



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Dedicated to serving elderly veterans, age 65 and older. We bridge our veterans to a better quality of life through our age specific and innovative programs. These services are available to our heroes wherever they call home, at no expense to them or their families.

Founded in 2016

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



# CEO & FOUNDER LETTER

Dearest Friends,

I am pleased to share the Hero's Bridge 2020 Annual Report. I think everyone would agree it has been a year like no other and we look forward to brighter days in 2021.

Hero's Bridge was founded almost five years ago to improve the quality of life of our region's most at-risk senior veterans. We provide direct care to reduce social isolation, improve substandard housing and bridge them to vital long-term resources and benefits. In the following pages we describe and share specifics of each of our innovative programs.

I am proud of our progress since inception but never could have predicted how vital our services would become almost overnight in March of 2020. With the outbreak of COVID 19, our already at-risk veterans became more alone and in need of our care than ever before. In this report we share how we added special touches and services including our exciting TeleHero program.

I am also excited to announce a bold new project. We can no longer tolerate seeing our senior heroes living in social isolation and severely substandard living conditions. I hope you will

visit our website or YouTube channel to view our mini-documentary which films three of our actual veterans and the conditions they endure. In this report we share our vision of breaking ground on our Hero's Bridge Village of tiny homes where our most marginalized veterans can live in safety and comfort.

I remain excited about our mission and vision and know the community remains steadfast in being the first place in the country to stand up and rally around our nation's aging veterans. In these challenging times I hope you can still find a way to invest in our work through volunteering, donating or in-kind gifts.

On behalf of the Hero's Bridge Board of Directors, our dedicated staff and of course our grateful heroes, please accept our most sincere appreciation and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

*Molly Brooks RN-BC, CHPCA*

Molly Brooks RN-BC, CHPCA  
CEO & Founder

## BY THE NUMBERS



### Risks for Aging Veterans

**Malnutrition:** Reports from a recent study indicate 15% of veterans are malnourished & 40% at risk of becoming malnourished.

**Substance abuse:** 18% of older veterans have recent substance abuse history compared to 1% of the general older population.

**PTSD:** Close to 17% of veterans had PTSD emerge for the first time later in life.

**Multiple conditions:** Older veterans are 25% more likely than nonveterans to report experiencing two or more chronic conditions.

**Suicide:** Older veterans account for 38% of veteran suicide deaths.

### National Numbers



6.2 Million Vietnam Veterans



1.2 Million veterans who served in the Korean War



348 WWII veterans are lost every day



58% Of veterans have never been enrolled in VA healthcare



10 Million U.S. veterans are over the age of 65



# HEROES SERVED



Hero's Bridge has served 274 veterans since its inception:



## Branches

- ★ 52% Army
- ★ 21% Navy
- ★ 15% Marine Corps
- ★ 11% Air Force
- ★ 1% National Guard

## War Periods

- ★ 67% Vietnam
- ★ 22% Korean War
- ★ 10% World War II
- ★ 1% Cold War

## 2020 Highlights

Hero's Bridge has been honored to serve and appreciates the dedicated team of volunteers who donated their time to serve.

- ★ 128 New veterans served
- ★ 48 Out-of-area requests serviced
- ★ 126 Volunteers served 855 hours
- ★ 18 Youth volunteers safely engaged and active during the pandemic

## Top Donors

### FOUNDATIONS

PATH Foundation  
Jesse and Rose Loeb Foundation  
'Anonymous' Family Foundation  
Northern Piedmont Community Foundation  
Miriam L. Halsey Foundation  
VetsAid  
Culpeper Wellness Foundation  
Evan Williams American-Made Heroes Foundation  
The Adoff-Teegan Friends and Family Foundation  
NOVEC Helps

The Fauquier Bank  
The Lodge at Blackwell's Mill  
Fun Run Racing  
VFW Post 9835  
Brown's Insurance Agency  
United Real Estate-Benjamin Musser  
Wreaths Across America

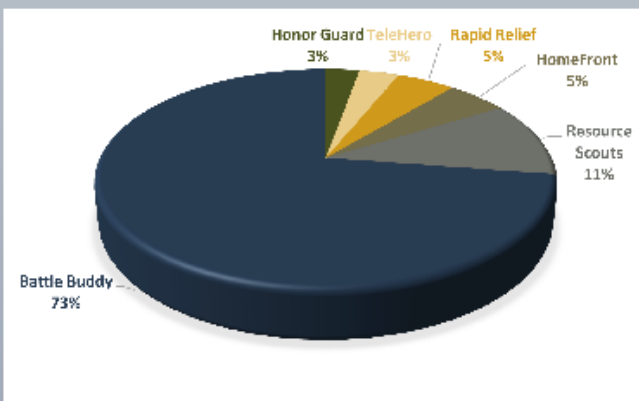
### INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous  
Mrs. Sarah Coleman  
Donald and Marty Valade  
Ms. Frances Sammons  
Kylie Hall  
Jack and Pam Stewart  
Kathryn Wilson  
Rebecca M. Pinkerton  
Carolyn Kirkland  
Edmond Benson

### BUSINESSES

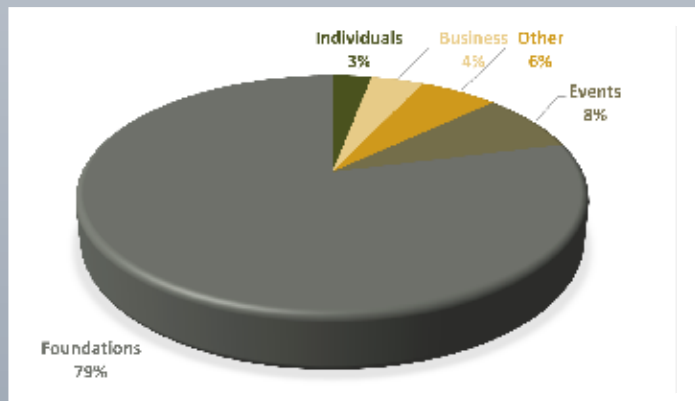
Consortium Management Group  
Country Chevrolet  
Remington Drug

## Expenditures By Program



Visit us on GuideStar for more details and to view our 990's

## Sources Of Support





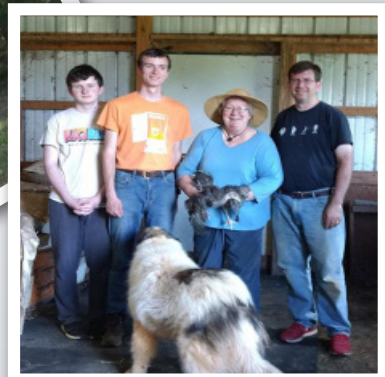
# HEROES SERVED

## Battle Buddy

Bridging younger and older veterans in a special model of care that decreases social isolation and increases advocacy.

In 2020, the Battle Buddy program resulted on average:

- ★ 260 Annual visits by Battle Buddy Staff
- ★ 104 Annual visits from Battle Buddy Volunteers



## HomeFront

Bridging our older heroes to healthy and safe housing conditions. In 2020 we performed 44 HomeFront interventions:

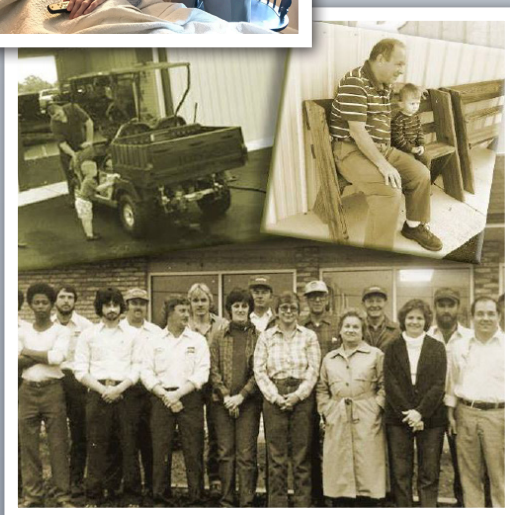
- ★ 7 Veterans assisted with housing payments
- ★ 5 Major home repairs including long wheelchair ramp, faucet, water heater, plumbing and thermostat
- ★ 5 Veterans received utility assistance with oil and electric bills
- ★ 5 Lawns maintained through the growing season



## Honor Guard

Bridging our veterans to better mental health by facilitating a healthy processing of their time in service. Honor Guard interventions in 2020:

- ★ 7 Guardians of Freedom Portraits taken
- ★ 4 Stories preserved
- ★ 5 Shadowboxes created with replaced medals and awards
- ★ 4 Honor Ceremonies



# HEROES SERVED

## Resource Scouts

Addressing social determinates of health by bridging veterans to earned benefits and important community resources.

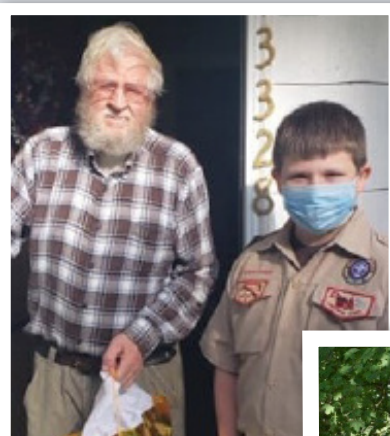
- ★ 62 Rides provided
- ★ 39 COVID Care packages delivered
- ★ 632 Home-delivered and ready-to-eat meals arranged
- ★ Multiple rapid relief interventions including assistance with medical bills, medication, groceries, emergency shelter, generator purchase, clothing and respite care.



## Paw Patrol

We use animals as healers to significantly reduce pain, anxiety, depression and a variety of other issues for our veterans. During the pandemic we helped veterans care for beloved pets.

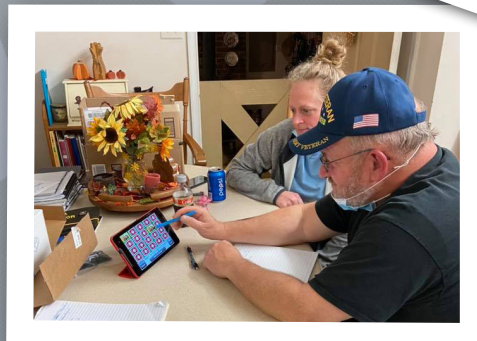
- ★ Pet and Vet Socials
- ★ Pet boarding: 14 Days of emergency boarding during veterans hospitalizations
- ★ Dog walking: 20 Walks



## TeleHero

Reaching our heroes faster, better, and smarter. In 2020, we provided:

- ★ 101 weeks of tablets in homes



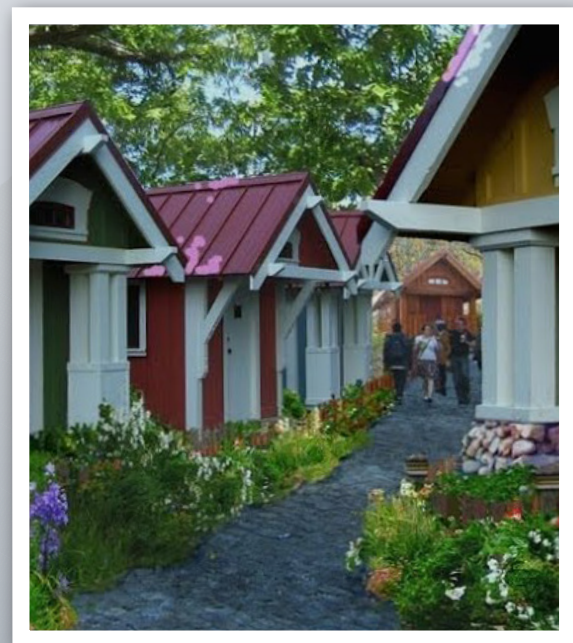
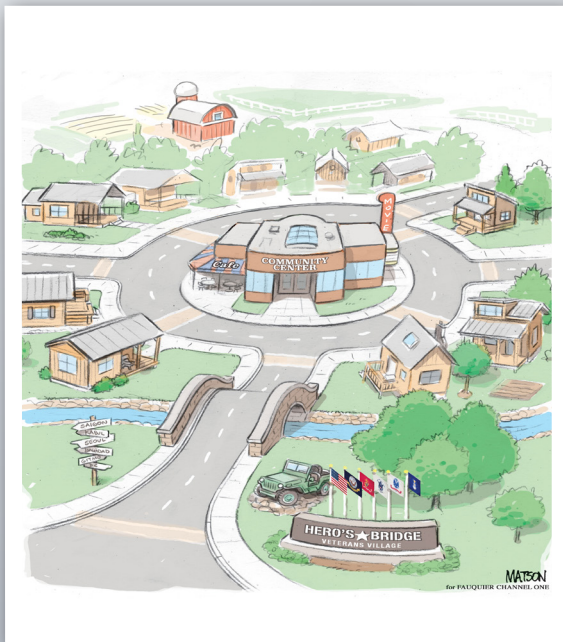


# THE FUTURE



In early 2020, Hero's Bridge shot footage of local veterans substandard housing conditions. "It is widely accepted that our veterans are well taken care of in their senior years," said Molly Brooks, CEO, and Founder of Hero's Bridge. "Our staff and volunteers have been entering veteran homes for nearly five years and can attest to the sometimes shocking conditions they have encountered."

Our Village will bring our most at-risk veterans into one communal space where they benefit from each other's friendship and company. Without question, one thing they all readily admit is that they all long for the close bonds and support of their brothers and sisters in arms. A small community center in the middle of the Village would provide multiple opportunities for them to no longer be alone in the world. Other services such as medical care, faith services and engaging activities will be incorporated into the Village. We invite everyone to visit our website to view the mini-documentary and learn more about our Village project.



# THOSE WE LOST



Hero's Bridge remembers the veterans that we lost in 2020 who we had the honor of serving in their final years.

## USN

Andrew Blackwell  
Robert Breuninger  
Rudolph Bronesky  
Harvey Echols

## USA

Peter Hughes  
Sam Guberman  
John "Jack" Lyons  
Benjamin Works

## USAF

Forrest "Carlton" Craner  
Paul Infeld  
Herman Jennings  
Russell Smith

## USMC

John H. Anderson