



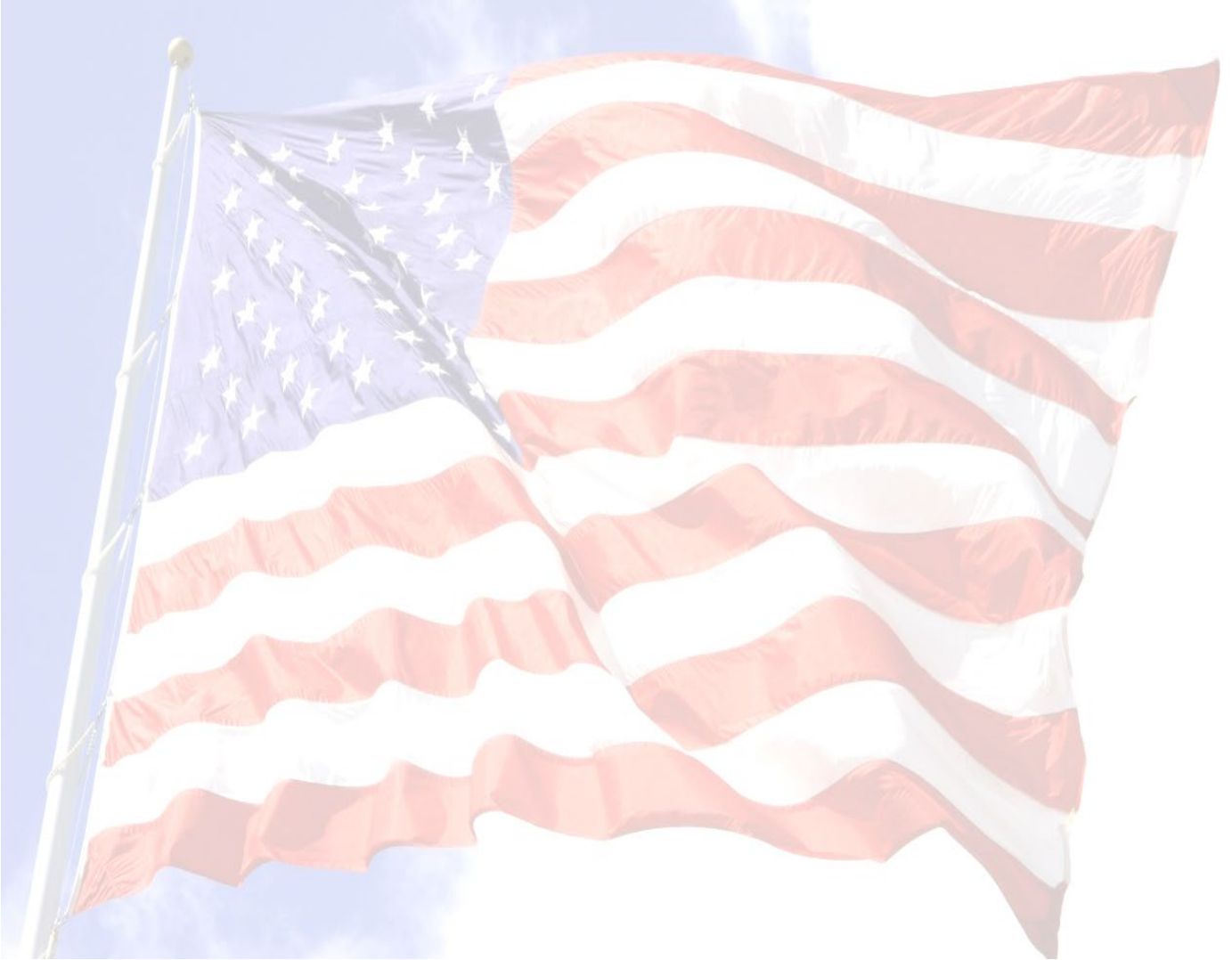
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*Years of Serving Veterans
and Military Families*



VFW
F O U N D A T I O N .

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
Summary of Accomplishments
for FY 2020-2021
(September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021)



From the Desk of

MATTHEW “FRITZ” MIHELICIC
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



If 2020 was known as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, then certainly 2021 will be forever remembered as the year for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. While these vaccines seemed “miraculous” especially in an expedited sense, the emergence of new strains of the virus brought us all quickly back to the reality that perhaps “...things might never be the same” (at least in the foreseeable future).

While life seems to be marginally better, certainly, we’ve all had to adapt to a “new normal.” Here at the VFW Foundation that has meant staff has learned to work partially from home, to rely on remote technologies and, of course, to fundraise creatively.

Yes, this environment has been challenging, but let me state that it has not impacted our program outreach to America’s service members, veterans and the families in the least. In fact, our innovative programs and services didn’t miss a beat during the initial pandemic. For the VFW, the work continues with no stoppage or delay and we will do all that is required of us, no matter what.

Despite the pandemic, the VFW has celebrated many successes over the past year. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, VFW’s VA- accredited service officers helped recover more than \$10.2 billion in earned VA benefits on behalf of more than 550,000 veterans. The VFW’s Unmet Needs program has now distributed more than \$12.3 million to military families facing hardship to help cover expenses like rent, mortgage, utilities, vehicle repair and other basic needs.

You, our generous patriotic donors, have made all this possible! THANK YOU!

I would like to mention that the VFW Foundation has expanded giving opportunities that now include endeavors such as Planned Giving. Designating the VFW Foundation in your will is an amazing way to ensure your patriotism and generosity helps our service men and women who need it most. If you have not made a will, we offer a convenient, safe and free service at FreeWill.com.

I am pleased to report that the VFW Foundation continues to be a conscientious steward of your philanthropic investments with the highest standards of competence and transparency. Please take a few moments to review the following pages, which will give you a comprehensive overview of our operations and financial information.

Finally, I offer my personal gratitude for your past support, and I respectfully invite you to remember us as we respond with compassion to benefit America’s service members, veterans and military families!

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fritz Mihelcic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic
Chairman of the Board

MISSION

To support programs and services that secure, manage, and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities in which they live.

VISION

To memorialize the past so America never forgets the personal sacrifices of those who have defended its freedoms; yet always looking forward to honor and provide for those among us who, through their military service, are dedicated to maintaining our security and democratic way of life.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Gonzalez

A married couple who are both Iraq War veterans, Carlos and Jennifer Gonzalez, received a hand up from the **VFW's Unmet Needs** program in 2021. Both veterans suffer from multiple service-connected injuries, which prevent them working full-time. The grant paid their electric bill, as well as provided their family with \$500 in Walmart gift cards.

ENSURING THAT U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND VETERANS ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN!

The VFW Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) charity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), and exists solely to raise the funds and awareness necessary to operate VFW programs and services for America's veterans, military service members and their families.

The VFW Foundation supports and manages a wide variety of programs and services (most with a national geographic emphasis). These are provided to those we serve at **no cost** and **VFW membership is not required**.

Our organization constantly adapts to the urgent needs of U.S. service members, military families and veterans. In the 2020-21 fiscal year, we distributed more than \$2,5 million to VFW programs and services that directly support the needs of these deserving individuals.

Much of the funding for VFW programs and services comes from ongoing associations with BURGER KING® Franchisees, Humana, Philips, Sport Clips, Twisted X, USAA, and other patriotic companies, many of which have undertaken fundraising and cause-marketing efforts on the behalf of the VFW.

Additional revenue comes from corporate and foundation grants, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and other federated giving programs, corporate matching gifts, donor-advised funds, estate gifts, vehicle donations, and of course through the generosity of individual donors.

It is important to note that we receive no government funding.

Thus, we are exceedingly grateful for the generous support from corporations, foundations and individuals who share our belief that America's service members deserve to know that America *truly* cares.

The VFW Foundation takes great pride in maintaining low administrative costs and highly favorable ratings with charity watchdog groups such as Charity Navigator, GuideStar and the Better Business Bureau. Fiscal Year 2021-22 promises to be a further meaningful evolution in the history of our organization.



SUPPORTING VFW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- In collaboration with participating BURGER KING® franchisees, we assisted military families and veterans with rent, mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses, food and other basic needs through the VFW *Unmet Needs* program.
- Awarded more than \$9.85 million in scholarships to more than 2,200 veterans and service members through the VFW's "*Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship*" program since January 2014.
- Awarded \$2.9 million in annual educational awards to middle and high school students through the VFW's *Patriot's Pen* and *Voice of Democracy* patriotic essay contests. Total participation in these two competitions in 2021 surpassed 114,000 students.
- Provided direct, pro bono assistance by the VFW's VA-accredited service officers to help veterans navigate the complex process of securing earned benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In 2021 alone, the VFW helped more than 100,000 veterans recoup more \$152 million in new claims for benefits and disability compensation.
- VFW members contribute approximately 3.3 million volunteer hours annually in support of beneficial community activities all across the U.S., as well as donate \$25.9 million each year to local service projects.



THE FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

- Collaborated with BURGER KING® franchisees across the country to raise over \$280,000 for the VFW's *Unmet Needs* program. Since the program was established in 2004, the VFW has granted more than \$12.3 million to assist nearly 11,000 military families with urgent financial needs.
- Coordinated fundraising campaigns and processed gifts and grants totaling \$1,558,983 including:
 - \$1,036,976 in contributions and pledges from Sport Clips Haircuts to our 2021 *Help A Hero Scholarship* program to provide service members and veterans financial assistance needed to complete education goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.
 - \$85,970 in contributions from the Combined Federal Campaign and state/local campaigns.
 - \$378,643 from private foundations.
 - \$57,394 in corporate matching gifts.
- Awarded \$1,000,000 to over 400 VFW Posts through our Post Pandemic Relief Grant to help them with their operating expenses which allowed them to continue to provide vital services to their communities.
- Served as a fiscal agent for VFW Departments, Posts, and Auxiliaries for more than 123 contributions totaling over \$391,187.





Photo courtesy of LaShonda Hill

Navy veteran LaShonda Hill is a recipient of the **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship.”** A Ph.D. candidate at Northcentral University in La Jolla, California, the former gunner’s mate 2nd class said that VFW’s scholarship has helped her to afford daycare costs while she is attending classes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	<u>8/31/2021</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,629,820
Investments, at fair value	16,729,535
Receivables	1,418,369
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment, net	46,525
Prepaid expenses	<u>179,641</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 20,003,890</u></u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 318,252
Payable to affiliate	<u>59,330</u>
Total liabilities	<u>377,582</u>
 NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	14,122,029
With donor restrictions	<u>5,504,279</u>
Total net assets	<u>19,626,308</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 20,003,890</u></u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended August 31, 2020

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support and revenue			
Contributions and gifts	\$ 3,780,581	\$ 1,480,780	\$ 5,261,361
Investment returns, net	2,731,442		2,731,442
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>2,039,475</u>	<u>(2,039,475)</u>	<u> </u>
Total support and revenue	8,551,498	(558,695)	7,992,803
 Expenses			
Program Services			
Veterans' service activities	2,572,693		2,572,693
Community service & public awareness	1,273,138		1,273,138
Support Services			
Management and general expenses	481,649		481,649
Fundraising activities	<u>477,578</u>	<u> </u>	<u>477,578</u>
Total expenses	<u>4,805,058</u>	<u> </u>	<u>4,805,058</u>
Change in net assets	3,746,440	(558,695)	3,187,745
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>10,375,589</u>	<u>6,062,974</u>	<u>16,438,563</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 14,122,029</u>	<u>\$ 5,504,279</u>	<u>\$ 19,626,308</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Matthew Mihelcic

Chairman of the Board
Term of Office – 08/03/21 –
07/21/22
Commander-in-Chief, VFW

Kevin Jones

President
Term of Office – 07/25/18 –
Present
Adjutant General, VFW

Debra Anderson

Secretary-Treasurer
Term of Office – 07/27/16 –
Present
Quartermaster General, VFW

Members

Michael DeRosa

Board Member
Term of Office – 03/05/11 – 02/26/23
Re-elected to a two-year term 12/14/20
Former Owner, BURGER KING® Franchisee

Gordon Logan

Board Member
Term of Office – 10/06/11 – 02/26/22
Re-elected to a two-year term 12/09/19
Founder & Former Chairman, Sport Clips Haircuts

Ann Panteleakos

Board Member
Term of Office – 12/17/18 – Present
VFW Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer

Anthony Principi

Board Member
Term of Office – 12/15/05 – 03/04/24
Re-elected to 5th three-year term 12/14/20
Former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Matt Carpenter

Board Member
Term of Office – 02/11/21 – 02/10/24
Owner, BURGER KING® Franchisee

VFW FOUNDATION STAFF

Richard Potter

Director

Brooke Brown

Assistant Manager, Corporate
Relations

Jason Couch

Grants & Special Projects Coordinator

Rebecca Curtis

Senior Program Coordinator

Richard Freiburghouse

Manager

Kevin Jamison

Deputy Director

Renee Martin

Program Coordinator

Benjamin Vargas

Assistant Manager, Special Projects



406 W. 34th Street, Suite 920
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office: 816.968.1128
Fax: 816.968.2789
foundation@vfw.org
www.vfwfoundation.org