

# MILITARY OUTREACH USA



# 2017

## Annual Report

<http://militaryoutreachusa.org>

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## Message from the Chairman of the Board

Dear Partners and Friends,

From its early beginnings in 2011, to serve Veterans and their families in the greater Chicago area, Military Outreach USA has become a nation-wide organization with Partners in every State, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC.

Its mission as a faith-based organization is to serve our Military Community comprised of Active Duty Military, Reserve, National Guard, Veterans and their Families.

Military Outreach USA develops Partners who are local volunteers, businesses, agencies, houses of worship and organizations that are committed to extending a helping hand to our nation's Military Community.

In its efforts to increase awareness of one of the invisible wounds of war called Moral Injury, Military Outreach USA conducts national webinars, presentations and outreach programs. In 2017 alone almost 10,000 people were reached through these outreach programs.

Through its formal partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, impactful programs have been launched to serve Veterans who are homeless, at risk of being homeless or exiting homelessness. Through the Adopt-a-VA initiative more than 25,000 Veterans have been served since 2016.

Today, Military Outreach USA stands at the forefront of national service organizations and, through our Partners, is providing up-to-date resources and support for our Military Community.

As we enter a New Year, we are thankful for the continued support of our Donors and Partners which enables us to continue to serve.

With appreciation,

*Richard C. Slayton*

Chairman of the Board

Military Outreach USA



**Richard C. Slayton**

**Board Chair**

## Mission/Vision Statement

Military Outreach USA is a national service organization dedicated to providing resources and support to caring Partners who envision a nation where no one in the Military Community lacks the mental, spiritual, physical or material support needed to live a full and productive life.

## Programs

### Adopt-a-VA



Launched in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2017 this program is an expansion of the Veterans Exiting Homeless Program begun in 2016. Working in partnership with VA facilities across the nation more than 25,000 Veterans have been served since the program was launched.

### Moral Injury



Moral Injury is an invisible wound of war that is recognized as a contributor to Veteran suicide. Moral Injury is not typically associated with mental illness, but it is more a wound to the soul. Military Outreach USA is at the forefront of creating programs, awareness and understanding of this invisible wound of war.

### Partner Relations



Military Outreach USA relies upon Partner houses of worship, businesses, civic groups, organizations and caring individuals to help implement our programs throughout the nation. Every year our Partners serve the Military Community by conducting events, collection drives or helping individual Veterans in need.

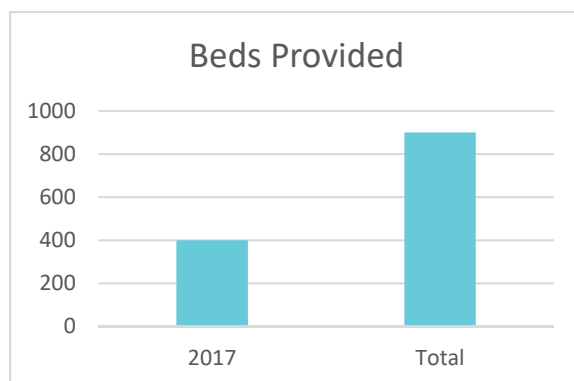
## Adopt-a-VA Impact

Beginning with a pilot program in 2015 to the end of 2017 Military Outreach USA has developed and expanded programs in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs to serve Veterans who are homeless, at risk of being homeless or exiting homelessness.

There are more than 135,000 Veterans who are either homeless or participate in the VA HUD-VASH (Veteran Assisted Supportive Housing) program. These figures do not include the countless tens of thousands of Veterans and their families who are at risk of becoming homeless or those who have “fallen off the grid”.

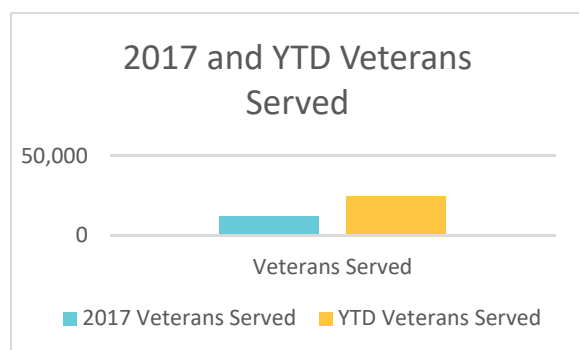
Military Outreach USA programs evolve to meet their needs by being adaptive to the individual while working within the VA system. At the end of 2017 Military Outreach USA developed and launched the VA Top 10 Needs List. This program is designed to meet the needs of an individual Veteran within a given community. The program, in partnership with the local requesting VA facility, means that a Veteran in Seattle will get rain gear while a Veteran in Bath, NY will receive fast food gift cards.

This and other programs are managed by the local VA facility to ensure qualified Veterans are provided with the support needed to transition out of homelessness.



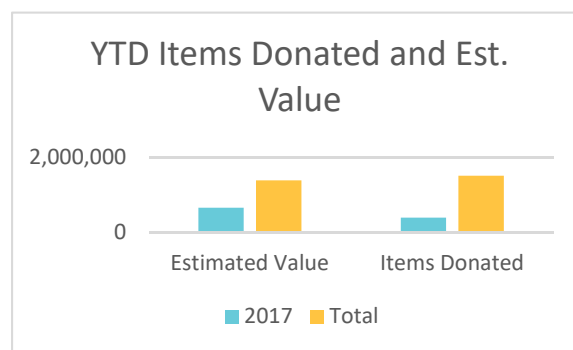
383 Beds delivered in 2017

913 Since 2016



12,690 Veterans Served in 2017

25,034 Since 2016



375,000 Move-in-Essentials delivered in 2017

725,327 Since 2016. Valued at \$1,341,980

## Some Facts

Additional considerations affecting the Military Community in 2018:

- The Veteran homeless rate **increased** by 2% in 2017.
- More than 135,000 Veterans are homeless or receiving financial household support from the VA.
- There are approx. **50,000 homeless Veterans** on the street every night.
- Every week tens of thousands of Veterans and their Families are at risk of becoming homeless.
- More than 10,000 beds are needed to meet the needs of formerly homeless Veterans.
- Many if not most National Guard personnel receive no Federal or VA benefits.
- Approx. 2% of Active Duty military and 7% of Veterans are on food stamps.
- Stressors such as increased deployments will be affecting our Military Community throughout 2018 and beyond.
- Veteran suicide as a percent of population remains at epidemic levels.

It will only be through the support of our Partners, donors and sponsors that Military Outreach USA will be able to not only maintain but increase its level of service to the men and women and their families who have worn the military uniform of our nation.

### Military Outreach USA

Highlighting the accomplishments of Military Outreach USA programs.



#### What Has Been Accomplished

## 13,000

VETERANS SERVED  
IN 2017

## 25,000

VETERANS SERVED  
Since 2016

## 725,000

MOVE-IN-ESSENTIALS  
Provided since 2016

## 913

BEDS DELIVERED  
Provided free of charge since 2016

#### Alarming Stats

## 30%

Percent of returning service members from OIF/OEF who suffer from PTS/PTSD

## 60%

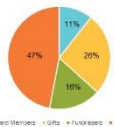
Percent of returning female Veterans returning from Afghanistan suffering from Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Many of the above issues are addressed through resources and programs provided by Military Outreach USA.

#### Sources of Funds

Military Outreach USA receives its funding from donors, gifts, events and its Board of Directors.

Percentage




Corporate Members   Gifts   Fundraisers   Donors

#### Veterans at Risk

**48,000+ Veterans remain homeless**

**85,000+ Need continuing support**

**Homeless Veterans increased by 2% in 2017**



#### Beds for Vets

One of the greatest successes of our outreach program has been the ability to provide to Veterans and their families a bed in which to sleep.

Since the beginning of our Beds for Vets program Military Outreach USA has provided free of charge more than 900 beds to Veterans and their family members in need.

Through the resource materials and support programs provided by Military Outreach USA our Partners are able to better serve those who have served us.

None of what has been or will be accomplished can be done without the support of our Partners, donors and sponsors.

Want to learn more or get more details? Email us:

[info@militaryoutreachusa.org](mailto:info@militaryoutreachusa.org)

[www.militaryoutreachusa.org](http://www.militaryoutreachusa.org)



## Beds for Veterans

When a Veteran leaves a shelter or transitional housing to a permanent residence they often only have what they left the shelter with...which isn't very much. Through programs developed by Military Outreach USA, such as the **Beds for Vets Program**, Veterans who are exiting homelessness now receive basic move-in-essential items, donated furniture and new beds.

Because of donations from our supporters more than 900 beds have been provided to Veterans and their family members since the program was implemented in 2016.



For 5 years this Veteran living in San Francisco was sleeping on the floor of his apartment. Military Outreach USA received a call from the Veteran's caseworker who had just become aware of the Beds for Vets Program and inquired if we could help. Within two days Military Outreach USA has located a local retailer who would deliver and set up a new bed for the Veteran. Today this Veteran no longer is sleeping on the floor in his apartment through a program provided by Military Outreach USA.

Military Outreach USA serves not only Veterans but their families as well. When informed by a caseworker that a Veteran had two daughters who were sleeping on air mattresses. Military Outreach USA was asked if we would provide assistance. One day after the request was made a volunteer went to the supplier of beds and delivered to the Veterans' family.



Native American Veterans are often forgotten as they typically live away from larger population centers. The VA has created a pilot program to serve Native American Veterans. Serving the needs of these Veterans, Military Outreach USA provided 20 beds to one of the first projects completed at Yakima, WA. A female Veteran who was sleeping in her car now has a roof over her head and a bed on which to sleep. A Vietnam Veteran no longer sleeps on the ground but in a full-size bed provided by Military Outreach USA.



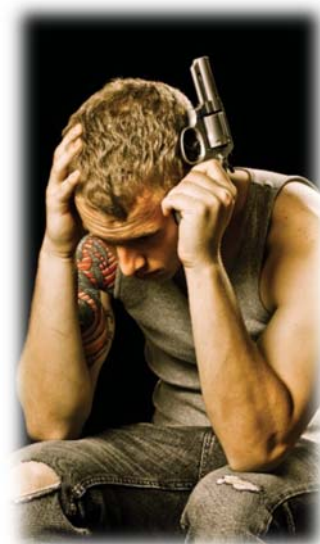
## Moral Injury

All wounds are not visible, and some do not manifest themselves such as is witnessed in cases of PTSD or TBI. Moral Injury is a hidden wound that is often internalized and can lead to feelings of guilt, depression and even suicide. Military Outreach USA works with its Partners to serve those in need.



Throughout 2017 Military Outreach USA conducted more than 30 presentations dealing with the topic of Moral Injury. Through these presentations we reached more than 9,500 people in helping to create awareness of the causes and treatment of a Moral Injury. With more than 20 Veterans a day taking their own lives by suicide Military Outreach USA keeps Moral Injury at the forefront of suicide prevention and awareness programs. The impact of these presentations cannot always be measured but in one case it could be...

We received an urgent call one Thursday evening from a hospice organization coordinator who had worked with Military Outreach USA Moral Injury presentations in the local community. Her sister-in-law had called about her son, an unemployed Afghanistan Army Veteran who was in crisis. He had just moved from Chicago to Florida, had been prescribed with numerous opiates, and was frustrated because he could not get an appointment to see a VA counselor. His wife called his mother pleading for help. The Veteran had a gun and was acting strangely. His mother had purchased a plane ticket to immediately fly to be with her son. We called our VA contacts in Chicago and within 24 hours, a VA representative contacted him, the situation was neutralized, and the Veteran had a scheduled appointment with a local VA counselor the next week. Subsequently, the Veteran and his family received support, therapy, and job counselling and is on the road to recovery. His mother said we saved her son's life.



Through the efforts of Military Outreach USA, awareness about Moral Injury and its effects on not only Veterans but those in civilian positions such as medicine, fire fighting and law enforcement has grown. Through the support of sponsors and caring donors Military Outreach USA will be able to continue to develop programs dealing with this invisible wound of war.



## Partner Development

Because of the formal partnership between Military Outreach USA and the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA facilities have received support from Partners within their communities who otherwise would have remained unaware of the needs of local Veterans. This support is manifested in Move-in-Essentials, clothing and food drives being donated by local houses of worship, civic groups, businesses, schools and caring individuals to their local VA facility.



When the food pantry in the VA in Durham, NC ran out of stock Military Outreach USA received a call to see what could be done to alleviate the situation. Reaching out to Veteran service groups, houses of worship and civic groups in the Durham area the food pantry was re-stocked in two days with an abundance of product to serve Veterans in need.



Many of those who supported the effort to replenish the food pantry are now regular donors to help ensure that Durham never runs empty again.



When the Chief of Voluntary Services from Jesse Brown VA in Chicago contacted Military Outreach USA it was indeed an unusual request. A Veteran in his final stages of life in their hospice care program had requested an accordion to play. Contacting a Partner from a local house of worship we were able to bring on the next day an accordion for the Veteran to help meet his request.

When the call came to Military Outreach USA from a VA caseworker to provide diapers for a female Veteran who just had triplets it was a challenge. Working with other Partners we identified a “diaper bank” which not only provided diapers but other needed baby products as well. Today the triplets are being supplied with an ongoing supply of diapers.

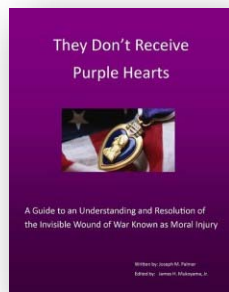


Military Outreach USA continues to develop Partners at the local level to meet the needs of local VA facilities. As every Veteran is different so are their needs. By working with Partners at the local level Military Outreach USA can meet those needs.

## Publications and Resources

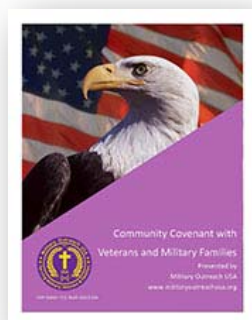
Military Outreach USA has produced publications and resources provided free of charge to anyone with an interest in serving those in the Military Community.

### ***They Don't Receive Purple Hearts***



*They Don't Receive Purple Hearts*, available in print and on our website, is a detailed work addressing the invisible wound of war called Moral Injury. Beginning with an introduction to military culture the publication explores the history of moral injury and its effects on the individual concluding with various suggestions for treatment. This book has been used by select VA facilities as an introduction to Moral Injury and how to treat this invisible wound of war.

### ***Community Covenant***



The *Community Covenant* guide is a cornerstone publication used by community groups to establish local support programs for those in the Military Community. The publication describes areas where support is needed and then solutions that can be offered by the community. Military Outreach USA recognizes that national programs need to be adaptable to the local level and this guide helps to fill the gap to what is provided nationally to a local level program using local resources.

### ***Webinars-Resources-Research***

Military Outreach USA provides webinars free of charge that focus on the needs of the Military Community. Past webinars have dealt with Suicide Prevention, Moral Injury, Military Culture, Isolation and Loneliness and more relevant topics that affect those who have served.

In addition to webinars Military Outreach USA provides on its website one of the most detailed lists of vetted resources available dealing with topics ranging from VA to Caregiver Support. Military Outreach USA researches recent studies, agency programs and Partner resources that can be used in service to the Military Community. Other free resources include DVDs with a focus on Moral Injury.

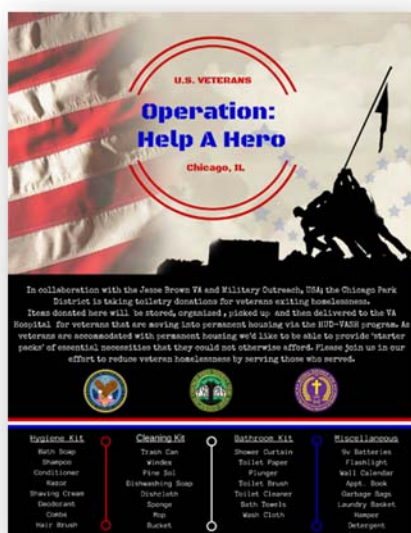
## Resources & Fiscal Management

Military Outreach USA publishes its 990's on: [www.militaryoutreachusa.org/donate.html](http://www.militaryoutreachusa.org/donate.html) Financial data is included in those filings.

### Staffing and Volunteers

Military Outreach USA has a staff of three salaried employees consisting of the President/CEO, Executive Director and Partner Development Director. Other staffing requirements are currently filled with contract employees. They include an Administrative Assistant and Social Media Director.

Military Outreach USA relies on unpaid volunteers to implement many of our programs. In 2017 volunteers helped collect more than 350,000 Move-in-Essential items and then deliver to VA facilities across the nation. By working with volunteers Military Outreach USA can best utilize financial donations in support of our various programs, such as beds for Vets, that require financial resources.



### Fiscal Responsibility

Military Outreach USA believes that no single organization can meet all the needs of those who have served. Every attempt to work with others within a community to assist our nation's Veterans is taken to share cost burdens.

Such a case is the partnership with the City of Chicago in the **Operation: Help A Hero Program** implemented in 2016 to collect Move-in-Essentials for Veterans being served by Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. The program to date has resulted in more than 400,000 donated items given to qualified Veterans.

By working within the VA network and with community partners Military Outreach USA can provide needed resources to qualified Veterans. Scrutiny of our expenditures and acting as good stewards of donations ensures that funds are used to serve those within our Military Community.

Military Outreach USA is a recognized 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by current IRS regulations. Working with our Partners, Military Outreach USA serves all in the Military Community regardless of age, color, national origin, citizenship status, physical or mental disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, genetic information, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

# Looking Forward

## Executive Leadership



James Mukoyama, Jr.  
President/CEO  
Major General, U.S. Army, RET



Joseph Gross  
Partner Development Director

A major goal of Military Outreach USA for 2018 is to supply to VA facilities with requested items from their Top 10 Needs List. At projected levels this program can serve more than 75,000 Veterans in need.

Move-in-Essential collection drives will be conducted by our Partners throughout the year. We have the goal of reaching more than 1,000,000 items donated in 2018.

Innovative programs and resources will be directed toward assisting female Veterans who are becoming a larger percentage of homelessness Veterans.

Additionally, support programs will be developed to help our nation's Caregiver who must care for our wounded warriors upon return to the U.S.

Comprised of Veterans, many of whom have served in combat, and caring supporters for our Military Community the leadership team and Board of Directors of Military Outreach USA are committed to successfully fulfilling the goals of our Mission/Vision Statement where we...

***"...envision a nation where no one in the Military Community lacks the mental, spiritual, physical or material support needed to live a full and productive life."***

Through the existing programs, resources and material support provided by Military Outreach USA to our nation's Military Community, coupled with innovative responses to meet the needs of our Partners, Military Outreach USA will continue to serve those who have served us.

It can't be done without the continuing support of our donors and sponsors.

## Why We Need Your Support

Military Outreach USA programs cannot exist without your support. Without the past support of sponsors and donors a Veteran would still be sleeping on the floor in San Francisco or two young girls would be sleeping on an air mattress or Native American Veterans would be sleeping in a car or on the ground. It was through past support that Military Outreach USA was able to serve.

The needs of Veterans and those in the Military Community have not diminished but have grown. More women Veterans are now becoming homeless. More families need help and Caregiver support. More homeless Veterans are on the streets every day. A disturbing fact is that the ***Veteran homeless rate increased by 2% in 2017***. That statistic alone emphasizes the need of donor and corporate support for our programs.

With your support Military Outreach USA will be able to expand our services to those who have served. Whether in providing a poncho to a Veteran in Seattle or having a bed delivered to a formerly homeless Veteran in New York City we need to support those who have served us.

## Ways to Give

Donations to Military Outreach USA can be made through our website: [www.militaryoutreachusa.org/donate.html](http://www.militaryoutreachusa.org/donate.html) or

Donation\* checks can be mailed to:

Military Outreach USA  
3020 Milwaukee Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062

\*Please make sure to note in Memo section how donation is to be used.



## Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

If you can't contribute financially and still want to serve our Veterans, consider volunteering your time and skills to assist Military Outreach USA on any one of its programs. To learn more, go to [www.militaryoutreachusa.org/volunteer.html](http://www.militaryoutreachusa.org/volunteer.html)

# 2017

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3020 Milwaukee Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062

**Connect with Us!**

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