

# TEAM SAVANNAH FOR VETERANS

## A Look Back on 2022



## 2022-A Year for Growing and Connecting



This year has been a year full of new partnerships, new experiences, and new challenges. Fortunately, the military shaped us for these challenges. We welcomed these organizations into our family, and we were able to tackle the adventures. Just like the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only constant in life is change," we continue to experience new issues. However, we can adapt and overcome. For example, we experienced an above-average amount of assistance requests for our homelessness program but fewer asset repairs.

We wanted to connect with more organizations to serve the veterans we assist better. The more organizations available to help, the more effective we are for the community. Hosting our first-ever Vets United was crucial for our community, making connections for the veterans and the organizations. Some of our most important relationships were with local businesses. These connections have proven to be essential in supporting our team's mission.

-TEAM SAVANNAH FOR VETERANS-



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This will be an overview of 2022 and how we have worked and grown through the year.

#### **Events and Projects of 2022**

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

#### **Financial Overview**

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

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Learn about volunteering

# General Overview

2022 has been a good year overall for the team. Through personal donations, fundraisers, and the many events we've attended, we raised \$46,156 for the year. Unfortunately, the number of assistance requests exceeded the amount that we brought in, totaling **\$58,854** spent this year. Fortunately, through gift cards donated by places like Home Depot and Kroger, it does help alleviate the need to pay for those items using donated funds. Another huge help is the use of volunteers. We utilized many volunteers during the home repair projects, and those volunteers were vital. In addition, they've included contractors with expertise in home building to complete all repairs to the standard.

Looking at the numbers of those we've assisted, we were able to help 42 veterans this year directly. Breaking it down, we repaired three veterans with homes and one with a vehicle for our Home/Vehicle repairs program. TS4V prevented nineteen Veterans from being evicted, prevented three Veterans' utilities from being turned off, and provided ten homeless veterans with shelter and food. We even got one veteran in a place of their own by providing help with a security deposit. We ended the year by delivering four veteran families' support through our holiday adoption. This year we were fortunate with veterans that we've helped in the past that have returned to pay it forward. We didn't ask them to return and give us anything; they just wanted to return the favor, so they came and provided a helping hand where they could.

We wanted to try new projects this year, so we launched the first-ever Vets United. The organizations that attended were happy with the event, and we were even able to get a homeless veteran temporary lodging. Another new item is how we started partnering with Fight the War Within to host Coffee and Camaraderie. We've enjoyed this partnership as it allows us to relax and have that camaraderie time with our local veterans while supporting a local veteran-owned business. We also enjoyed the time that we had at our Paint the Stigma. We are sure that everyone can say that they enjoyed coming out to play paintball. Connecting with veterans that may be struggling while providing an environment where they can open up.

With all of this work, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of our volunteers, donors, and partner organizations. Taking on these assistance requests and providing support is not something we can do alone. It requires so much more. It takes the donors that have trusted us with the appropriate use of donations. Having the right connections through partnerships allows us to execute requests more efficiently. Our volunteers are most vital as they work directly with the veterans in need, understand specific needs, and find the best direction to get the individual back on their feet. All of these items together, we have created an excellent team for helping local Veterans.



## Words from the President

2022 was another unprecedented year where we spent more funds than we brought in and donated more time than any other year to local Veterans in need. Many thanks are in store. First, huge thanks to the board members for tirelessly spending their off time from work trying to better local Veterans. They spent time coaching and mentoring Veterans and researching other resources to assist in the holistic approach to better the Veterans in need. They also spent a lot of personal fuel and mileage on their vehicles to ensure the care of Veterans. Thank you to the other organizations and businesses that have supported us. Without you, we could not have assisted so many Veterans.

2023 looks to continue the mission to connect with Veterans, and those organizations focused on assisting Veterans. It has been my honor to be a part of this great organization and serve as the president these last three years. 2023 will be my final year, and I believe the team will continue to grow and improve. If you are interested in being part of the board or a committee, please reach out for more information to [info@ts4v.com](mailto:info@ts4v.com)

- Chris O'Malley

"The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it."

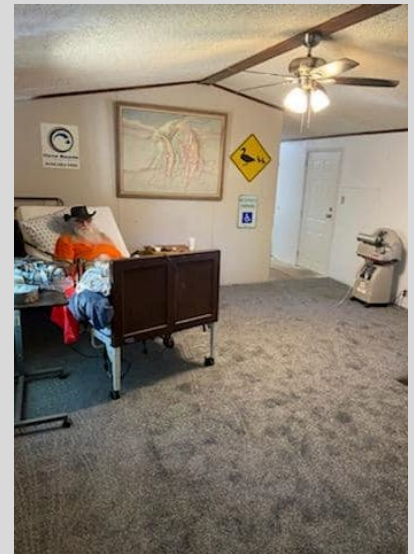
Mother Teresa



# Projects

2022 was a year of a combination of small projects and big projects. Some of them required a little bit of attention, and some needed a lot more attention. Ultimately, our primary focuses this year was assisting veterans with home and vehicle repairs, preventing veteran homelessness or having utilities shut off, and getting essential items such as food and clothing. With the assistance of our volunteers, our donors, and our partner organizations, we were able to assist 42 veterans in need directly.

We continued to work on the mobile home repair we started in 2021. This mobile home experienced extreme water damage after a tree fell on the roof. Although the home has a new roof, the house's main structure requires repairs. This year we were able to replace the front and back door area, install the drywall, paint the walls we have repaired, and install new carpet. As a result, the home is no longer open to elements, is structurally sound, and has a safer/cleaner environment for this Veteran to call home.



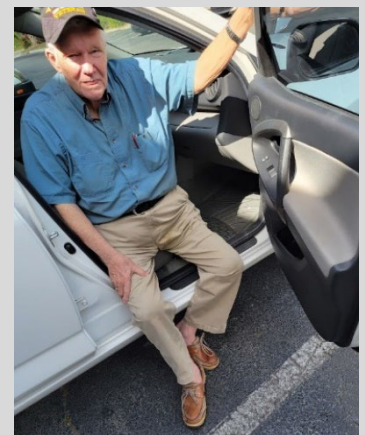
Another home we assisted a veteran with is a financial request for a dumpster. A family was clearing a home out for their hospitalized veteran with emphysema and COPD issues. During that time, the family wanted to clean up the home and make repairs for the veteran before he returned home. The third home we responded to this year was when a tree fell on a roof. A couple of members, including a previously assisted Veteran, responded to this situation. These members came together to remove the tree and seal the exposed home from the elements until the insurance company could send someone to repair the roof. Our last asset repair was assisting a veteran by paying for her vehicle repairs to ensure she had a vehicle to get to and from work every day.

This year was a big one for us when it came to supporting veterans facing evictions, having their utilities turned off, or already being homeless. Although this is not a new program, we have seen an influx of requests that were higher than ever before. This year alone, we provided three veterans with financial assistance to help them prevent their utilities from being turned off. In addition, we also provided financial aid to nineteen veterans facing evictions or needing assistance paying their bills due to other circumstances. While working with veterans needing financial support, we review their finances and provide help and guidance to ensure they are less likely to face the same situation again.

This year we came across ten homeless veterans in need of shelter. As a result, we were able to provide ten veterans with essential items, such as temporary shelter and food, to get back on their feet. During our assistance, we ensure these veterans are on the right track with a job, benefits, and other needed items. In addition, this year, we got one homeless veteran back into their home by paying for their security deposit.

One item that was new to us was the donation of a vehicle. We came across a donor that wanted to give us a car for a Veteran in need. Fortunately, we had a single veteran and father that needed transportation. We worked together with the donor and Veteran to execute the transfer. Our annual holiday adoption was a success again this year. We chose four families for Christmas—providing eight children with good Christmas. In contrast, their parents did not have to worry about choosing between providing presents or paying essential bills.

Not all of our projects are helping veterans through our charity. For example, we helped the Savannah V.A. resupply the food pantry. We also helped other organizations to execute their events to help Veterans. For instance, we participated in the Provisions4Patriots boot drive, where they handed out free



# Events

In 2022 we stayed busy with events. Some of these were first-time events for us, and some we've conducted over the years. Whether we were at an event that we put together or representing the team while supporting an event hosted by another organization, we were able to spread our name and mission. Being able to extend our reputation and mission is critical in reaching the local Veterans in need.

This year was our first year conducting the Vets United Resource Festival. This festival intends to create one place where all local organizations providing services, jobs, and educational opportunities can meet in one location. Rather than searching the internet, newspapers, directories, etc., we wanted to have all the resources in one centralized area and time, ready to answer questions and serve local veterans. By working together, all the organizations were able to share in the event to gain the attention of veterans in need of resources.

With this being the first year for Vets United, we learned many lessons. We surveyed all the resources, and amongst the survey, all those who returned the survey enjoyed the festival. It was light on attendance, but it was our first, and we are excited to grow it. We discovered that a homeless veteran who attended the festival could secure the resources he needed for temporary shelter and food. We knew that festival was a win by that veteran alone.

One of our biggest yearly fundraisers is the Skidaway Marathon. This year we had the most prominent team we've had so far and the best execution yet. This solid team of volunteers made this year's marathon detail easy. In addition, we have started collaborating with Fight the War Within, hosting Coffee and Camaraderie at Tosa Coffee Company once a month. This event provides veterans and first responders with an environment where they can open up and converse. The guests do not have to worry about covering the expenses of the coffee; they can focus on coming out and enjoying the time with like-minded individuals.



Paint the Stigma has continued to grow. We had even more individuals show up this year. That alone showed that this event is critical and needed. We had guests ranging in age from teen to retired, but regardless, they all had smiles on their faces and were laughing throughout the day. Between the paintball matches, we would have guests talking, joking, encouraging, and even telling war stories with each other. The main idea of Paint the Stigma is working. Having veterans come out to our event, get active, have fun, and make connections with other veterans, we feel this event is a win.

Another event that we attended this year was thanks to one of our original members. We participated in the South Magazine Release Party thanks to the owner of Debellation Brewing. Due to his recommendation, South Magazine chose us as the Non-Profit to receive the proceeds from the silent auction. In Richmond Hill, we set up a booth for the Ogeechee Seafood Festival. This festival is an excellent spot for us to set up as they estimate to have 30,000 guests over three days. Comparing this year to previous years, we feel that this year's event was more successful than those in the past.

VFW Post 660 Riders hosted their annual spades run. We were lucky enough to be the recipient of the funds raised. We always enjoy working with the riders, working the stops, regardless of if we are the recipient or not. Motorcycle riders are always hosting rides to raise funds for various causes. We were fortunate to be the cause this time.

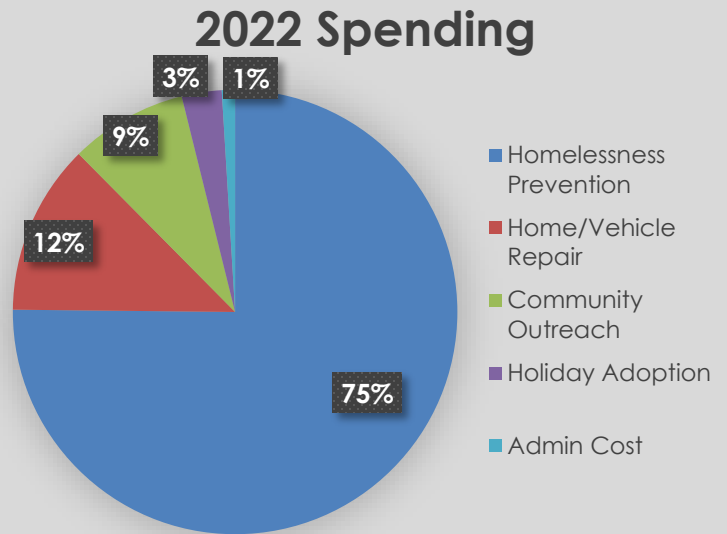
These are just some of the many events that we attended. All these events allowed us to meet local veterans, whether they needed help, wanted to help, or just wanted to connect.



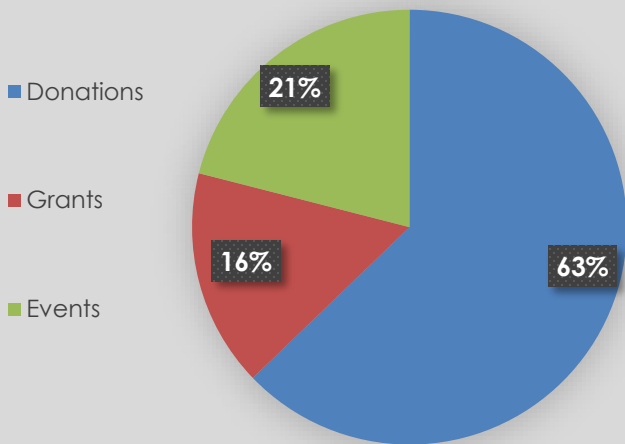
# Financials

As seen in the 2022 Spending chart, you can see how the team has spent donations for each program. For 2022, homelessness prevention was the most extensive program requiring the most attention, at **75.2%** of our total expenses. We spent **\$43,965.58** this year on individuals facing evictions, had utilities turned off, or required shelter and food. The smallest portion of our expenditures is the administration cost. These expenses include our website, P.O. Box, and mandated non-profit filing fees, totaling \$562.27.

Overall spending for 2022, we spent **98.5%** towards assisting veterans directly. With no administration receiving a paycheck and being very mindful of the spending, the admin costs are only **1.5%** of the total expenditure for the year.



## 2022 Fundraising



2022 has given us many different opportunities for fundraising. 2021 was an excellent year for grants, but this year grants were a minor portion of fundraising. We could only raise \$7,500 worth, making up 16% of the funds raised this year. Next in line are all the events that we had where we were able to raise \$9,734. These events include VFW Post 660 Riders Spades Run, South Magazine Release Party, Skidaway Marathon, Seafood Festival, and Paint the Stigma.

This year has been great for donations. We had a lot of personal contributions and donations from employees matched by companies such as Gulfstream and Target. In addition, we were given donations by organizations such as American Legion Post 135, Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, and Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church. For 2022, we brought in a total of **\$28,947** in donations.

## 2022 Financial Overview

When looking at the totals for the year, we were able to bring in a total of **\$46,156**. However, to support our projects, community outreach, and administration costs, we spent a total of **\$58,854**. When comparing these two numbers, we spent 28% more than we were able to bring in. In a typical business, it's essential to maintain profitability and earn an income. However, in the non-profit world and what the team believes in, income and expenses should be equal for the year. Fortunately, due to a large grant coming in at the end of 2021, we continued operating and assisting veterans in need.

The attention needed for the assistance request took time away from applying for grants. Unable to apply for more grants, we relied on funding from other donation streams. Having so many organizations and private individuals support the team was very beneficial. In addition, groups assisting, and hosting fundraisers are crucial for funding and helping us spread our name and mission to new connections. Regardless of how small the donation is, such as someone purchasing through Amazon Smile, or a personal donation of \$1,000, all these items add up. In the end, we could assist veterans and did not have to turn away any veterans due to not having the available funds.