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2015

ANNUAL REPORT

VETERANS SUPPORT FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE



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OUR ORGANIZATION

Established in 1991, Veterans Support Foundation was founded by and for veterans. We are committed to serving the unmet needs of veterans of all services, conflicts, and eras, and their families.

OUR PROGRAMS

Supportive Housing Program: provided shelter and support for 45 homeless veterans during 2015.

Service Officer Programs: provided \$154,797 to Service Officer Programs in 11 states. These programs secure more than \$100 million annually in medical and financial compensation for veterans.

Discretionary Grants: provided \$61,500 to local nonprofits across the United States working to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

Total Program Expenditures, 2015: \$630,503

Staff: 2 full-time; 4 part-time; 1 volunteer

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OUR MISSION

Veterans Support Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit humanitarian and educational organization founded to improve the quality of life for deserving veterans and their families. The main objectives of the Foundation are:

- To help fund nonprofit organizations in support of veteran-related projects throughout the United States;
- To assist disabled veterans and their qualifying dependents and family members;
- To assist and provide transitional and permanent housing for homeless and at-risk veterans;
- To enrich the lives of all veterans and their families.



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To help Veterans Support Foundation continue its important work, please check box #11324 on your Combined Federal Campaign donation form.



A Message from the President

During 2015, Veterans Support Foundation (VSF) provided \$630,503 to programs nationwide benefiting active military, veterans and their families. Among other critical services, these efforts provided housing for veterans and their families, employment assistance, and enhanced access to medical care. We are a small organization, but we believe we're making a critical difference when and where it matters most.

This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to end chronic veteran homelessness. In January of 2015, advocates counted 41 chronically homeless veterans living on Connecticut's streets. Today, all veterans known to have experienced chronic homelessness in Connecticut are either housed or on an immediate path to permanent housing.

I am incredibly proud of the part that VSF has played in this success, along with the State of Connecticut and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Since 1992 we have offered shelter and support for Connecticut's homeless veteran population. During 2015, we provided transitional housing for 37 veterans, 29 of whom graduated to their own homes and apartments. That equates to a 78 percent success rate. VSF also provides a permanent home for six veterans whose disabilities make it impossible for them to live on their own.

But even if we've ended chronic veteran homelessness in Connecticut, our efforts to provide shelter and support for veterans remain vital. The difference is that, today, instead of placing homeless veterans on waiting lists for shelters and housing, we can intervene rapidly when veterans find themselves without a place to call home.

As part of the push to end veteran homelessness, the VA now advises that veterans move to their own homes in two to three months. The thinking is that stable housing is the key to helping veterans overcome their other challenges, including unemployment, disabilities, and addictions. So, while the average stay for veterans at VSF facilities was seven months during 2015, those statistics will change in the coming year. The good news is that we expect to reach many more veterans during 2016.

In 2015, VSF also provided \$154,797 to Service Officer programs in 11 states that help veterans obtain the medical and financial benefits they've earned through their service. Vietnam Veterans of America-accredited Service Officers work with the VA and deserving veterans and their dependents to ensure that they receive the compensation they're entitled to. Service Officer programs enhance veterans' quality of life, ensure they receive the medical treatment they need for service-connected health challenges, and regularly return more than \$100,000,000 in compensation to veterans who might otherwise slip between the cracks of the VA system.

Inside this report you can read about one veteran who served as a "Tunnel Rat" in Vietnam, and who suffered with severe PTSD, but received neither help nor compensation for many, many years. He resorted to alcohol, lost his family, and earned a very meager living. But a Missouri Service Officer managed to connect this veteran to treatment for his PTSD. The veteran has now been sober for three years, is receiving retroactive pay and monthly compensation from the VA, and has re-established connections with his family. This annual report contains a number of success stories like that one.

During the year we also provided \$61,500 to nonprofits across the country that address veterans' needs. One of our grantee organizations holds Stand Downs, or fairs where homeless veterans can get haircuts, showers, and meals; dental and medical checkups; and can connect with community and social services to help get them back on their feet. Another VSF grantee offers support for families whose children have been impacted by their parents' exposure to Agent Orange. A third nonprofit we supported holds career fairs and regular employment networking events exclusively for veterans.

Regardless of when, how, or where they served, veterans deserve our attention and compassion: not only for the sacrifices they've made for our country, but because those sacrifices don't end on the date of discharge. Many veterans face challenges throughout their lives. And despite the many excellent services that the VA offers, some veterans do fall through the cracks.

I am proud of the work that Veterans Support Foundation carried out during 2015, particularly in reaching those veterans outside the system. Your support has been a huge and irreplaceable part of these efforts. We hope you'll continue to support us—and the many veterans we serve—in 2016 and beyond. You can do so by mailing us a check, by donating through our website, www.vsf-usa.org, or by participating in the Combined Federal Campaign and designating #11324 on your CFC donation form. Regardless of the method or the amount, your contribution will serve as an important lifeline for active duty military, veterans, and their family members.

As always, thank you for supporting VSF and America's veterans.

Sincerely,



Keith King, President and Disabled Veteran
Veterans Support Foundation

VSF Supportive Housing Program for Homeless Veterans



PHOTOS: JESSICA FLORENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Left, top and bottom: The interior of VSF's Dinda House veterans' residence in Manchester, CT. Right: Employment specialist Nancy Deka (left) and Program Supervisor Shannon Fry (right) with a Dinda House veteran.

Housing Services

Veterans Support Foundation offers a **transitional living program** for formerly homeless veterans who are enrolled in the Veterans Administration Healthcare System. These veterans reside in one of three transitional homes—two in West Haven and one in Manchester, Connecticut—while they undergo treatment and work on putting their lives back in order. VSF provides them with shelter, transportation and—most important—support in achieving their health, educational, vocational and independent living goals.

Of the 37 veterans who participated in our transitional program during 2015, 29 graduated to their own homes and apartments for a 78 percent success rate. Eight veterans were discharged, either because they relapsed into drug or alcohol abuse or refused to comply with program rules. Twenty veterans who arrived midway through or late in the year remain in our program.

VSF also operates a six-bedroom **permanent residence** in West Haven for veterans whose disabilities keep them from living fully independent lives. These veterans have round-the-clock supervision and assistance with their needs, and they are permitted to stay at VSF as long as they need housing. This year we served eight veterans in our permanent residence. The average stay of current residents in our permanent living facility is just under six years.

VSF's housing program works to connect veterans with community resources, which help provide the stability they need. These agencies include: Veterans Inc., Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Columbus House, Community Renewal Team, Chrysalis Center, local housing authorities, the Veterans Administration, accredited VVA Service Officers, the Connecticut Department of Social Services, and other organizations.

Employment Services

Nineteen of the veterans in VSF's Supportive Housing Program sought employment during 2015. Of those, 12 found jobs, for a 60 percent success rate. Many of our incoming veterans have criminal records, which is a huge obstacle to finding employment. And given their lack of resources, few of our veterans can afford to own cars, so finding reliable transportation to work has been a challenge.

During the year, VSF staff:

- Helped veterans set up email accounts, search Internet job boards, and fill out online job applications.
- Provided transportation to job interviews, job fairs and recruitment events.
- Networked with 691 contacts, reaching 269 potential employers for our resident veterans.
- Searched job boards daily, providing 337 job leads.
- Contacted companies where veterans had applied to gather suggestions and feedback.

Staffing

During the year, Program Supervisor Shannon Fry expanded her background by attending professional trainings in the areas of trauma, PTSD, and traumatic grief, cognitive behavior therapy, and executive functioning skills. Case Manager Deb Andrade was elected chair of the Women in Business Group in West Haven, which will provide important networking opportunities for VSF. Nancy Deka, Employment Specialist and Recreation Director, expanded her networking and outreach across the state.

VSF's Supportive Housing Program engaged a new volunteer: Susan Booth. Susan is a licensed clinical social worker who helps out two to three days a week. She holds house meetings and transports veterans to food pantries, to drop off housing applications, and to run essential errands. She has taken on case management for several veterans.



PHOTO: JESSICA FLORENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Veteran residents of VSF's Dinda House with Timken Aerospace volunteers and VSF staff.

Facility Repairs and Upgrades

Generous grant funding allowed VSF to undertake important repairs and upgrades on its four houses. At Dinda House in Manchester, we installed new bathrooms and refurbished kitchen cabinets in two of the apartments. At Union Avenue in West Haven we replaced carpeting, installed new doors and purchased a new bed. We also purchased two new beds for our permanent residence on Elm Street in West Haven. And at Bassett Court, we installed new carpet, a new kitchen floor, and purchased a new bed.

On Monday, Nov. 10th, 2014, in recognition of Veterans Day, Timken Company employees visited Dinda House for a Day of Caring. Some 15 volunteers engaged in painting, yard work, leaf raking and blowing, and cleaning and organizing VSF's new attic office.

JEFF A VSF SUCCESS STORY

Jeff M. arrived at VSF's Basset Court house handcuffed and shackled and dressed in an orange jumpsuit. He had just completed a five-month jail sentence for threatening his girlfriend after relapsing into alcohol abuse. Jeff arrived without medication, money or clothes, so right away, VSF staff transported him to the VA hospital to obtain essential medications, to Walmart to purchase clothing, and to the Department of Social Services to help him obtain food stamps.

A short time later, Jeff was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Despite this setback, he focused on his goals for the next six months. With help and encouragement from his VSF case managers, he remained sober, attended treatment sessions, volunteered outside the house, and began applying for housing assistance. After filing seven housing applications, he finally succeeded at finding an apartment.

Despite his many challenges, Jeff is now sober and lives independently. Best of all, he has a network of support to help him face the challenges ahead.

MICHAEL A VSF SUCCESS STORY

Michael J. served in the U.S. Marines from 2003 through 2007 and saw three tours of combat in Iraq. When he returned home, he found that front-line combat did not give him many transferable civilian skills.

Michael did find a variety of labor-intensive jobs, but he struggled with the transition to civilian life. He was diagnosed with depression and PTSD and was awarded a service-connected pension, but it wasn't enough to live on. His family in Connecticut, he said, was "somewhat supportive, but not supportive enough to let me live with them." So Michael began living at VSF's Union Avenue residence in July of 2014, just two days after his 29th birthday. He was coming off a hospitalization and had been assigned to Critical Time Intervention (CTI) for intensive case management to try to help him adjust and move on.

Michael wanted to return to school; a degree, he thought, would help him find better work. So shortly after he arrived at Union Avenue, he enrolled at Gateway Community College. He worked hard in school and received good grades. He expects to transfer to the University of New Haven soon.

While he was at Union Avenue, Michael filed for an increased benefit for his VA service-connected pension. He received the increase, which allowed him to think about moving to his own apartment. He was turned down for a Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher, but he started to save his money for a place of his own. After an intensive search, he determined he still couldn't afford his own place, so he applied to VASH a second time. This time, he succeeded.

Michael moved into his own apartment three days before his 30th birthday. He says he is "getting used to being on my own" and that it "feels good" to be where he is in his life.

At Union Avenue, Michael worked within the structure that VSF laid out and did well. He persevered despite his setbacks and continued to seek the treatment and support he needed. VSF staff are proud that they could provide Michael a safe and supportive environment during a critical time in his life, giving him the stability he needed to move forward.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Road Warrior Cyclist Rick Hart is on a mission to raise awareness and money for homeless veterans. To do so, he is riding his bike 4,000 miles across the United States, starting in his hometown of Middletown, Rhode Island. His journey will take him south to St. Augustine, Florida and then across the southern tier of states, ending in California.

Early in his trip, a VSF contact at Errera Community Care Center asked if VSF could help Rick in his journey. He had been sleeping in his tent for five nights, and was looking for a soft bed and a shower. VSF happened to have an open bed that night in one of our transitional living houses for homeless veterans. VSF staff made up the bed for him and provided him with soap and shampoo for his shower. He then spent the evening relaxing with the resident veterans, hearing their stories and the situations that caused their homelessness.

In the morning, he went back to the Errera Community Care Center to meet with other homeless Veterans there. VSF was glad to assist The Road Warrior Cyclist in his journey to raise awareness for homeless veterans, and we're following his journey on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/RoadWarriorCyclist.

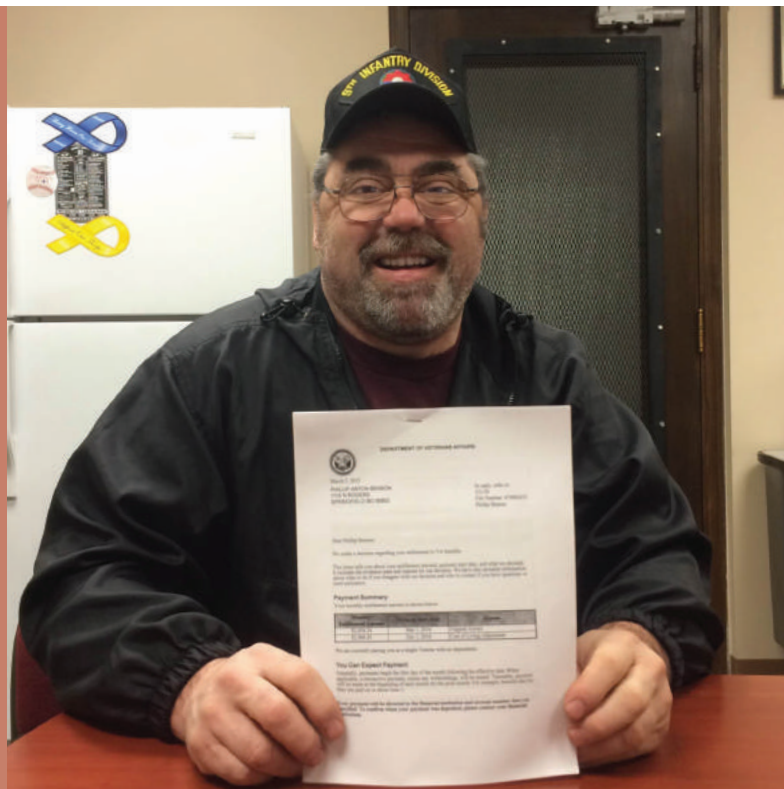


Road Warrior Cyclist Rick Hart, left, is raising awareness for homeless veterans by riding his bike across America. Hart spent a night at a VSF house in West Haven, Connecticut.

Veterans Support Foundation and Vietnam Veterans of America Service Officer Program

Veterans are often afflicted with health conditions unique to their military service. Exposure to Agent Orange caused an increase in type II diabetes and prostate cancer among Vietnam veterans; Gulf War Illness affects many who served in Iraq and Kuwait in 1990-91; and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer increasingly from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations, and paraplegic injuries. Without someone to advocate for them, these veterans may not receive the health care and other compensation they are entitled to by law. Only certified individuals can represent veterans before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In cooperation with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Veterans Support Foundation provided \$154,797 to support to Service Officer Programs in 11 states during 2015. Through these programs, accredited Service Officers and a small cadre of well-trained appellate attorneys help veterans to receive the compensation they've earned, free of charge. Typically, Service Officer programs recover more than \$100 million annually in health, pension, and educational compensation for veterans and their families.



A Missouri veteran celebrates his compensation award from the Veterans Administration.

Alaska: One Service Officer's Memorable Experience

**By Walter E. Crary / VVA Veterans Service Officer
at University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

Chief, a big proud man, quiet, reserved and very intelligent arrived at my office. As he sat across from me, I began noticing warning signs that even a quiet person can't hide. "Walt, buddy, I'm really messed up. I need you to get me the help I need," he said. His eyes never left mine until he had to sign a letter of authorization for medical representation.

Then, Chief opened a jump boots box with about 1800 double-sided medical record sheets. "I know this will take you a while to go through," he said, "but, heck, if I can get a 30 to 40 percent rating from the VA for my medical issues, I'll be happy."

"I have a few cases ahead of yours," I told him. "Be patient. I can't promise anything from VA rating point of view, but I can promise I will give you my best effort."

Once his paperwork went through, Chief was asked to go Anchorage for his compensation and pension exam. He flew back to Fairbanks the next day and came to my office to update me on how it went. He said the doctor read the paperwork I prepared, began the physical, ran some x-rays, and had some blood drawn. Then, about halfway through the exam, the doctor said "We don't need to go any further." Neither of us was sure what it meant.

About a month later, Chief walked into my office. "I received a letter from the VA last night," he told me. I asked if I could read it, and he said "Yes, but first, I have to tell you something. I see you handle death benefits for our fallen comrades as if they were of personal interest to you, no matter whether it's a man or a woman, known or unknown. I respect your hard work daily."

I said “OK, Chief, let’s get down to business.” He handed the letter to me, which stated that the VA found that his medical problems were 100 percent service-connected.

“What am I to do now, Walt?” he said. “What do I tell my family, my friends? They’re all going to think I’m a nut case.” I smiled and said, “If it makes you more comfortable, just tell everyone you got 70 percent. The only thing you have to truly worry about is getting all the help you can on all your issues.”

As he stood up to shake my hand, a few tears dropped down his cheeks. As he turned to leave, the associate vice chancellor entered my office. She noticed his tears. Chief told her, “Ma’am, I see you’re important here at this institution. Don’t worry about my tears. This VVA veterans Service Officer truly cares about every veteran who comes before him. I’m proud to have such great service from an individual who seeks no glory and spends hours and hours on cases.”

The associate vice chancellor replied, “Oh I know how valuable he is, sir. And I know he won’t tell you, but Walter found his father-in-law passed away in his kitchen. He then arranged a beautifully orchestrated full military honors ceremony, too. And I bet you didn’t know that his wife suffers from gamma brain seizures.”

Chief turned back to me, and in a hallway full of college students, came to a full military salute. I returned the salute. This was a day I’ll never forget.

VVA California State Council Service Officer Program

The California State Council (CSC) thanks Vietnam Veterans of America and Veterans Support Foundation for grant monies used to support our veteran Service Officer program. Our program offers veterans from any era advice and counsel that is accurate and timely, and we work hard to be sympathetic to veterans’ individual needs.

Because 45 percent of the California veteran population resides in greater Los Angeles, four CSC Service Officers—two paid and two volunteer—are located there. Two more volunteers serve the San Diego area and Northern California. All six are accredited.

Last year’s grant funds helped the CSC to meet payroll for our Service Officers and allowed them attend trainings to stay current with Veterans Administration requirements.

We often receive feedback from those veterans we assist. Here is what several of those clients have said about our work:

Just want to say thank you for your help with my disability claim. I appreciate your patience and guidance, especially when I had so much anxiety. – Kathy

At the end of the day, what matters is the positive impact you have on people’s lives. With your passion and dedication, you do make a difference. – John

Karen, I want to thank you for all your help with my benefits. I personally believe that this success was because of your tireless hard work for all vets.

VVA Connecticut Service Officer Program

Veterans Support Foundation provided the VVA Connecticut Service Officer Program with a \$5,000 grant for 2015, allowing us to continue to help Connecticut veterans pursue their claims and appeals with the Veterans Benefits Administration. As of September 2015, we had a 90 percent overall success rate in winning all compensation, pension, Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and appeals we processed. Every dollar spent on our program returned \$132 in benefits for the veterans we represented.

One of our Service Officers recently informed a widow of a Vietnam veteran that the Pension Management Center in Philadelphia had granted her DIC as a result of her deceased husband’s service-connected condition: ischemic heart disease, which caused his death. The decision meant she was now eligible to receive benefits. When the Service Officer called to inform her of the award, she thanked him over and over again. It was her 70th birthday, she said, and the best birthday she had had in a long time.

Our Chief Service Officer, John Cutler, worked closely with veteran Paul Scappaticci in advocating that the VA recognize the Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans’ Agent Orange-related diseases as presumptive conditions. John and Paul attended a videoconference with Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal’s staff in April to discuss the issue. In July, Paul testified in Washington, DC with the support and expertise of Rick Weidman, VVA Executive Director for Policy and Government Affairs.

Our staff members regularly visit VSF’s Michael J. Dinda House transitional facility for homeless veterans, offering assistance and representation to all residents. When those veterans move into their own apartments, we continue to work with them. We also regularly visit Connecticut veteran centers throughout the state, reaching out to all who need our help.



Connecticut Chief Service Officer John Cutler (left) and Blue Water Navy Veteran Paul Scappaticci discuss Paul’s appeal for Agent Orange-related diseases.

VVA Indiana State Council Service Officer Program

Thanks to a generous VSF grant of \$10,000, the VVA Indiana State Council Service Officer Program continues to win benefits for Indiana's disabled veterans and their families. A staff of eight credentialed Service Officers assists veterans throughout the state. We provide those officers with training, computer supplies and equipment, postage, outreach expenses and office supplies. Although all are volunteers and do not receive salaries or benefits, they continue to demonstrate their commitment to Indiana's veterans.

One of our Service Officers worked on a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claim for the spouse of a veteran; this case required several appeals and took over four years. The veteran had had throat cancer, and the spouse was finally awarded \$180,000. She was very grateful, especially because her income had dropped considerably upon the death of her husband. She now sends other individuals to us for help, telling them how the VVA Service Officer never stopped working for her or ever gave up on her claim.

Another of our Service Officers took over an improperly filed claim. He had to compile missing information to have the veteran's claim adjudicated. It took over two and a half years before the claim was approved, yet it resulted in \$40,000 back pay. This veteran and his spouse were heavily in debt, so the award brought them much relief.

Several of our Service Officers have established a *pro bono* law clinic to assist with veterans' appeals and are helping to set up similar clinics in other areas of the state. One of our dedicated Service Officers belongs to seven different veterans' organizations to stay current with the latest information and share what he learns with our staff.

VVA Massachusetts State Council Service Officer Program

The Vietnam Veterans of America Massachusetts State Council serves all veterans who ask for assistance. No veteran is turned away. We provide help and guidance in submitting claims to the VA, and we offer food, clothing and housing to homeless veterans.

Our VVA-accredited Service Officers work one-on-one with veterans and their families. Officers are located in virtually every veteran center in the commonwealth and at outreach centers around the state. We file paperwork with VA medical centers and assist homeless veterans with state benefits as well as referrals to agencies beyond the VA. We also monitor, and in some cases, help to write, legislation in support of veterans' benefits or medical care. All these efforts are in keeping with our pledge to never leave a veteran behind.

During 2015, we re-appointed Frank "Fraz" Frane as our Chief Service Officer for another three years. Fraz is a combat-wounded Vietnam Veteran of the 173rd Airborne Division Infantry, and he is a tireless Service Officer. He has

successfully processed many veterans' appeals with amazing speed and results.

We are proud of all our dedicated Service Officers and the extra effort they put into helping veterans in need. Here is a letter from a veteran whom we represented this year.

On April 25, 2015, I had a heart attack. I stayed in the hospital until my birthday on April 28th. The following day, I went to the Bilingual Veterans Outreach Center in Springfield, MA, where I talked with Service Officer Gumersindo Gomez. We both felt that my heart condition was likely related to my exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam, so Mr. Gomez helped me to file a claim with the VA. Within 90 days, my claim was resolved and I was granted 100 percent for my heart condition.

Mr. Gomez handled my case very professionally. He took it upon himself to follow up on my claim and kept me informed of everything I needed to do to ensure the VA had all necessary documents.

– Roy Jr.

VVA Minnesota State Council Service Officer Program

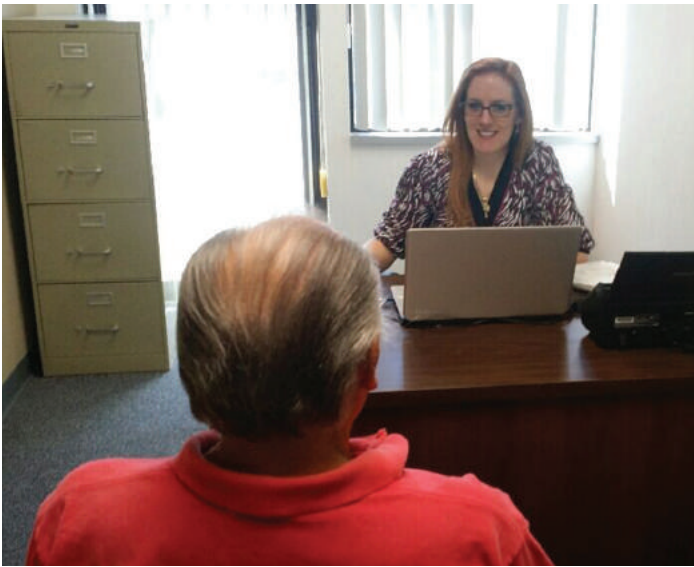
Vietnam Veterans of America Minnesota State Council received a generous \$20,000 grant from Veterans Support Foundation during 2015. We used those funds to pay the salary of our full-time Service Officer, to purchase office supplies and cell phone service, and to pay travel expenses.

Located in the Henry Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis, our office is in close proximity to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis, providing easy access for veterans who come to the VA Hospital and for our Service Officers to visit veterans hospitalized there.

During the year we lost our beloved long-time Service Officer, Juli Bailey, to cancer. Juli helped hundreds of veterans obtain benefits denied them in their initial requests from the VA. She was posthumously awarded a lifetime achievement award at the National Convention in recognition of her years of service to the Vietnam veterans of Minnesota. David Bailey stepped in as full-time Service Officer until he retired at the end of February.

After David's retirement, we approached the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, requesting that they man our Service Officer program. Today, we staff our office with a full-time accredited Service Officer employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, enabling us to continue to provide representation for Minnesota veterans in need of advocacy.

The note below was left at our office in Minneapolis last spring. It was signed by "R.K.," a Seabee who was attached to the 3rd Marine Division in northern I-Corp of Vietnam, from 1968 through 1969. While helping to build fire support bases throughout northern I-Corp, R.K. was wounded twice and was awarded two Purple Hearts. When he returned to civilian life, he turned to alcohol and lived as "a very angry man." His wife divorced him and his behavior pushed away almost



Clockwise from upper left: Staff members of the Massachusetts, Indiana, and Michigan Service Officer programs.

every other member of his family. His brother, who couldn't cope with him anymore, pressured R.K. to meet with a Minnesota Service Officer. With the Officer's help, R.K. filed a claim for PTSD. Here is the note he left us:

I want to thank you for helping me when I didn't even know that I needed help. When I first met with you, at the insistence of my brother, I was very skeptical. You handled me in just the right way. You gathered the facts from me in a way that left me with my dignity. I felt like I was talking with a sincere professional who was confident that I would find help. You submitted my claim despite my protests that they were going to find nothing wrong with me or my life. When you called to tell me that I had been awarded an 80% disability rating for PTSD, I could not believe it. But you said that you were filing an appeal, because you thought I was entitled to more. Your appeal got it bumped up to 100%. The money is nice, of course, but the biggest benefit is that you then showed me a place to find help for my anger: the VA Hospital here in Minneapolis. I think I am on my way to a new life and I thank you for it!

VVA Heart of America Chapter 317 Service Officer Program

The client base of the VVA 317 Missouri Service Officer Program is slowly changing. Vietnam-Era veterans are still the majority, but we are seeing more and more Post-911-Era veterans, and unfortunately, we are submitting more Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims for the widows of Korean and Vietnam vets. Here are some of our latest success stories.

A 27-year-old Iraq veteran came to us to file a claim on his PTSD and left shoulder injury. We gathered his information and filed a fully developed claim on his behalf. The veteran received an award for both disabilities, and because we filed under the Fully Developed Claims Initiative, he was entitled to a year earlier effective date. The result: the veteran received a much-needed paycheck for back pay, which arrived the week before his wedding!



Missouri Service Officers discuss a case with a veteran.

Mr. Green is a veteran who was lost to the VA system for many years before a childhood friend and fellow veteran brought him to Service Officer Kay Booth's office in March of 2012. He had married immediately after returning from Vietnam and had two children. He had been a Tunnel Rat in Vietnam and suffered from extreme PTSD. He turned to alcohol, deserted his family and lived quietly as a hermit. He had no transportation and depended on others to get him back and forth to his workplace when he was sober enough to work. The first thing Kay did was get him into the VA system. He also began a rehab program and has now been sober for almost three years. He has been receiving therapy for PTSD through the VA Clinic since April of 2012.

Filing his claim was difficult, given his lack of transportation, making visits to the office and the VA challenging. But with help from fellow veterans, phone appointments and snail mail, we were able to achieve it. The veteran was originally denied, and we filed a notice of disagreement and followed through with an appeal. The Service Officer and the veteran's childhood friend took Mr. Green to St. Louis for his hearing with a decision review officer in January 2015. This past September, Mr. Green received 70 percent compensation for PTSD. He received \$51,998 retroactive pay, as well as monthly compensation. When asked what he planned to do first with his money, Mr. Green became very emotional and said he had already split the money between his two estranged adult children.

He said he had never been able to help them as their father and he hopes to make that up to them and rebuild relationships with them. We wish Mr. Green the best.

These stories are only the tip of the iceberg. Every day we see the results of our work. Those results affect real lives, and are only possible because of the grant support we receive from the Vietnam Veterans of America and Veterans Support Foundation.

VVA New Jersey State Council Service Officer Program

The VVA New Jersey State Council is stationed at the VA Regional Office in Newark, NJ. The council has supported accredited Service Officers for 27 years, and has served all veterans who are looking for help in filing a disability claim or in achieving a better quality of life. Our office employs one full-time Service Officer and a part-time clerk. During 2015, the Service Officer processed 524 claims, made 3,089 phone calls, and mailed 1,173 letters to the VA. She recovered \$8,155,988 in disability awards for New Jersey veterans.

The Council's cost to run this office exceeds \$90,000 per year, so without grant funding from Veterans Support Foundation, it would be impossible to keep our doors open.

We are committed to this work because we know how much veterans appreciate what we do. Here are two letters of thanks we received this year.

Dear Sir: After filing a claim with the help of Service Officer Margaret Wojciechowicz, I was awarded service disabilities. Margaret told me exactly what paperwork I needed to assemble and then took the lead in obtaining service-related and medical records. I feel lucky to have worked with someone who is as dedicated and passionate about what she does. – James

Dear Ms. Wojciechowicz: This is a note to express my sincere thanks for helping me to receive the VA benefits to which I felt I was entitled. As you know, the Board of Veterans Appeals has found that almost every illness for which I claimed service connection was, in fact, connected, and I received a retroactive check thanks to your hard work. I am very appreciative of your efforts. – Johnny

VVA Vermont State Council Service Officer Program

Vermont’s Service Officer Program is alive, active, and making a difference for Vermont and New Hampshire veterans. During 2015, we helped earn \$7,203,338 in total benefits for veterans and their families, an average of \$4,000 in benefits per claim won. Our program, funded by grants from Veterans Support Foundation, the Vermont State Legislature, and donations from VVA Chapters and individuals, has grown to support more than 5,300 powers of attorney for veterans in Vermont and New Hampshire. We’ve succeeded in more than 92 percent of our claims. During the year, our case work extended to VA regional offices in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

The good news is the impact our work has on veterans and families. Many of our claims cases have resulted in veterans and family members enrolling in college courses, thanks to our coordination with VA Vocational Rehabilitation.

All eligible veterans we have represented are now receiving Social Security disability insurance benefits thanks to our work with local Social Security Administration offices.

The Vermont State Council is grateful for VSF’s continued support and assistance. Your grant, and the funds that match it, help us to maintain the offices, computers, and to purchase the paper, ink, phones, and all the details needed for claims work and outreach to the veterans who need us.

VVA Washington State Council Service Officer Program

During 2015, we realized that our Seattle office needed additional support staff to assist with the large number of claims being turned in by our Service Officers in the field. So we hired a third Service Officer to staff our regional office. We also organized training for Service Officers living on the west side of mountain. Some 15 individuals attended the day-long training, which will help us to all be on the same page when submitting claims to the VVA office in Seattle.

For the last 15 years or so, the Washington State Department of Veterans of Affairs has awarded us yearly contracts to provide services to veterans. In July, we were fortunate enough to receive a two-year contract worth over \$425,000. These funds will allow us to continue serving veterans around the state.

The greatest rewards of being a Service Officer come from the diversity of the veterans we meet. Here are two examples:

I represented a 91-year-old veteran who had never before filed a claim. We met three times over the course of preparing his case. Each time he came, he would be “fiddling” with a dollar bill. At the end of each visit, he folded the dollar bill into a tiny shirt with a collar and a bow tie on a tiny hanger. Each piece of art had its own story and all were very amusing. But I told him I could not accept payment. His response was, “You are not accepting payment; you are accepting a gift of art!” This wonderful man made a point to come in to personally thank me when he received his award letter.

A young man came to me to add an issue to his claim. He told me of his family’s history of serving in the Marines and how excited he had been to serve his country and carry on the family tradition. He told me that he had been in the best physical condition of his life while in boot camp. What he did not know, however, was that his body was failing him on the inside. He told me he put off requesting help because so many of his brothers out there were in much worse shape than him. I said to him “You sincerely tried to serve your country and had no way of knowing your body would get in the way of that. Do not discount the pain and suffering you continue to endure.” He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said, “You can’t imagine how liberating that is to hear.” I told him if he needed to hear it every day for the next 30 days, I would gladly repeat it.

2015 VERMONT STATE COUNCIL VETERAN BENEFITS ACCOMPLISHED

Powers of Attorney taken since program inception	5,339
Open claims currently assigned to six Service Officers	673
Total wins for 2014	213
Total claims judged “100% permanent and total” over 16 years	1,181
Cases “lost,” or the veteran moved or passed away in last nine years	36
Total funds recovered from the VA during 2015	\$7,203,338
Total recovered since inception of program in 1999	\$47,185,025

Veterans Support Foundation Discretionary Grants Program

Each year, Veterans Support Foundation provides discretionary grants to organizations across the United States who have adopted programs for veterans. These programs enhance the quality of life for active-duty military, veterans and their families by supporting education, health care, housing, counseling, recreation and emergency funding needs. Often small but innovative, these programs bring much-needed services to deserving veterans and military families where they live and work.

During 2015, VSF provided \$61,500 to help fund such efforts. Here are a few of those to whom we offered support.

Right: Heroes Night Out Veterans Resource Center in Leander, Texas delivered Thanksgiving dinners to veterans in need.



Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc. Orlando, Florida

Birth Defect Research for Children (BDRC) thanks Veterans Support Foundation for its \$10,000 grant for 2015. With VSF's generous support, we have served Vietnam veterans and their families in a variety of ways. From helping to inspire legislation, to encouraging the media to report on birth defects, to offering help and support to those affected, we are committed to the needs of this underserved community.

BDRC was a driving force behind the Toxic Research Act of 2015. The idea was the brain child of Executive Director Betty Mekdeci. With nearly 1,500 Vietnam veteran's children in our National Birth Defect Registry, Betty saw the need for a research center to study the effects of Agent Orange and other exposures during service. The idea has since found support from Vietnam Veterans of America, who crafted legislation and is working to see that it becomes law. Today, the bill has support from nearly all veterans groups, as well as bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, with 115 representatives and 21 senators acting as co-sponsors. For our part, BDRC has encouraged over 17,000 Americans to sign a petition supporting this important bill.



Top: Agent Orange Hope Bead bracelets are helping to promote A Center of Excellence staffed with experts in the effects of dioxins and other toxins on reproduction. This center will cover all children of veterans who have been exposed to toxins during military service. Bottom: Community volunteers make bracelets.

BDRC takes pride in the services we offer veterans and their children when looking for answers to their problems. Here are two samples of the responses we've received from those we helped.

My husband and I want to thank you very much for your help with the medical and educational compensation claim we have with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs for our son. We could not have done this without the resources on your website, as well as your time and phone calls. When we were turned down for the second time several years ago, we were ready to give up. But then, our Internet searches revealed you and your staff. We are so happy that we did not give up. When our first award letter came in the mail, we were almost afraid to read it. We cannot thank you and your staff enough. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You have truly opened the door of hope for us again. What you do makes a huge difference!

Your program has been wonderful to follow. It keeps me reading while I am down with chronic pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, COPD, OSA, and secondary erythrocytosis (polycythemia) as a result of living on Eniwetok Atoll for six months during 1964-65, serving in Operation Ranch Hand, where Agent Orange was used, and exposure to malathion, petroleum and solvents. Thanks for keeping up the good work.

BDRC Executive Director Betty Mekdeci also serves as special advisor to VVA's Agent Orange Committee, and fields media requests on veteran-related birth defects. Recently, Betty was interviewed by Mike Hixenbaugh, staff writer of ProPublica, to assist in his investigative piece on birth defects in veterans' children.

Heroes Night Out Veterans Resource Center Leander, Texas

Thanks to a grant from Veterans Support Foundation, Heroes Night Out Veterans Resource Center expanded its outreach to central Texas veterans and their families by 30 percent during 2015.

The holidays are a critical time of need for our families, especially because so many face heavy financial burdens. It's also an important time to reach out to those who deserve our appreciation and to connect them with a community of support.

This year, our annual Thank-A-Vet Thanksgiving Dinner served 315 veterans and family members. We also provided 69 meals to homebound veterans, and 200 boxed Thanksgiving dinners (with turkey, dressing, sides and desserts) for veterans to enjoy at home with their families.

In December, we found 39 Christmas sponsors for veteran families, and over 100 attended our Christmas celebration.

Lone Star Veterans Association Houston, Texas

Lone Star Veterans Association is a 501(c)(3) organization with over 6,000 members, some 3,000 of whom are post 9/11 veterans. We seek to help post 9/11 veterans and their families through direct communications, advocacy, employment assistance, mentoring, service and social programming. During 2015, the organization received a generous \$10,000 grant from Veterans Support Foundation. This grant helped fund our Veteran Career Transition Program for six months. We assisted over 300 veterans in their career searches and have increased awareness in the community among our employers and corporate partners.

The Career Transition program aims to not just find veterans jobs, but to help them transition to success. We serve any veteran who wants to grow his or her career. We operate a career posting board, hold transition workshops, distribute alerts about upcoming job fairs, and offer a Warrior for Life program: a luncheon series where veterans network with local companies and employers. At these events, veterans give their "elevator pitches" and formally interview for myriad positions, while companies benefit from a hiring venue and networking event. Lone Star Veterans also collaborates with other veteran service organizations engaged in helping veterans find jobs and transitioning back into the community.

During 2015, we hosted 17 Warrior Luncheons in Houston and placed 50 percent of our attendees in jobs and careers in the Houston market. Next year, we plan to replicate our Houston program in the Austin and Dallas markets.

In 2015, the Lone Star Veterans Association received a generous \$10,000 grant from Veterans Support Foundation. This grant helped fund their Veteran Career Transition Program for six months.



The Lone Star Veterans Association hosts a luncheon series where veterans can network with local companies and employers.

Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living Mechanicsville, Maryland

Southern Maryland has many homeless and disabled veterans, and quite a few have small children. While many resources are available to those living near Washington, DC, veterans in southern Maryland have very limited options for affordable housing or other assistance. As a consequence, many have resorted to building rough shelters in the woods throughout the area.

Each year, Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL) participates in the Point-in-Time Survey to determine the number of local homeless individuals and to provide them with information on housing and other essential services. Last year, we reached 206 unsheltered individuals, including many Vietnam-era veterans. It was heartbreaking to see so many without the proper clothing for the weather.

This year, SMCIL contacted the Three Oaks Center, the primary shelter for St. Mary's County, for the names of homeless veterans. We are providing 10 to 15 veterans with winter coats or thermal jumpsuits to help them stay warm during the winter months. We intend to make these individuals our clients, so that we can help them apply for benefits, learn how to use a computer, compose résumés, search for employment, and find housing and other benefits.

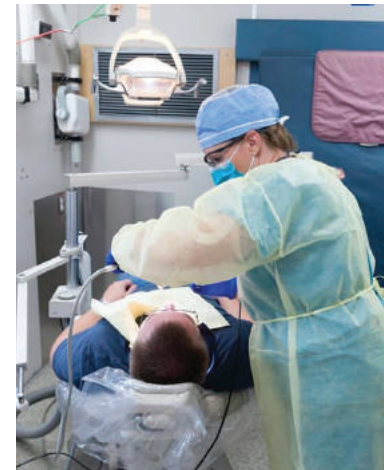
SMCIL plans to hire a part-time veteran to support our monthly meetings, earn certification on VA benefits, and learn about the five core services that SMCIL offers to veterans. We are also starting a peer mentoring program and educating local businesses on the advantages of hiring veterans.

The grant from the Veterans Support Foundation has allowed us to purchase cold-weather clothing for veterans, not only to protect them from the elements, but to serve as a bridge to other benefits and opportunities. Through its grant, VSF has made a difference for veterans in southern Maryland.

Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down Yuba Sutter, California

On August 20-22, 2015, Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down held its 16th annual Stand Down Event. A generous grant from Veterans Support Foundation helped us to provide much needed services including medical, dental, hearing and vision exams to veterans in need. We also offered safe sleeping quarters for those who needed them, as well as hot showers and three meals a day. Veterans received supplies such as sleeping bags, backpacks, clothing, boots, food and personal hygiene items including soap, shampoo, razors, and insect repellent.

Providers who helped to connect the veterans with critical services included the Veterans and Social Security Administrations, and educational, housing, legal, and employment and job counseling services. Also on hand were representatives from drug and alcohol recovery services, 12-step programs, chaplain services, and mental health counseling assistance.



A generous grant from Veterans Support Foundation helped to provide much needed services including medical, dental, hearing and vision exams to veterans in need during the 2015 Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down.

Here are some statistics from the event showing the extent of our outreach:

- 823 veterans and 308 eligible family members registered for services over three days.
- 762 volunteers and service providers were on hand to assist the veterans.
- Veterans ranged in age from 19 to 93.
- 85 women veterans attended.
- Veterans' eras of service ranged from WWII to current active duty.
- 156 registered veterans identified themselves as homeless.
- We placed two veteran families—a family of three and a family of four—into housing.

Veterans Support Foundation's willingness to help our small community in Northern California was remarkable, and we so appreciate all you do for veterans all across the country!



Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors
Veterans Support Foundation
Silver Spring, Maryland

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Veterans Support Foundation (the "Foundation") as of September 30, 2015, the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the Foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Veterans Support Foundation as of September 30, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Washington, D.C.
November 15, 2015

Mullins PC
Certified Public Accountants

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Veterans Support Foundation
 September 30, 2015
 (With Comparative Totals as of September 30, 2014)

ASSETS	2015	2014
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 184,280	\$ 131,703
Per Diem Grants Receivable	25,940	24,267
Unconditional Promises to Give (Net of Allowance for Uncollectible Promises to Give of \$17,854)	53,236	56,862
Prepaid Expenses	14,906	20,229
Fixed Index Annuities	<u>653,863</u>	<u>634,063</u>
 Total Current Assets	 932,225	 867,124
 Property and Equipment - Net	 <u>554,196</u>	 <u>568,733</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 1,486,421</u>	 <u>\$ 1,435,857</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2015	2014
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 104,887	\$ 37,821
Grants Payable	<u>227,192</u>	<u>208,870</u>
 Total Current Liabilities - Total Liabilities	 <u>332,079</u>	 <u>246,691</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,096,188	1,130,312
Temporarily Restricted	<u>58,154</u>	<u>58,854</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u>1,154,342</u>	 <u>1,189,166</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 1,486,421</u>	 <u>\$ 1,435,857</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Veterans Support Foundation
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2015
 (With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2014)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2015 Total	2014 Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES				
Contributions	\$ 1,635,541	\$ 105,196	\$ 1,740,737	\$ 1,972,286
Per Diem Grants	302,262	-	302,262	261,608
Veterans Housing	70,273	-	70,273	51,289
Miscellaneous	1,500	-	1,500	-
Unrealized Gains	19,800	-	19,800	24,492
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>105,896</u>	<u>(105,896)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Support and Revenues	 <u>2,135,272</u>	 <u>(700)</u>	 <u>2,134,572</u>	 <u>2,309,675</u>
EXPENSES				
Program Services				
Transitional Housing	422,252	-	422,252	422,590
Veterans Support	<u>208,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,251</u>	<u>243,943</u>
 Total Program Services	 <u>630,503</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>630,503</u>	 <u>666,533</u>
Supporting Services				
General and Administrative	500,679	-	500,679	644,628
Fund-Raising	<u>1,038,214</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,038,214</u>	<u>1,076,108</u>
 Total Supporting Services	 <u>1,538,893</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>1,538,893</u>	 <u>1,720,736</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u>2,169,396</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>2,169,396</u>	 <u>2,387,269</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(34,124)	(700)	(34,824)	(77,594)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>1,130,312</u>	<u>58,854</u>	<u>1,189,166</u>	<u>1,266,760</u>
 Net Assets - End of Year	 <u><u>\$ 1,096,188</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 58,154</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 1,154,342</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 1,189,166</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Veterans Support Foundation
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2015
 (With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2014)

	Program Services	Supporting Services		2015 Total	2014 Total
		General and Administrative	Fund-Raising		
EXPENSES					
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 170,521	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 170,521	\$ 175,207
Grants and Donations	208,251	-	-	208,251	243,943
Professional Fees	33,521	454,018	1,015,929	1,503,468	1,685,281
Marketing	-	33,725	-	33,725	19,331
Utilities	52,430	-	-	52,430	50,334
Repairs and Maintenance	49,627	-	-	49,627	30,837
Bank Fees	-	2,094	22,285	24,379	27,453
Travel	16,906	-	-	16,906	34,067
Depreciation	37,200	-	-	37,200	36,193
Insurance	36,728	2,229	-	38,957	31,676
Telephone	12,315	-	-	12,315	13,815
Taxes, Licenses, Etc.	1,043	4,671	-	5,714	8,821
Office Supplies	5,891	391	-	6,282	11,252
Printing	2	1,296	-	1,298	1,714
State Registration Fees and Expenses	-	971	-	971	-
Miscellaneous	288	-	-	288	931
Postage and Shipping	695	1,284	-	1,979	2,757
Furniture and Equipment	5,085	-	-	5,085	13,657
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$ 630,503</u>	<u>\$ 500,679</u>	<u>\$ 1,038,214</u>	<u>\$ 2,169,396</u>	<u>\$ 2,387,269</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Veterans Support Foundation
For the Year Ended September 30, 2015
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2014)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2015	2014
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (34,824)	\$ (77,594)
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities		
Depreciation	37,200	36,193
Gain on Fixed Index Annuities	(19,800)	(24,492)
(Increase) Decrease in Assets		
Per Diem Grants Receivable	(1,673)	(6,616)
Unconditional Promises to Give	3,626	32,108
Prepaid Expenses	5,323	(11,403)
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	67,066	11,040
Grants Payable	<u>18,322</u>	<u>(5,580)</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>75,240</u>	<u>(46,344)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2015	2014
Purchase of Property and Equipment	(22,663)	(13,402)
Purchases of Fixed Index Annuities	<u>-</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	<u>(22,663)</u>	<u>(93,402)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	52,577	(139,746)
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>131,703</u>	<u>271,449</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 184,280</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 131,703</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2015

1. ORGANIZATION

Veterans Support Foundation (the "Foundation") is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland. Its dual functions are providing funds to selected nonprofit organizations to support community-based, veteran-related projects throughout the United States and running several houses as transitional and permanent residences for homeless veterans.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Foundation uses the accrual method of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned rather than when received and expenses are recognized when incurred rather than when paid.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information in total, but not by net asset class or functional expense category. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Foundation's financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2014, from which the summarized information was derived.

PER DIEM GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Per diem grants receivable are stated at their outstanding balances in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Per diem grants are expected to be collected within three months as these grants are paid by the Federal Government's Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program. In management's judgment, no valuation allowance is considered necessary for per diem grants receivable because there has never been collection issues with these types of receivables.

PROMISES TO GIVE

Promises to give are stated at their outstanding balances, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts and the Combined Federal Campaign administrative fees, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

PROMISES TO GIVE (CONTINUED)

Promises to give are expected to be collected within one year. Management provides for possible uncollectible amounts for prior year's unpaid promises to give through a provision for bad debt expense and a valuation allowance based on a historical analysis of the collections and accounts written-off. Balances that are still outstanding after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written off through a charge to the valuation allowance and a credit to promises to give.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment in excess of \$2,000 are recorded at cost. Buildings, improvements and vehicles are depreciated under the straight-line method over their estimated economic useful lives. Buildings and improvements are depreciated over useful lives of 23 to 30 years and vehicles are depreciated over five years.

FIXED INDEX ANNUITIES

Fixed index annuities are contracts with insurance companies that provide a guaranteed annual interest rate and earnings potential linked to the S&P 500 Index. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in the statement of activities. Investment income is allocated to the Foundation based on minimums and caps as specified in the contracts. Investment income is allocated to the contract on the anniversary date. Income accrued, but not yet allocated to the Foundation is not material.

INCOME TAXES AND UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS

The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation follows the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification (FASB ASC), which provides guidance on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the Foundation's financial statements. The guidance prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return, and also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. As of September 30, 2015, the Foundation had no uncertain tax positions that qualify for either recognition or disclosure in its financial statements.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize interest and penalties on tax positions related to its unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense in the financial statements. No interest and penalties were recorded during the year ended September 30, 2015.

Generally, the tax years before 2011 are no longer subject to examination by federal, state, or local taxing authorities.

3. CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Foundation maintains its cash in accounts with financial institutions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000 per institution. As of September 30, 2015, the deposits did not exceed the insured coverage.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2015

4. FIXED INDEX ANNUITIES

The cost basis and contract value are summarized below:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Indexed Annuity Contracts	<u>\$ 506,000</u>	<u>\$ 653,863</u>

The cash surrender value of both funds as of September 30, 2015, is \$580,748.

The Foundation has two indexed annuity contracts. Investment income is allocated to the Foundation based on income crediting strategies stated in the contracts. Both indexed annuities are allocated 10%, 55%, and 35% to the fixed rate strategy, point-to-point cap index strategy and monthly cap index strategy, respectively.

The guaranteed investment income minimums and caps are shown below:

	<u>7 Year</u>		<u>10 Year</u>	
	Minimum Guarantee	Maximum Cap	Minimum Guarantee	Maximum Cap
Fixed Rate	1.00%	1.50%	1.00%	1.50%
Point-to-Point	0.00%	4.25%	0.00%	3.50%
Monthly Cap Index	0.00%	1.90%	0.00%	1.50%

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at September 30, 2015, were as follows:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Land	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ 80,000
Buildings	403,221	(268,399)	134,822
Improvements	619,230	(304,242)	314,988
Vehicles	<u>29,725</u>	<u>(5,339)</u>	<u>24,386</u>
	<u>\$ 1,132,176</u>	<u>\$ (577,980)</u>	<u>\$ 554,196</u>

Depreciation expense was \$37,200 for the year ended September 30, 2015.

6. VETERANS HOUSING

The Foundation owns and operates four residential properties located in West Haven and Manchester, Connecticut. Three of the four houses comprise the Foundation's Transitional Housing Program, which provides up to twenty-four homeless veterans the opportunity to live in a secure, supported environment while each works on his individual recovery. One of the residences provides permanent housing to six veterans. The veterans remain in active treatment with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) while they reside in the houses.

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., (VVA) is a related party because of common members of administrative management.

The Foundation granted \$129,566 in fiscal year 2015 to VVA, which is included in program services expense. These funds are subsequently used by VVA to help administer the nationwide VVA service officer program. Any previously awarded grants that are not used are credited to program services expense. Total grants payable to VVA were \$130,790 as of September 30, 2015.

During 2013, the Foundation agreed to pay VVA \$50,000 annually for the financial and accounting assistance provided by VVA to the Foundation and the personnel providing those services. Total management fees paid to VVA during 2015 were \$50,000. This amount is allocated 54% and 46% to program service expense and general and administrative expense, respectively.

8. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Net assets represents time restrictions that fully expire in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 and purpose restrictions for the repair and maintenance of the transitional houses. The restricted activity is as follows:

	<u>Oct. 1</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Sept. 30</u>
Time Restrictions	\$56,862	\$77,696	\$(81,322)	\$53,236
Transitional Houses	<u>1,992</u>	<u>27,500</u>	<u>(28,574)</u>	<u>4,918</u>
	<u>\$58,854</u>	<u>\$105,196</u>	<u>\$(105,896)</u>	<u>\$58,154</u>

9. PER DIEM GRANT REVENUE

The Foundation participates in the VA's homeless grant and per diem program to support the housing of homeless veterans on a per diem basis. The VA pays the Foundation a portion of the cost associated with housing veterans referred by the VA or for those for whom the VA authorizes the provision of supportive housing or supportive services. Total per diem grant revenue associated with this program was \$302,262 for the year ended September 30, 2015.

10. VETERANS SUPPORT

The Foundation, as part of its ongoing service to veterans, provides funding in the form of grants to veteran-related projects throughout the United States. The Foundation gives priority to matching funds projects. The Foundation provides funding solely for scientific, charitable, and educational purposes. These grants are scheduled for a one-year period.

11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Foundation has evaluated subsequent events through November 15, 2015, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.



2015 VSF HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Grants and Donations:

Disabled American Veterans
Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund
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New Alliance Foundation
Notre Dame High School Athletic Department
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IN-KIND SUPPORT

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Veterans Support Foundation
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710
1.800.882.1316, ext. 126

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America's veterans.*

