

2018 Annual Report



WARRIOR

BONFIRE PROGRAM

**A PLACE FOR PURPLE HEARTS TO
FIND CAMARADERIE, SUPPORT
AND HEALING, AT THE BONFIRE.**



Our Mission

The Warrior Bonfire Program is committed to providing opportunities that improve the lives of Purple Heart recipients on their life long journey of recovery and healing, with focus on creating activity based, stress free environments that promote camaraderie and therapeutic healing. We place warriors, wounded in combat with others of a similar experience, in a stress free, safe and secure setting which promotes wellness and health. We are committed to providing an atmosphere in a simple and straightforward manner by allowing our retreat events the freedom to be shaped and changed by the participants to be exactly what they need it to be.



**PAIN SHARED IS PAIN DIVIDED;
JOY SHARED IS JOY MULTIPLIED**



Team Bonfire,

Thank you for being a member of the Warrior Bonfire Program. Whether you are a donor, a volunteer or a supporter of the organization you have helped in the service to our nation's Purple Heart Recipients; those injured in combat at the hands of the enemy). *Thank you.*

2018 was truly a great year for the Warrior Bonfire Program. In January we celebrated our 5th anniversary with a Bonfire event in Valley Park, Mississippi; the site of the very first Bonfire. It has been an amazing ride. Since that first hunting trip, the Warrior Bonfire Program has heled 67 Bonfire events and 41 Campfires serving 487 Purple Heart Recipients and 31 spouses and children in eighteen states.

What started out with the idea of taking six guys on hunting trip to show them a good time, has evolved into something that is making a true difference in the lives of those the organization serves. What the Warrior Bonfire Program has provided for our veterans is actually very simple; we bring them together and they help heal each other through camaraderie, bonding and, most importantly, having been through the same, traumatic experience. The brother and sisterhood that develops around the Bonfire does not end at the Bonfire; participants keep in touch and watch out for each other after the event as well. As one Purple Heart put it... "there is nothing like sitting one on one with fellow brothers for hours in attendance just counselling one another."

What an amazing ride it has been, but the work is not even close to done and we need your support in continuing the mission. If you served in the military, please continue your service. If you didn't serve in the military just keep on serving the military. *Thank you all for your service and for the blessing you bestow on the Warrior Bonfire Program.*

Best regards,



Dan Fordice
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Mike Foss
PRESIDENT



History

In 2012, the vision of the Warrior Bonfire Program began to form in the mind of our founder, Dan Fordice. He often looked-for ways to serve and help his fellow veterans who suffered from injuries both physical and mental. Dan served for 13 years with the U.S. Army and the Mississippi National Guard. It is his passion to find resources and connections to relieve obstacles for veterans. Dan was speaking with SFC (RET. USA) Charles Gregory Williams, who sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury when a Rocket Propelled Grenade struck and exploded 50-Cal ammunition box two feet from his head. He was later medically retired from those wounds. Greg commented that he could spend a full day with a PhD certified counselor and not come close to the therapeutic value of sitting around a bonfire with five or six guys. Dan quickly responded, "We will provide the bonfire!". In January of 2013, the organization held its first Bonfire Retreat at Valley Park, MS with the second retreat coming to Grand County, CO the next month. The Bonfire has been burning ever since. Since then the Warrior Bonfire Program has held sixty-seven Bonfire Retreats and forty-one other events in eighteen states providing over 488 opportunities to Purple Heart Recipients and 38 spouses across the nation.

IMPACT IN 2018

\$301,680 MONETARY DONATIONS
+ \$282,465 IN-KIND DONATIONS
\$584,145 TOTAL DONATIONS

 **18**
BONFIRES

 **6,099**
 VOLUNTEER HOURS
 WORTH \$190,594

 **8**
CAMPFIRES

95%
 OF PARTICIPANTS
 SAY THE BONFIRE HAD
 A **POSITIVE**
+ IMPACT
 ON THEIR LIVES

 **LARGE FUNDRAISERS**
 • Clay Shoot
 • Diamonds & Dog Tags
 • Out of Bounds Corn Hole Classic
 • Oregon Warrior Bonfire Program Golf Tournament

 **NET OPERATING REVENUE**
 Program Expenses to Total Expenses

TOTAL VETERANS SERVED
 **126**

 **SMALL FUNDRAISERS**
 • 3D Archery Shoot
 • Warrior Bonfire Race
 • Colorado Gives a Damn: South Metro Denver Chamber Charity Golf Tournament

Review of Programs

Our signature Bonfire Retreats are multi-day retreats that are reserved primarily for six Purple Heart Veterans. Each retreat focuses on providing opportunities for wounded veterans and their families to enjoy a favorite activity while partaking in the camaraderie and therapeutic value of spending time around the bonfire with fellow veterans while promoting Post-Traumatic Healing. Each event concludes with a bonfire including a U.S. Flag retirement ceremony providing participants with an opportunity to say their goodbyes to fallen comrades. In addition to our Bonfire Retreats we offer smaller program: Campfire Retreats, Couples Retreats, Jammin' at the Bonfire, and our Bonfire.

Financials

For a deeper dive into Warrior Bonfire's financials please send your request to info@warriorbonfireprogram.org. Documents available: 2018 P&L, 2017 Audited Financials, 2017 990.



VALUE STATEMENTS

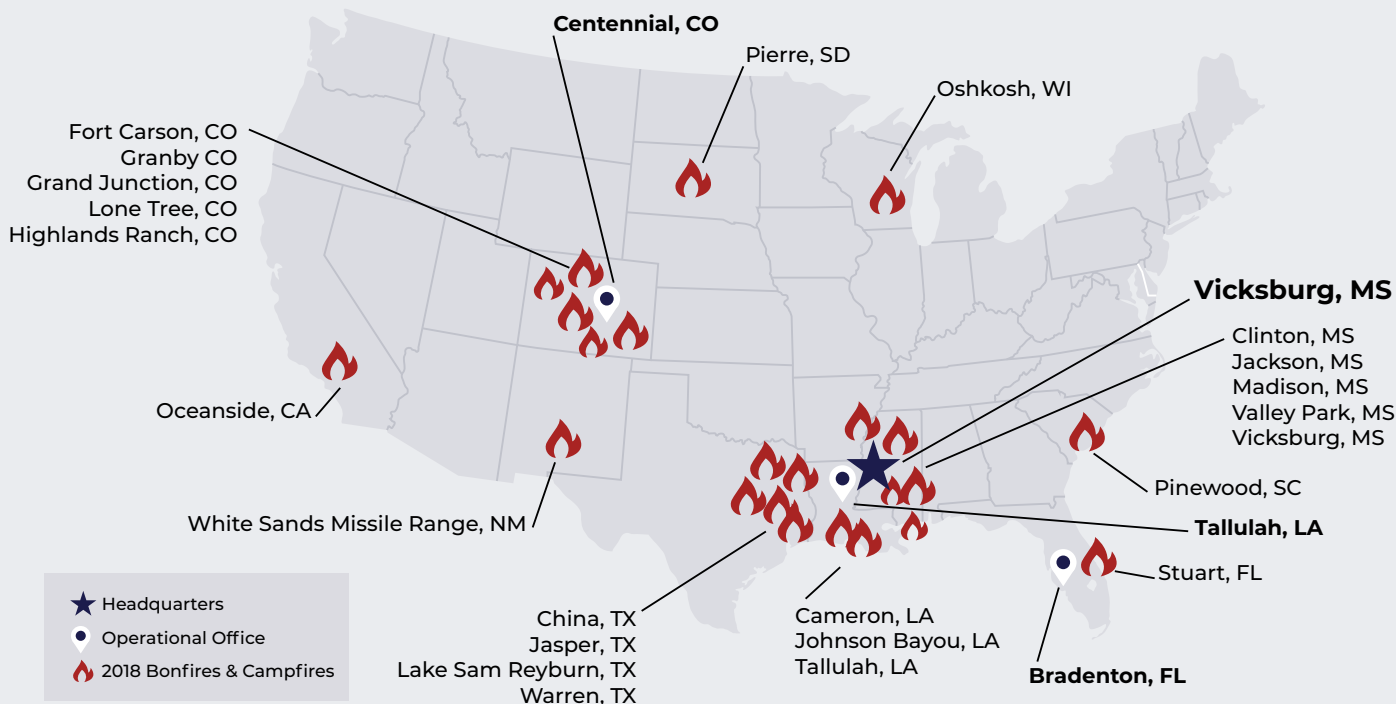
Helping veterans...

- 🔥 Live lives free of guilt where they can trust again
- 🔥 Translate their unique skills and experiences to lead purpose driven lives contributing to society
- 🔥 Build connected relationships in their families and communities



WARRIOR
BONFIRE PROGRAM

LOCATIONS





2019 Initiatives & Goals

Purple Heart Campaign: Advisory Board embarking on campaign to seek out more Purple Heart recipients to serve. There are over 7,000 Post 9/11 Purple Heart Recipients and the Warrior Bonfire Program has helped less than 500.

Mental Health Training: Train and certify all Bonfire event leaders on Mental Health First Aid. Program being developed and will be taught by a Warrior Bonfire Program who is a trained Mental health Therapist.

Survey System: Develop, implement and manage a survey system in order to better understand how the WBP is performing in the eyes of those it serves, those who volunteer and those who support. Survey system will include on-line surveys as well as a series of Town Hall Meetings in areas of concentrated Purple Hearts, Volunteers and Donors.

Enhance Operations: Develop, improve and enhance operations on all three boards.

Increase Services: Serve 144 Purple Heart Recipients on 24 Bonfire events.

Increase Donations: Realize over \$400,000 in monetary donations and over \$300,000 in in-kind donations.

“Thank you for a great weekend with my new brothers when I most needed this in my life!! We never leave anyone behind!!”

- ROBERTO C, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT



2018 Board of Directors

Dan Fordice
CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER

George “Thatch” Shepard
TREASURER

Major General Erik Hearon
MEMBER AT LARGE

CJ Stewart
MEMBER AT LARGE

Kurt Schmidt
MEMBER AT LARGE

Lloyd Munn
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Mississippi Governor
Phil Bryant**
HONARARY MEMBER

2018 Operations Board of Directors

John Compton

Bob Fontneau

Kyle Foss

Neal Huffman

Randy Hux

Brandon Jewell

Omar Logue

James Peck

Kevin Prior

Jerry Selinfreund

Taylor Seyfer

Ben Stepp

Bob Walsh

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Duke Deluca

Greg Fenton

Lance Landeche

Ward Marshall

James McArdle

Joe McDonald

Ken Miner

Paul Nelson

Joe Porrazzo

Joe Stout

Jered Whatcott

Eric Zeek

2018 Staff

Mike Foss
PRESIDENT

Helen Phillips
VICE PRESIDENT

Leigh Ann Vanlandingham
MISSISSIPPI REPRESENTATIVE

“PTSD is never healed, it is just kept at bay with counselling and mentoring from fellow brothers.”

ALLEN P, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT



Supporting Partners



Ernest Clement

Ron & Sue Hosek

Billy Mounger

Phyllis Taylor

Veteran's Passport
★★★ To Hope ★★★



Collaborating Partners

