



Veterans Furniture Center

Newsletter - Summer Edition

July 18, 2019

Veteran Run - Volunteer Based

Helping Formerly homeless veterans return to society



Summer is Here!

The first six months of 2019 have flown by, and summer is here. While our snowbird friends have headed back home and most of us have cranked up our air conditioners, it is the worst time of the year for our homeless veterans in Phoenix. It reminds us of how important it is to help those who have served our great country and been left behind. The VA and numerous veterans' groups are working hard to assist them, get them off the street, and start them on a path to a new life. With your help, the VFC is doing our part to fill a critical gap in the system and help our most destitute veterans to make a new home for themselves.



A Busy Six Months



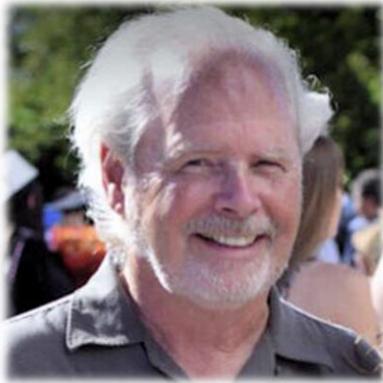
The VFC volunteers have had a very busy six months. Since the first of the year, we have provided 151 veterans with exactly the furniture and household goods they need to start a new life. In addition, the VFC has continued to evolve into a more efficient, better run organization. Our focus on HUD-VASH recipients is allowing us to help the most destitute veterans. Almost all of them have been sleeping on the floor in empty apartments prior to our volunteers delivering the new furniture and household goods they need.

Change of Command

The VFC has been led by Bruce Pagel, Colonel, USA (Retired) since the new Board of Directors took over the operation in 2016. Under his direction, the VFC has made incredible progress, converting from a charity who collected old furniture and gave it away to veterans to one completely focused on the homeless veteran problem. The VFC now serves only the most destitute formerly homeless veterans who are transitioning to permanent housing under the HUD-VASH program. These are the tough cases, the veterans who are most at risk, and who need a hand up to stay off the streets and establish a new home and a new life. The VFC gives them all new furniture and household goods exactly sized and selected to meet their needs.



Bruce is currently a Professor of Practice at ASU in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership. His work at the University is increasing, and he has found it necessary to step down from his leadership role at the VFC. He remains a VFC supporter and a volunteer. All the members of the Board of Directors thank him for his service and all the contributions he has made over the past three years.



Bill Conner, who has been a volunteer at the VFC since 2014 and has served as Vice President since 2016, has stepped forward and picked up the role of President.

Bill is a Retired MSgt, AZANG He has been a partner in MedTek Solutions Inc, an IT consultancy to the Medical Industry, for over 20 years. Over the past three years, Bill has had overall operational responsibility for the Veterans Furniture Center. In addition, he regularly works side by side with the volunteers, delivering furniture and household goods the veterans in need. All the Board Members welcome Bill to his new role and support him as we move forward to continue to improve our operations and serve those veterans who need our help the most.

Bill Garling Joins the VFC Board of Directors



Bill Garling has joined the VFC Board of Directors and has been elected Vice President by the Board Members. Bill is a US Army veteran and a retired Construction Superintendent. He loves the outdoors, is an avid hiker, and is currently the Vice President of a local hiking club. Since his retirement in 2012, he has been actively involved in supporting veteran charities and support groups. He has been a regular volunteer at the Veterans Furniture Center for the past five years. In addition to his duties on the Board of Directors, he regularly works side by side with the volunteers, assembling and repairing furniture and delivering furniture and household goods to the veterans in need.

Senator Krysten Sinema Visits the VFC Warehouse

Near the end of April, Senator Krysten Sinema visited the VFC Warehouse. She stayed quite a while and discussed the homeless veterans issue and the VFC operation with Bill Connor and other members of the Board. The story made the ABC 15 evening news. Since her visit, her staff has remained in touch with the VFC and helped on several important issues. The VFC Board is grateful for her interest and ongoing support.



VFC awarded Gold Star by GuideStar



GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, has awarded the VFC with its Gold Seal of Transparency.

Corporations, foundations, government agencies, and donors rely on GuideStar when considering what nonprofits to support. The VFC welcomes this recognition by GuideStar and proudly displays the seal on our website. You can view the VFC page on GuideStar here: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/27-0768021>

Veterans Helping Veterans – April 27, 2019



..The VFC's Veterans Helping Veterans event, held at the Cross Eyed Cricket in Vistancia, was a huge success. A special thanks to the management and staff of the Cross Eyed Cricket for their ongoing support, and to the Uncle Click Band who once again donated their fee to help our needy veterans.



Upcoming Events

Here are some upcoming events to support our needy veterans.

Duel in the Desert



Duel in the Desert

First Annual CrossFit Box Throw Down Invitational

Location: CrossFit Infinite Strength (Scottsdale, AZ)

July 20, 2019

Time: 8:00am - 1:00ish pm

All proceeds go to Veteran Furniture Center 501(c)(3)



Cars For A Cause



Cars for A Cause Saturday August 17, 2019

Sponsored by DR Horton. Watch our website and our Facebook Page for more information.

Veterans Appreciation Day

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



Our second annual Veterans Appreciation Day celebration will be held at the Cross Eyed Cricket on November 9, 2019. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information as we get into the Fall season.

A Partnership with VetTix



**Vet Tix partners with
the VFC to promote
Veteran Causes**

Vet Tix * provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories, and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.

Thank You

Providing all our destitute veterans transitioning into permanent housing with complete kits of exactly 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.

Thunderbirds Charities



Thunderbirds Charities have increased their support for the VFC and become a Gold Sponsor this year. Thunderbirds Charities is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need, and improve the quality of life in our communities.

Arizona Disabled Veterans Foundation



ADVF is a silver sponsor of the VFC for the second year in a row. ADVF is an Arizona 501(c)(3) charity and an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organizations, supported primarily by individuals, formed to support veterans charities, like the VFC, that are working on critical veterans issues.

APL Logistics



APL Logistics has provided volunteer support for the VFC and developed and donated custom software to manage our warehouse operations. They have now become a Silver Sponsor of 2019. APL Logistics provides innovative, global supply-chain solutions across Automotive, Consumer, Industrial, and Retail markets. These solutions include Order Management, Distribution & Fulfillment, Customs Brokerage, and Transportation products delivered across six regions around the world.

Corte Bella Vets



The VFC has received a generous donation for the Corte Bella Vets. The Corte Bella Vets mission is to foster camaraderie among Veterans of the United States and her Allies, to undertake charitable and other projects on a state and local level, to promote patriotism, and most importantly, to provide service to all Veterans and their families.

Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce



The Veterans Furniture Center is proud to be a member of the Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce and is grateful for a generous donation from the Chamber. The mission of the Chamber is to help you make the citywide connections that simultaneously grow your business and our community through business education, business networking, and community support.

Phoenix Metro Foundation



The VFC also received a donation from the Phoenix Metro Foundation, the 501(c)(3) arm of the PMCC. Phoenix Metro Foundation supports children, families, Veterans, and pets through fundraising, volunteer efforts, and charitable partnerships.

Albertsons Companies Foundation



The VFC received a donation from the Albertsons Safeway Foundation. The Foundation supports causes that impact the lives of their customers. Last year Albertsons Safeway Foundation gave over \$44 million to charitable organizations.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #107



Irving B. Selmer
American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 107

The Veterans Furniture Center is very pleased to have the ongoing support of this great organization. They continue to make generous donations to help our veterans in the time of need.

KofC Resurrection Assembly #3280



The Veterans Furniture Center received a generous donation for the Knights of Columbus Resurrection Assembly #3280 in Carefree.

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
- Click on the Join Us button
- Fill out the form
- Click on Join Now

All major credit cards and bank transfers accepted.

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

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.

See: VeteransFurnitureCenter.org