

# TEAM SAVANNAH FOR VETERANS

## A Look Back on 2021



### 2021-A Year to Remember



After a year of complex changes and experiences prompted due to the coronavirus, we figured it would be back to business as usual. However, we received an increase in assistance requests throughout the year, partially due to government-funded programs ending for coronavirus. Those requests focused on Veterans facing homelessness or losing essential utilities. Preventing turning down a Veteran in an emergency, we began applying for grants and gathering donations for our emergency fund.

To grow our reach, we connected and became active members of the Chatham County Veterans Council. Along with this, we have made other significant connections to Veteran Organizations, Businesses, and Individuals. Making this connection has been vital, as we have been able to focus our support, and if unable to help a Veteran, we can find an organization to assist that Veteran.

## 2021 YEARLY REVIEW



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **General Overview of 2021**

Overview of our year and how the team has worked and grown through the year.

#### **Events and Projects of 2021**

Discussion about the events we held or attended as well as the projects we did to help Veterans.

#### **Financial Overview**

A visual representation of how we utilized and gained donations for the year.

#### **Volunteering**

Learn about volunteering

-TEAM SAVANNAH FOR VETERANS-

# General Overview

2021 has been quite the year for Team Savannah! With our name becoming more familiar within the community and more requests coming in, we have seen one specific request quite common this year. These requests were for housing assistance—anything from temporary housing, rent assistance, and even transitions into rental homes. In 2020 the Homeless Authority counted 234 homeless Veterans in Chatham County alone, so it is crucial to fight for those individuals and prevent homelessness. In 2021, our most extensive focus area was the prevention of homelessness and providing shelter for Veterans.

This year we have teamed up with The Dive Savannah and began delivering meals once a week to residents of the Veterans Village in Savannah. These members were once homeless and have been given shelter in these tiny homes. Our goal is to provide them with that connection; we will provide that assistance if they need something. We also want to build that relationship and that community to make them feel welcome and that they are family, just like when we were in the military. This year, we have delivered approximately 800 meals to the veterans at the Veterans Village and their loved ones.

With all the requests, we have had an immense number of events that we have attended. From the Savannah Veterans Day Parade, Richmond Hill Seafood Festival, Nine Line Run for the Wounded, AAAA Golf Scramble, Fight the War Within Car Show, and many more! We have even hosted quite a few of our events. We had our second Paint the Stigma and second Scavenger Race. For the second year in a row, VFW Post 660 Riders supported TS4V with their Spades run for us this year. Dave from Debellation Brewery invited us out for his Grains for Good fundraiser. 208 Wine Bar held a fundraiser for us. Hero Hut selected us for one of their Pint Night fundraisers at Ben's Neighborhood Grill & Tap. Finally, Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association 25-2 held a Poker Run for us this year. All of these are just some of the big-ticket items.

One of the best things that we have been able to say about this year are that instead of hearing people saying, "I've never heard of you guys" at a festival, to hear people saying, "Yeah, I'm following you guys on social media." That shows that what we are doing is getting around the community. Our community's word is precious to a nonprofit, so share information and news about what we are doing or point a potential volunteer in our direction whenever you get a chance. It is always great to have assistance in the shape of volunteers in nonprofits.



## Words from the President

After the close of 2020, we had big goals for the past year, but we never dreamed of our effect on local Veterans and the community. Unfortunately, 2021 turned out to be another stressful year for Veterans with a considerable increase in assistance requests. As a result, Team Savannah For Veterans increased our fundraisers and grant applications to support this financial burden. As a result, we impacted more than **four times** the number of Veterans in 2021 from past years and increased assistance provided by 400% to **\$32,544**.

The Increase in assistance and required funding resulted in greater time the team members have spent on accomplishing our mission, The members continued to spend early mornings and late nights working at fundraisers and on projects. Not only are we working on our mission, but we have worked in unison with other organizations. Working with our partners FTWW, P2P, VFW 660, and The Dive Savannah is always great result.

Huge Thanks to all our supporters this year! Howmet Aerospace, CXS Railroad, Home Depot, Walmart, Kroger, and ITPA, to name a few. Without you, we can't continue our passion of helping local Veterans in need. We hope these accomplishments inspire you as much as they inspire us.

Chris O'Malley





# Projects

To kick start the year, we had a Veteran's widow reach out to us requesting assistance moving from her old place into a new apartment. Finally, after about three truckloads, she was safe in her new apartment. Shortly after this individual, a Veteran approached us, asking us for assistance with his vehicle. It was the only vehicle he had, the only way for him to get back and forth to work besides the truck he borrowed from a family member temporarily. We stepped in with the assistance of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, and we were able to replace the engine and get him back on the road.

Saving water and saving struggles, one Veteran that we assisted this year was dealing with an issue with his house where he would go outside to turn the water on, go inside to utilize any form of water, then go back outside to turn it back off. All of this because he had leaks below the house. Collaborating with a contractor, we repaired those leaks so that the water pipes could operate effectively.



This year, we were able to help two Veterans with their yards. We assisted one Veteran with some minor clean-up that a lawnmower could not clean up. The other was cleaning some overgrown grass, which will lead to more clean-up in the future. As we assisted the second Veteran, we built a relationship with him, finding other issues that needed resolve, like knowing he needed a replacement washer and dryer, cleaning supplies, motivation, as well as that brotherhood connection. Along with yard items, we had one Veteran that we were able to install a brand-new flagpole in his yard. He can proudly display his flags year found, day and night, with lights, to ensure the vet stays within the flag code. Thanks to a family member, this flagpole was a pleasant surprise to the Veteran to come home to after a hard day of work.



This year we have been able to supply eight Veterans with some form of assistance preventing homelessness. We have aided with temporary housing, rent, utilities, transitioning into apartments, etc. During these transitional stays, we ensure that these Veterans and their families, if applicable, have food and other essential items. While getting Veterans into apartments, we partnered with other organizations such as churches and Provisions4Patriots to obtain furniture and clothing for them. During this process, we work towards mentoring them to be financially responsible, rather than just paying their bills and hoping that their situation never happens again.

Not all projects are things that we can handle here. We can address some situations locally, but we found one that can be better handled differently after review. For example, this year, we came across a homeless Veteran that we ended up putting on a bus and sent to Oregon due to him having an opportunity for work and shelter immediately upon arrival; all he needed was to get there. Had he stayed here in Savannah, it would have taken more resources/finances and leave him without family support.

We've also assisted Veterans struggling with their living situations through bills such as utilities. We've had a couple of Veterans that we've been able to get them back on track with their utility bills that fell behind. We've also joined forces with some active-duty units to support the returning soldiers in the barracks. Teaming up to assist with welcome home barracks packages, ensuring they have essential items, and letting them know there is someone here for them. To end the year off right, we were proud to have adopted six families with a total of 17 children. We took on some additional families through local V.A. outpatient clinics, providing an extra four families and eight children with presents to ensure that they could have a good Christmas. The Veteran can provide that for their children, totaling ten families and 25 children supported this year.



# Projects (Cont.)

One of the most significant projects we took on this year was a remodel of a mobile home with some water damage. At the initial inspection, we felt that we couldn't do it. However, when we spoke with a contractor, we got hope, tackling the project. Although the project grew as we accessed more of the structure, we knew that having a fully reviewed and properly fixed structure was needed for this Veteran. This Veteran lives in this home on a breathing machine, so we started on one side of the house in phase 1 of the project. Once phase 1 is complete, we will move him into phase 1, and we will begin phase 2, consisting of redoing the middle section of the mobile home and evaluating the other end. Phase 3 will be the final touch-ups such as paint, flooring, finishing, etc. TS4V may address these items as we progress, depending on the number of volunteers.



# Events

This year was great for events. We participated in the regular yearly events such as the Savannah Veterans Day Parade, Richmond Hill Seafood Festival, and the Springfield Fall Festival. Endurance Race Services also graced us to come back out to participate in their Skidaway Marathon Detail to help raise funds. Throughout the year, we have had multiple organizations help us raise funds. Groups such as Hero Hut, who held their Pint Night fundraiser, the VFW Post 660 Riders Spades Run, and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 25-2 Poker Run hosted events that we could benefit directly from. This year, we also teamed up with some great local businesses, which helped us impact our local Veteran community. The Dive Savannah is one that we worked within many distinct aspects. From assisting us in raising funds to providing meals to Veterans in need.



Richmond Hill Based Debellion Brewing Company hosted their Grains for Good fundraising event for us while we were able to spread the word and enjoy some tasty beers! 208 Wine Bar supported us in a few different and creative ways this year. Another Savannah-based Veteran owned company, Savannah Bike Tours, graciously adopted us for June, where \$1 of every tour was donated directly to our organization. They also provided us with a private tour to get some video. We all had a blast! We also had had the chance to set up at the White Whale Craft Ales to talk about Team Savannah and accept donations.

Already facing a busy schedule, we were able to squeeze in a few events of our own. We put together our second Paint the Stigma at the beginning of the year. This event is where we get individuals together for multiple reasons. The main reason is to get Veterans together to voice the issues they may have with mental health. The second item was to provide a place to release stress or anger using paintballs. So not only were the participants able to release tension, but they were also able to connect with other participants to rebuild or prepare themselves for the future.

We held our second big event in the fall, our second Scavenger Race. This event is where contestants take clues to find different military monuments, Veteran-owned businesses, and other military-related historical items in the Savannah downtown areas. This time was used to get people active, educate them on Savannah's military history, Veteran-owned businesses, and have a fun time amongst all. This year, the winning team was a family who decided to take the father out for his birthday. In the end, we all enjoyed the fantastic weather, the great company, and the active enjoyment the





# Volunteering

With every non-profit organization, we succeed with the power of our volunteers. This year, our projects increased immensely, but unfortunately, we could not match that number of projects with an increase in volunteers. Therefore, increasing our member count has become a priority, including higher-level committee members. A non-profit with an all-volunteer force can be exceedingly difficult to manage the non-profit, personal lives, as well as our full-time work lives. We strongly believe that to best serve Veterans requiring financial assistance is to provide them with financial aid and financial guidance/education. The overall goal is that these individuals do not find themselves in the same situation again.



Typically, Team Savannah for Veterans sets yearly goals to maintain growth. To support our focus on developing our volunteers in 2022, we will be setting quarterly goals. The focus will be on the Veteran Advocacy program, bringing on individuals to partner with Veterans in need. The advocate is the primary contact between the board and the Veteran. They will be the main individual that will work with the Veteran to help guide them through the assistance process, setting up their goals and ensuring that they are getting the help and attention that they need. Becoming Veteran advocates, these individuals will be trained through our administration, ensuring our procedures are adhered to and advocates are comfortable managing the situation. Being an all-volunteer program, the advocacy program will be based on availability of the advocates, and other than a confidentiality clause, there are no other requirements.

## Types of Volunteering

- Veteran Advocacy
- Lawn Care
- Yard sales
- Festivals/Parades
- Construction
- Donation
- Camaraderie
- Ruck Marches

You can sign up to be a member today at  
[www.ts4v.com](http://www.ts4v.com)

Are you interested in helping in other ways? There are plenty of different ways to provide a helping hand. Whether you want to provide physical labor during construction events or clean up a Veteran's yard, maybe you have a niche for decorating and design. We could surely use your assistance for parades to help design our floats to help grab the crowd's attention. In the end, every Veteran out there should qualify for our camaraderie side of volunteering to get Veterans together to build relationships. We are always open to suggestions as a growing organization, so we welcome new volunteers with new ideas.

## Be a Part of the Growth

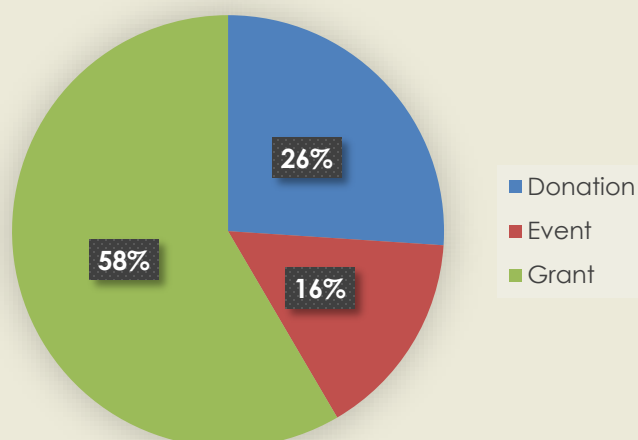
Starting just a few years ago, we have grown so much. From the past year, we seen a spike in the number of veterans we've impacted as well as how much money we've raised. With our name becoming more familiar in the local Veteran community, it's important that we grow with that popularity. This includes raising the amount of funds that we bring in, so that we can support more Veterans, and conduct more projects so that we can bring more Veterans together. If you have ideas that can bring Veterans together, let's collaborate! Do you have ideas for fundraisers or have access to grants, let's talk!

**Veterans Futures Depend on You!**  
**Become a Member Today!**

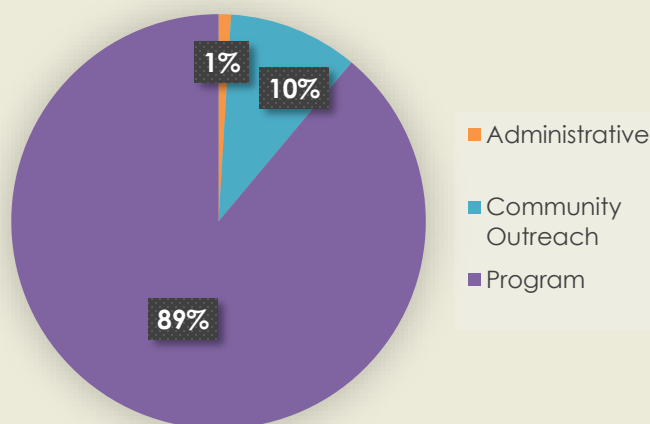
# Financials

The team was busy in 2021! We spent almost \$33,000 on local Veterans. We were able to assist every Veteran that met the criteria for approval. The Board tirelessly ensured that all donations were spent appropriately and continued to assess applications to ensure that contributions were not misused. TS4V is an all-volunteer organization, and our administration puts in the utmost effort to keep the organization rolling successfully, even though they do not receive any financial compensation. Our administrative costs for the year are up slightly over 2020 from \$294 to \$319, and we will continue to ensure the maximum amount of the donations go directly to helping Veterans.

## 2021 Fundraising



## 2021 Spending



2021 fundraising was a year of growth, both financially and philanthropically. The community, local organizations, national organizations, and international organizations contributed strongly. We raised over \$60,000, mainly in the second half of the year. We received donations from other local non-profits: Wesley Monumental Church, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Fight the War Within, and Provisions 4 Patriots. In addition, we received donations from local businesses, such as Endurance Racing, Savannah Bike Tours, 208 Wine Bar, Debellation Brewing Company, Kroger, and Publix. Our volume of grant approvals this year was encouraging to our organization. We received grants from Howmet Aerospace, CSX, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Independent Telephone Museum, and Harbor Freight. In addition, we received almost \$1,500 in donations from private donors, which we did not obtain during one of our own events. Our most significant contribution came from Howmet Aerospace at \$20,000!!! Thank you, Howmet!

We want to thank all our donors and organizations that we have partnered with to care for our Veterans. Without all of you, we would not be as successful as we have been. Thank you!

## 2021 Financial Overview

As you can see, Team Savannah for Veterans had an excellent 2021, full of growth. We joined Chatham County Veterans Counsel, which opened many doors for the team. We begin working closely with other Veteran organizations as #OneTeam. The amazing Bunny Ware provided us with much-needed publicity to get the organization's name and purpose into the community on a larger scale. The growth we experienced in 2021 provides the foundation to continue our mission in 2022! If you are a Veteran in need or know a Veteran in need, please go to [www.ts4v.com/contactus](http://www.ts4v.com/contactus) and apply for assistance. We are here to help!