

PUTTING VETERANS FIRST



2024 IMPACT REPORT



OUR MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends,

Florida is home to 1.5 million veterans, the third-highest veteran population in the country. Many of these brave individuals face daunting challenges as they transition into civilian life, including mental and physical trauma, unemployment, and homelessness.

Founded in 2009, Wounded Veterans Relief Fund (WVRF), a veteran-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides urgent financial assistance and critical dental care to Florida's wounded and disabled veterans. Our help is not only life-changing, but it can also be life-saving. And in many cases, we're the only resource for these service members in desperation.

That's why your support is critical. In this Impact Report, you'll see how your contributions deliver vital aid to veterans who've risked everything for our freedom. **Together, we break barriers, restore hope, and empower these heroes and their families to succeed.**

Thank you for standing with us.



Mike Durkee

Mike Durkee
WVRF Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To provide urgent financial assistance and critical dental care to Florida's eligible wounded and disabled veterans.

**YOUR HELP
MEANS WE HELP!**

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THE NEED

THE FACTS ARE STAGGERING

Suicide rates among veterans are **1.5x the rate** of the civilian population.

Post-Traumatic Stress is the **#1 risk factor** for suicide.

Only about half of Florida veterans, **nearly 780,000**, are enrolled in Florida's VA.

Today, **150,000** of Florida veterans need critical dental care.

Veterans suffer **higher rates** of homelessness and financial instability than civilians.

Today, **460,000** of Florida veterans are wounded or disabled.

Today, **85%** of disabled veterans are not eligible for VA dental care.

**All numbers are estimated from VA, FDVA and Census Reports*

Putting Veterans First

HELP IS HERE

WE'RE PUTTING VETERANS BACK ON THEIR FEET

URGENT FINANCIAL
—ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—

Imagine being wounded in the line of duty. Then, after bravely sacrificing for America, you continue to suffer and live in constant fear that you can't work, afford a home, or support your family, much less get out of depression and find a way to smile. That's where WVRF comes in. Working in collaboration with the VA, County Veteran Service Officers, CareerSource, local businesses and non-profits, we turn lives around through two primary programs: the Urgent Financial Assistance Program and the Critical Dental Assistance Program. Our statistics show that 82% of veterans we assist do not seek additional funding and are self-sufficient moving forward. Now that's making an impact.

URGENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (UFAP)

Our Urgent Financial Assistance Program was established in order to fill the financial gaps when our veterans are faced with various crisis situations including loss of employment, unplanned medical bills, fire and natural disasters. We assist with the following:



Housing

move-in costs, eviction avoidance, late mortgage



Vehicle

past due vehicle loan or insurance payments



Basic Utilities

electric, water, gas, sewage



Temporary Childcare

for transitioning veterans starting new employment or vocational school

I truly don't know where I would be without the help of the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund. Your organization pulled me out of one of the darkest times in my life, giving me hope when I had nowhere else to turn. I am deeply grateful and thank God for you every single day. Because of your support, I am safe, I am cared for, and I am loved.

Charlesetta Escort

Army Veteran
Urgent Financial Assistance Program



HELP IS HERE

WE'RE DOING WHAT NO ONE ELSE IS DOING



Critical Dental Assistance Program (CDAP)

Our unique dental program provides critical dental care to veterans who do not qualify for VA dental coverage or cannot afford dental insurance or the costly co-pays. Our program was created because an overwhelming number of our **veterans (85%) do not qualify for VA dental care**. This means the majority of our disabled veterans are at high risk for significant health problems, some potentially life-threatening.

Dental care is so crucial because it:

- Treats infections and eliminates pain
- Increases overall health and wellbeing
- Increases employment opportunities
- Boosts self-confidence and restores hope

The program started with two dental partners in 2020, 48 partners in 2021, and over 64 dental partners in 2022. In 2023, we had 150 dental partners and over 300 in 2024. We continue to seek out new dental partners in Florida in order to reach our underserved veterans in our state. We helped 129 veterans in 2023 and 234 veterans in 2024.



Wounded Veterans Relief Fund's dental program provides **100% FREE** critical dental care to our qualified disabled veterans who do not qualify for VA dental coverage



We assist with life-saving critical dental needs



WVRF can assist with dental needs such as extractions, implants, dentures, and periodontal disease treatments, and more

“Three months ago, I was in unbearable pain. I couldn't eat, drink, or even smile. Struggling to make ends meet, I couldn't afford the dental care I needed, and I felt hopeless. Wounded Veterans Relief Fund stepped in and immediately connected me with a dentist to fix my teeth. They gave me relief, hope, and a chance to move forward. Thank you, WVRF, and to your generous donors—you truly made a difference for veterans like me.”

Doug Renault
Air Force Veteran
Critical Dental Assistance Program

WVRF HAS PROVIDED 436 VETERANS WITH THE GIFT OF A SMILE



YOUR IMPACT

THE NUMBERS ARE GREAT.
THE NEED IS HIGHER.

We are a high-impact organization committed to ensuring that 80% or more of all contributions go directly to supporting veterans and their families in Florida. Unlike government-funded programs, our independence allows us greater flexibility in the ways we assist, enabling us to act swiftly and provide critical support within 24-72 hours. This rapid response ensures that veterans in crisis receive the help they need when they need it most.

2024 Urgent Financial Assistance in Florida

\$786,806

Year total

1090

Veterans and family members served

2024 Critical Dental Assistance in Florida

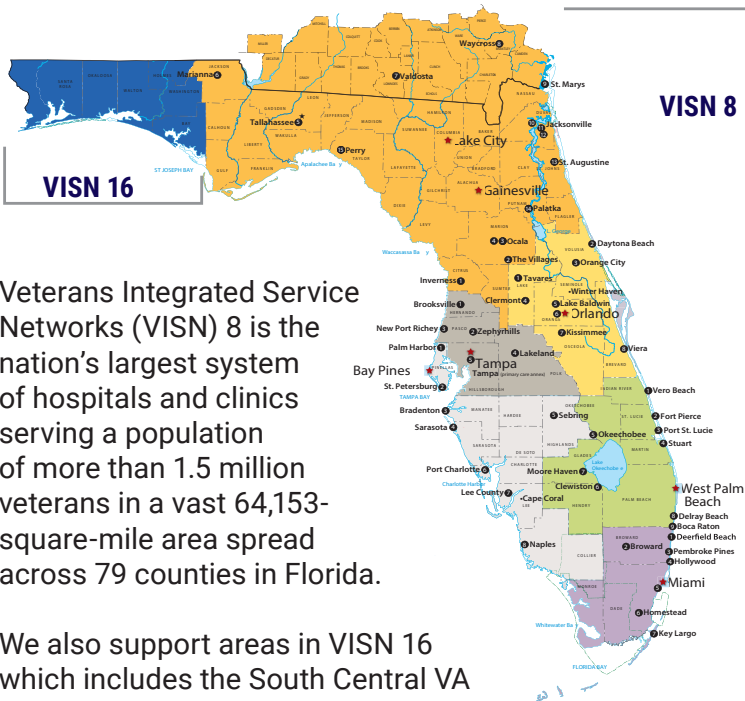
\$1,001,800

Year total

234

Veterans served

SERVICE AREA



Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) 8 is the nation's largest system of hospitals and clinics serving a population of more than 1.5 million veterans in a vast 64,153-square-mile area spread across 79 counties in Florida.

We also support areas in VISN 16 which includes the South Central VA Health Care Network.



Today, **80%** of donations go directly to supporting Florida disabled veterans and their families.

Since the inception of the Critical Dental Assistance Program (CDAP) in 2021, we have delivered **\$3.3 million+** in direct dental assistance to Florida's wounded and disabled veterans.

In 2024 we delivered **\$1,788,606** in direct program assistance to Florida disabled veterans. A total of **1,324** veterans & family members were supported.



YOUR HELP MEANS WE HELP!

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BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Having Ambassadors in different locations across Florida for the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund is crucial for:

**FUNDRAISING
OUTREACH
AWARENESS
SUPPORT**

Our Ambassadors help to establish a strong presence, extend our reach and tailor support to the specific needs of veterans in various communities. Their involvement enhances community engagement, advocacy, and fundraising, ultimately leading to a greater impact on the lives of disabled veterans in Florida.

To become an Ambassador or for more information please contact us at EMoore@wvrf.org

WANT TO HELP?

LET'S GO!

Ways to Contribute:

Since we are 100% donor funded, we need your support! We strive to have the resources available to help all the 1.5 million veterans in the state of Florida. Here are a few ways you can contribute to this critical cause:

- Host/sponsor a fundraising event
- Cash donation: one time or recurring
- Donate auction items for our events
- Nominate us as designated charity for your existing event
- Facebook birthday fundraiser
- Family foundation grant
- Donor advised fund
- Planned legacy giving
- Employer matching
- Stock donations
- Attend events



More Ways to Serve:

You can also provide us with hands-on help by donating your time. In addition, connecting us with people you think we should know can also help expand our network and mission. You can:

- Make an introduction to someone you think we should know
- Apply to be a State Ambassador
- Volunteer at events
- Be our photographer/videographer

**WE ARE FUNDED BY YOU.
WE CAN'T HELP
WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
WVRF.ORG**



SIGNATURE EVENTS

JOIN THE FUN. SEE THE IMPACT.

We host various fundraising events throughout the year as well as being selected as a benefactor by other organizations. These events are crucial to our mission, but you'll also find them to be fun and meaningful. Here are some highlights from 2024:

Running for Heroes | May 11, 2024 - Jupiter, FL



Bonito Blast | July 26-27, 2024 - Stuart, FL



Devil Dog 5K September 22, 2024 - Boca Raton, FL



A Night of Honor Gala

November 2, 2024 - West Palm Beach, FL



THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSORS



RAYMOND JAMES



THANK YOU PARTNERS



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Dr. Harvey Solomon, Retired Dentist

Dr. Thomas Roberts, Dentist/Implant Dentistry of South Florida, West Palm Beach



We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit charitable foundation.



**YOUR HELP
MEANS WE HELP!**

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CONNECT WITH US

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