

MEALS FOR VETS

A flagship program of
Honor Veterans Now

Summer 2019

From Tom Wollny
Founder/CEO

Support for Meals for Vets comes from generous people from all walks of life; some of whom may only be able to give a small amount and others who have greater means. But they all have something in common—they care deeply about veterans and they give from the heart. There is no size gift we are not truly thankful for.

It's amazing to see the dedication of our repeat givers and sustaining donors (those who give on a monthly basis), regardless of their financial circumstances. Those who give even \$5.00 a month help ensure that Meals for Vets can feed hungry veterans. We're so grateful for these long-lasting commitments.

Fighting veteran hunger and the physical, mental, and emotional

impact it makes on those who have served our country is an ongoing battle. Recurring donations help us maintain the resources needed every day to help veterans heal their lives and reach their goals such as going to school, securing employment, and getting housing.

Meals for Vets is continually expanding its reach to veterans in need. Just the growing number of student veterans we serve is pushing us to new heights and greater funding needs. We literally could not do this without all our donors. We thank you for giving any amount you can and for being the heroes that our struggling veterans need.

***“No act of kindness,
however small,
is ever wasted.”***

-Aesop



Changing Lives

Stories from Veterans We Serve

The factors that cause veterans to suffer from hunger vary greatly. Each veteran has a unique story. We recognize the bravery it takes for them to ask for help and are honored to serve them.

In April, we began to fund a meal a day for a 46-year-old Air Force veteran who is a student at UT El Paso. She is also a caregiver for her husband who is on disability. They were barely surviving on \$700/month. The meals were a tremendous help.

In May, a 47-year-old Army veteran from the Dallas area learned about us through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Veteran Liaison. He had approximately 15 years of IT experience but hit a “rough patch” when he lost his job. His only source of income was a small monthly service connected disability payment from the VA. He was so appreciative of the support he’s received from Meals for Vets and had this to say:

“As a full-time college student in between consulting gigs, the Meals for Vets program has truly been a great help to me. It’s great to know that a program exists to serve the nutritional needs of

those who chose to serve this nation in our time of need.”

In June, we started meal service for a 23-year-old Army veteran who had no income. He was looking for employment and also heard about us from a Texas Workforce Commission Veteran Liaison. Our relationship with the TWC has connected us with many veterans who are actively seeking assistance to overcome the challenges in their lives.

In July, we were contacted by TXServes, a resource and referral service, about a veteran who was trying to feed a blended family of 13, with children ages 10 months to 15 years! He had just landed a job but wouldn’t receive a paycheck for a few weeks. Thanks to the generosity of one of our donors, we were able to provide emergency food assistance through their local IGA grocery store. The veteran was able to purchase enough groceries for the family to make it through some difficult weeks without income.

Nutritious meals can change lives. Our veterans shouldn’t have to merely survive, we want them to thrive.

Caring and Understanding are Key to Serving Veterans in Need

by Hope Ware, Veteran Support Coordinator



As the Veteran Support Coordinator for Meals for Vets, I'm the initial contact for veteran applicants. I have been with the organization for well over a year and am very honored and humbled to be the first point of contact at MFV when veterans reach out to us for help. In this role, it's crucial to build an immediate connection with them.

My son is a combat veteran who served in Afghanistan and lived with me for 15 months when he discharged from the Marines. Moving on to the next phase in his life proved to be challenging for him. However, his transition into civilian life taught me numerous lessons such as how to relate to him based on what he'd faced in his time in the military. And, importantly, what NOT to ask. As he started to sporadically open up about his deployment, I discovered a small part of the heartbreak he carried in his mind and heart. Though I didn't realize it at the time, this experience with him would prove to be paramount in working with veterans in the future.

My previous position in veteran services at a regional mental health authority has also enhanced my ability to connect with veterans. As I worked with men and women from all branches of the military who experienced all forms

of trauma, I felt I was on hallowed ground and privileged to listen to their stories and challenges. Talking about their hidden feelings was very hard for the veterans because their service was based on pride and self-sufficiency. These traits were needed for survival during their time in the military; however, as they reentered the less structured civilian world, it hindered them from getting assistance. When discharged from service, they were scattered from their military family, the people who had their back in thick and thin, trust was compromised, and pride was their only friend. Many felt that asking for help was not needed because they knew what to do.

As an adult I too have had to ask for assistance. Although the need was only for a short time in order to provide for my children, it compromised my pride. I also feel

this allows me to grasp the magnitude of asking for support. As I visit with our veteran applicants, I tell them of my personal experience with financial hardship or that my son is a combat veteran, when the conversation calls for it, to put them at ease as best I can.

Meals for Vets not only provides the funding for daily nutritious meals, we also refer veterans with

other needs to resources in their area of Texas through the network of various state and local veteran assistance organizations. Attentively listening to these veterans' situations and guiding them to receive assistance is both an honor and a privilege as a member of our Meals For Vets family.



For meal assistance call 830.992.3375 | 800.676.1389, email info@honorveterans.org, or visit mealsforvets.org

Colleges Partner with MFV to Feed Struggling Student Veterans

by Mike Cagle, Program Director



We estimate that upwards of 10,000 student veterans across Texas may be suffering from hunger; they simply can't afford to eat. It's alarming that student veterans go without regular, nutritious meals. When you can't eat, you can't think--and that leads to poor academic performance.

To address the needs of student veterans, MFV is working with

Texas colleges, universities, and trade schools to provide meals free-of-charge on campus for student veterans

with low or no spendable income. MFV will enroll the veterans in the program and fund the meals. Schools and food service providers will handle implementation on their campuses. Eight campuses are operational and more on the way. We thank these eight; they are trailblazers.

- Grayson College
- Midwestern State University
- Texas State Technical College, Harlingen
- Texas State Technical College, Sweetwater
- Texas State Technical College, Waco
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownville
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg

Thank you to our supporters for your donations, grants, and event sponsorships during April 1, 2019 - July 31, 2019

We strive to accurately recognize donations, grants, and memorials. If you see an error, please contact us.

Individual Gifts

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Texas Caregivers Support Services	William Chris Vineyards

This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission *Fund for Veterans' Assistance*. The *Fund for Veterans' Assistance* provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. <https://TVC.Texas.gov>

\$500,000 Grant Awarded to Meals for Vets

We're proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) *Fund for Veterans' Assistance* for the funding year July 2019 - June 2020. This is the second year we have received a grant from the TVC.

This financial support is vital to serve the rapidly growing number of low income student veterans throughout Texas who are seeking meal assistance. We estimate that by the end of the TVC funding cycle in 2020 we will be serving an additional 200 veterans.

The need for veteran meal assistance is greater than our current capacity and can only be met by increased program and operations funding from diverse sources. All struggling veterans deserve our help. If you or someone you know can help us, please use the donation envelope provided, donate online at honorveteransnow.org, or give us a call at 830.992.3375.



Tribute Gifts

Since our founding, we have been fortunate to have donations made in honor or memory of loved and cherished individuals. We regard them highly.

5 Brothers who fought in WWII & Vietnam

Robbie Desaulniers Allen

A.F. Meyer & R.M. Hebert, Sr.
Debby & Bobby Herbert

Arlie James

Florence James

Captain Marshall U. Beebe
R. Wayne & Roslyn Dozier

Charles Friedrich

Paul Urban

Dad

Nanette Giles

Daniel Sarmiento

Olga Oviedo

Debra Costello/William Roob, Sr.

Linda Davel

Dennis Krause

Scott Nichols

Ed Janak

Anonymous

Eleanor Giles

Nanetter Giles

Father, a WWII Marine

Kathryn Huddleston

Felix Bueno

Norma Sanchez

Gayland Rushing

Forney Brice, Jr.

Husband & Father

Carol Hayes

Jimmy Edmonds

Kayron Taylor

Joshua Logan

Aleta Barlett

Linn Schultz, Army Veteran

Sandy Schultz

M.C. Bowles & Elisha Whittington

Gregory & Ceilia Bowles

Our Great Veterans

Rex Homeyer, Jr.

Paul A. Dunne

Patrick Dunne

Ralph Remmenga, Army Veteran

Scott Remmenga

Rhett Urban

Paul Urban Charitable Giving Fund

Russell Paul Love

Brenda Overdorf

Carol Harmon

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Martha Love

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Steve & Christel Barker

Searcy Flournoy Griffin

Leslie Schultz

True Love

Sophia Bangart

Uncle Raymond Brower, served in WWII in Italy

Herbert E. Everett

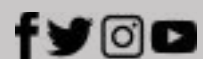
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Follow us on social media for the latest news!



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**A flagship program of
Honor Veterans Now**
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Meals for Vets Happenings



Lost Draw Cellars Event, July 4th

**Donors & Volunteers
Save the Date!**
Join us for an appreciation event on
Thursday, September 26, 2019
5:00-7:00 pm

Honor Veterans Now
103 Industrial Loop, Suite 1050
Fredericksburg, Texas
(across from the Law Enforcement Center)



Troy Ottmers
Presenting
Donation
from
Lost Draw
Cellars



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Food, Wine, & Wishes Event, May 2