation etc... DVNF's Resource Fair hosts not only employers and educators, but also organizations that can help veterans find housing, meals, physical and mental health assistance, donations, and more. DVNF donates brand new work attire to veterans to assist in the job search after transitioning out of the military. DVNF also made sure to provide Comfort Kits and meals, both of which are invaluable when living on the street. DVNF provided both breakfast and lunch for resource fair attendees; this was just a treat for some, but for others these were their only guaranteed meals for that day. DVNF is here to help all Veterans, no qualifiers.

DVNF is incredibly honored to serve our veterans and we are eternally grateful to every single service member that stepped up and served our country. You made this country a better place, now it's our turn to help. We know the journey can be difficult, but we are dedicated to helping veterans in any way we can. Through our grants, programs, and events like the Veterans Resource Fair, DVNF is positively impacting the lives of veterans everyday.





Over 100 Veterans Served **\$138,313.17**

| Donated Items | QUANTITY | VALUE |
|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Comfort Kits | 200 | \$11,849.60 |
| Women's Comfort Kits | 60 | \$38,273.57 |
| Men's Clothing Items | 380 | \$79,448.96 |
| Women's Clothing Items | 98 | \$XXX |
| DVNF Backpacks | 100 | \$994.28 |
| DVNF Notebooks | 100 | \$1,068.48 |
| DVNF Gift Cards | 150 | \$3,750.00 |
| Raffle Prizes | 6 | \$1,009.91 |
| Meals for Attendees | | \$1,918.37 |

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Human Engineering Research Laboratories

The Human Engineering Research Lab (HERL) is continuing its efforts to develop aids and supports for disabled veterans and military veterans to help them improve their quality of life, receive daily life assistance and restore their independence. In 2019, DVNF awarded the Human Engineering Research Lab™ a grant of \$50,000. It is the 4th year As a result of this grant, its first fiscal year, the Human Engineering Research Lab™ will conduct further research and development of assistive technologies that impact disabled military and disabled veterans to improve their quality of life, receive daily life assistance and restore independence. The Human Engineering Research Lab (HERL) is continuing its efforts to develop aids and supports for disabled veterans and military veterans to



Looking left to right, DVNF Board President Scott Carson, Dr. Cooper staffer, DVNF Director Delese Harvey, Joseph Vanfonda DVNF CEO, and below in the wheelchair is Doctor "Rory" Cooper.

help them improve their quality of life, receive daily life assistance and restore their independence.

In 2019, DVNF awarded the Human Engineering Research Lab™ a grant of \$50,000. It is the 4th year As a result of this grant, its first fiscal year, the Human Engineering Research Lab™ will conduct

further research and development of assistive technologies that impact disabled military and disabled veterans to improve their quality of life, receive daily life assistance and restore independence.

DVNF supported 45 organizations with \$685K in Financial Assistance. These funds helped over 35,000 Veterans in 21 States.



In 2019, DVNF launched a fundraising initiative to identify up to three highly innovative veteran-assistance organizations each year for a significant financial contribution. This year's organization chosen was the Human Engineering Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Rory Cooper is the director of HERL and is himself a paralyzed U.S. Army veteran. He has made it his life's work to research and develop adaptive technologies for people with disabilities. Because of HERL's groundbreaking

work, veterans with combat wounds, amputations and other disabilities have been given a better quality of life and have been able to do things that could never have been imagined in the past.

In addition to Dr. Cooper's designing and manufacturing adaptive devices, HERL also offers important career-development opportunities for disabled veterans. There are two apprenticeship programs – the Experiential Learning for Veterans in Assistive Technology Engineering (ELeVATE) program and the Advanced Inclusive Man-

ufacturing (AIM) program – that teach machinery and technology skills to veterans interested in a career in engineering or manufacturing.

Thursday, July 25th, was a very special day for the Human Engineering research Laboratories (HERL) Both the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County officially proclaimed July 25th to be "HERL Day" (see the official proclamations at <https://is.gd/herlproclamation>)

THANK YOU

**DVNF would like to thank all of our Donors and sponsors during 2019.
Without your support, we would not be able to provide support to more than 45,000 veterans.**

