



Veterans Furniture Center

Fall 2020 Newsletter



A Welcome Break from Summer 2020!

It has been a difficult summer for everyone this year. While already working through the Coronavirus pandemic we've also had to endure the hottest summer on record here in Phoenix!

That is a lot for everyone to deal with, but especially our homeless population. Thankfully, despite the record heat and looming cloud of COVID-19, the VFC has remained busy all summer and is poised for a very busy fall season. VFC deliveries slowed down somewhat during the Spring and Summer as the VA bypassed the HUD-VASH program, through which the VFC normally makes contact with needy veterans in favor of faster methods of getting homeless veterans into housing during the pandemic.

But those days appear to be over. As the 100° days finally give way to cooler Fall weather, the HUD-VASH program is also getting back to normal as the VA secures two new buildings this fall with room for up to 70 homeless veterans. So, while the VA and HUD continue working to find housing for our homeless veterans, the VFC will continue delivering furniture to make those houses into homes.

<u>2020 Deliveries</u>	
Jan-Mar	53
Apr-Jun	38
Jul-Sep	37
Year to Date	135

Veterans Appreciation Day Fundraiser at the Cross-Eyed Cricket 12-5pm, Saturday, Nov 7th



Cross Eyed Cricket - 28615 N. El Mirage Rd. Peoria AZ

We are excited to partner again this year with the Cross-Eyed Cricket Watering Hole in Peoria (<https://www.crosseyedcricketpeoria.com>) for a Veteran's Appreciation Day event to benefit the VFC. This is one of our premier annual fundraisers and we are looking forward to another great event! The event features a silent auction, awesome raffle prizes and entertainment by the Uncle Click Band (<https://www.uncleclick.com>), performing live from 1-4pm on the patio. The VFC and the Cricket staff will be following all state and local COVID-19 mitigation measures currently in place. That may limit the seating available, but it won't stop us from having a great afternoon of food, drinks, music, and prizes! And it shouldn't stop you either, because even if you can't join us in person, you can join us virtually by logging on to <https://www.veteransfurniturecenter.org> today,



clicking on the "Come Join Us" button just above the Cricket logo, and bidding on auction items or purchasing raffle tickets. You can even allocate your raffle tickets toward specific prizes to increase your chances. There are some awesome golf, restaurant, and spa gift certificates available, as well as home entertainment items and artwork from some talented local artists. For more details please see the attached flyer and share the info with your friends, relatives, and colleagues. We are looking forward to a great turnout to support the VFC and our homeless vets.



VFC Welcomes New Board Members

In September we welcomed three new members of the Board of Directors and said goodbye to one longtime Board member. First, a big thank you to Bob Alford for all his service to the VFC over the years, going on deliveries, editing our web site, writing the newsletter, and serving on the board! Bob was our grant writer extraordinaire and was responsible for securing some of our largest grants. While his energy and experience will be missed on the Board, we have three new members to introduce as part of our new expanded Board of Directors:

Joel Stempil



Joel served as an Army Quartermaster and Range Officer from 1963-69. He then spent 40 years as a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley and Commonwealth Financial, retiring in 2015. Though not a Korean War veteran, Joel serves as the Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association Scottsdale chapter. He also sits on the Scottsdale Veteran Affairs Commission and is Treasurer of the Arizona State Korean War Veterans Association. He lives in Scottsdale with Gail, his wife of 57 years. They have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren living in the Phoenix area.

John Calhoun



John is a longtime supporter of the VFC. He retired from the Arizona National Guard as a master Sergeant with 30 years total military service. John transferred TO Phoenix in 1980 from the Midwest and spent a career in banking and real estate. He and his wife currently reside in Trilogy at Vistancia.

Jay Mahajan



Jay is an active duty USAF Lieutenant Colonel and F-16 Instructor Pilot with 22 years of service. He is stationed at Luke AFB, lives in Vistancia with his wife Lauren and their two young daughters and is also the new editor of the VFC Newsletter.

A hearty welcome to our new Board members and we look forward to working closely with all of them to carry the VFC into 2021 and beyond!



Volunteer Spotlight – Bob & Waltraud (Wally) Henry

As the banner at the top says, the Veterans Furniture Center is an all-volunteer organization. It takes a lot of work to run a successful operation and we are indebted to all of our volunteers for giving their time and effort to support our mission, but each quarter we like to turn the spotlight onto one of our volunteers so everyone can get to know some of these awesome folks. This month the spotlight lands on Bob and Wally Henry.

Bob and Waltraud (Wally) have been volunteers with the VFC for about five years. During the first few years the VFC depended upon donations of used items. Bob and Wally volunteered every Tuesday to sort and package bedding kits. The sorting room is named “Wally’s Room” in her honor. We won’t say that Wally is a neat freak, but almost every time she is at the warehouse, she will get

VETERAN RUN – ALL VOLUNTEER

out the mop and pail and mop the office and warehouse floors and finish by washing the windows. Bob also helped with the donation pickups every Saturday, often using his own pickup truck for smaller pickups. While using his pickup truck, Bob, somehow, picked up the nickname “Fred.” You’ll have to ask one of the volunteers how this came about (unless you’re old enough to have watched “Sanford and Son”). Wally and Bob continue to help package kitchen and linen items as needed, and Bob continues to help with the deliveries every Friday.

Bob was born in Tennessee but grew up in Detroit. After graduating from Wayne State University in 1964, he was drafted and served in the Army with the 30th Artillery Brigade AD on Okinawa as a payroll clerk.

Wally was born and raised in Pfungstadt, Germany. Always wanting to travel, Wally came to the U.S. to visit friends when she was nineteen years old. When she arrived, her friends took her directly from the airport to church where she met Bob for the first time. Wally spoke no English and Bob spoke no German, but they somehow managed to communicate. She arrived in May 1967, and they were married the following January. In the interim, Wally got her visa extended once but was unsuccessful in extending it a second time, so, as they say, “they had to get married.”

Within a few years of marrying, Wally and Bob had two wonderful daughters together, but Wally has an extraordinary mothering instinct, so over the next twenty years they fostered over fifty infants - adopting two girls as their own.



Wally became a U.S. citizen in 2001. Bob retired from The Ford Motor Company in 2004 after 37 years of service, and in 2006 they moved from Michigan to Arizona.

Bob and Wally are old hands at volunteerism. Besides the VFC, they have also been very involved in their church, the annual Maricopa County Standdown for Veterans, United Methodist Outreach Ministries, and Trilogy Veterans Club.

Thank you, Bob & Wally, for all you do for your community, veterans and the VFC!

Future Events



Our first fundraising event for 2021 will be our golf tournament to be held on Saturday, February 20th (postponed from November 2020) at the beautiful Palmbrook Country Club.

This event will be a fun scramble format for four players, and you can sign up individually or as a foursome. While we are still working on our final plans for this event, it will be subject to change if conditions warrant. Mark your calendar and save the date. Check out our web site after the Cricket event for more information.



All proceeds go to fight the battle against veteran homelessness.

Check the website for more information!

Thank You

Providing all our destitute veterans transitioning into permanent housing with complete kits with the new furniture and household items they need requires significant funding. The VFC is very grateful for the support we have received to date and would like to acknowledge the foundations, corporations, and veterans' groups who have contributed since our last newsletter.

For information about all of the great organizations that have supported us so far in 2020, visit our partners and sponsors page: <https://www.veteransfurniturecenter.org/partners-and-sponsors.html>.



A heartfelt thank you to:

Albertsons

The Veterans Support Foundation

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation

Masonic Charities of Arizona

We could not accomplish the mission without their support!

You Too Can Join the Fight Against Veteran Homelessness

The Veterans Furniture Center would also like to thank all those individuals who have made donations to help our veterans in need. Without you, we could not complete our mission. A special thanks to those who have joined our Friend of the VFC program, committing to ongoing support.

Join Us – Become a Friend of the VFC

For as little as \$10/month, you can help destitute veterans escape homelessness and start a new life.

It's Easy!

Go to Veteransfurniturecenter.org
 Look for "Help Us" at the top of the page
 Choose "Friends of the VFC"
 Fill out the form
 Click on Join Now
 All major credit cards and bank transfers accepted.

Tax Credits Available

The VFC is an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization. You can get up to \$800 per couple back from the State of Arizona for donations made to the VFC. We will provide you with a tax receipt summarizing your donations for the year.

More information at:
VeteransFurnitureCenter.org

[Join Today and help a struggling veteran](#)

One-time donations

If you prefer you can make a one-time donation using your credit card on our website, or simply fill out the form below and send it with your check to:

Veterans Furniture Center
 c/o Walter Schumacher, Treasurer
 12338 W Cactus Blossom Trail Peoria,
 AZ 85383

Please Make Checks Payable to: Veterans Furniture Center

Name:

Street:

City: State: ZIP:

Phone:

Email:



Important for tax receipt

We will acknowledge your donation and send you a receipt suitable for use with your taxes.

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can get up to \$800 per couple of your donation back from the State of Arizona as a tax credit.