

2019 Annual Report & Impact



# **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.*

2019 was truly a great year for the Warrior Bonfire Program. In January we celebrated our 7th 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 held 88 Bonfire events and 45 Campfires serving 618 Purple Heart Recipients and 42 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  
FOUNDER



Mike Foss  
PRESIDENT



Eric Zeek  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



# 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 2019


**\$269,750** MONETARY DONATIONS  
**+ \$227,233** IN-KIND DONATIONS  
**\$496,983** TOTAL DONATIONS

 **21**  
**BONFIRES**

 **5,119**  
 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
 WORTH \$159,972

**TOTAL VETERANS SERVED** **TOTAL SPOUSES SERVED**  
 **122**  **11**

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

 **LARGE FUNDRAISERS**

- Clay Shoot
- Diamonds & Dog Tags
- Cheniere Energy Fishing Tournament

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

 **4**  
**CAMPFIRES**

 **SMALL FUNDRAISERS**

- Colorado Gives a Damn
- South Metro Denver Chamber "The Tank"
- Fore Our Heroes 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](mailto:info@warriorbonfireprogram.org). Financials available: 2019 P&L, 2018 Audited Financials, 2018 990.



## VALUE STATEMENTS

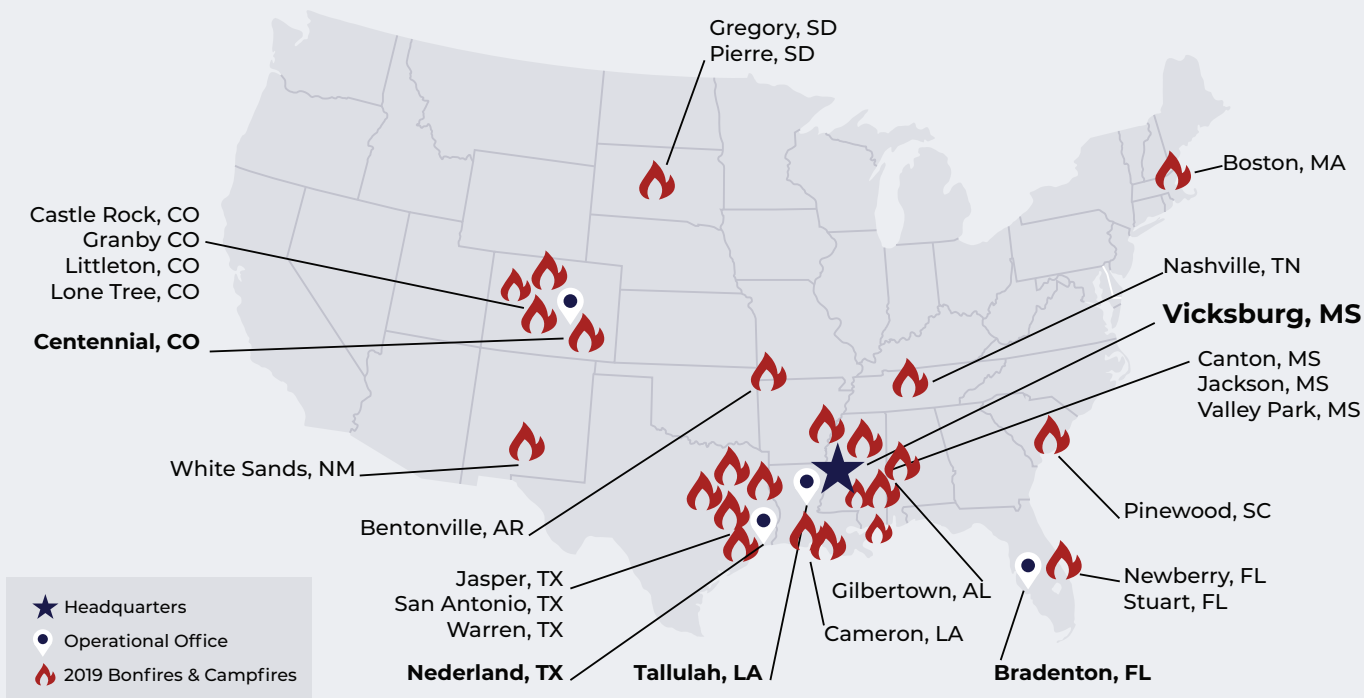
*Helping veterans...*

- 🔥 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 Results

**Board of Directors:** In 2019 we increased the size of our Board of Directors to 11 members and conducted our first board retreat in Granby, CO. In 2020 our goal is to further develop the board using the talents each member brings through the board's committees. Our 2020 board retreat will be held in August 2020 in northeast Arkansas.

**Purple Heart Bonfire Retreat Leaders:** In 2019, the Warrior Bonfire Program commenced the usage of Purple Heart Warriors as Bonfire Retreat Leaders as giving back to their brothers & sisters is a form of healing. Leaders were trained in retreat leadership and Veterans in Crisis Mental Health. In 2020, we are expanding this by having staff members out observing and conducting further training of these wonderful Purple Hearts.

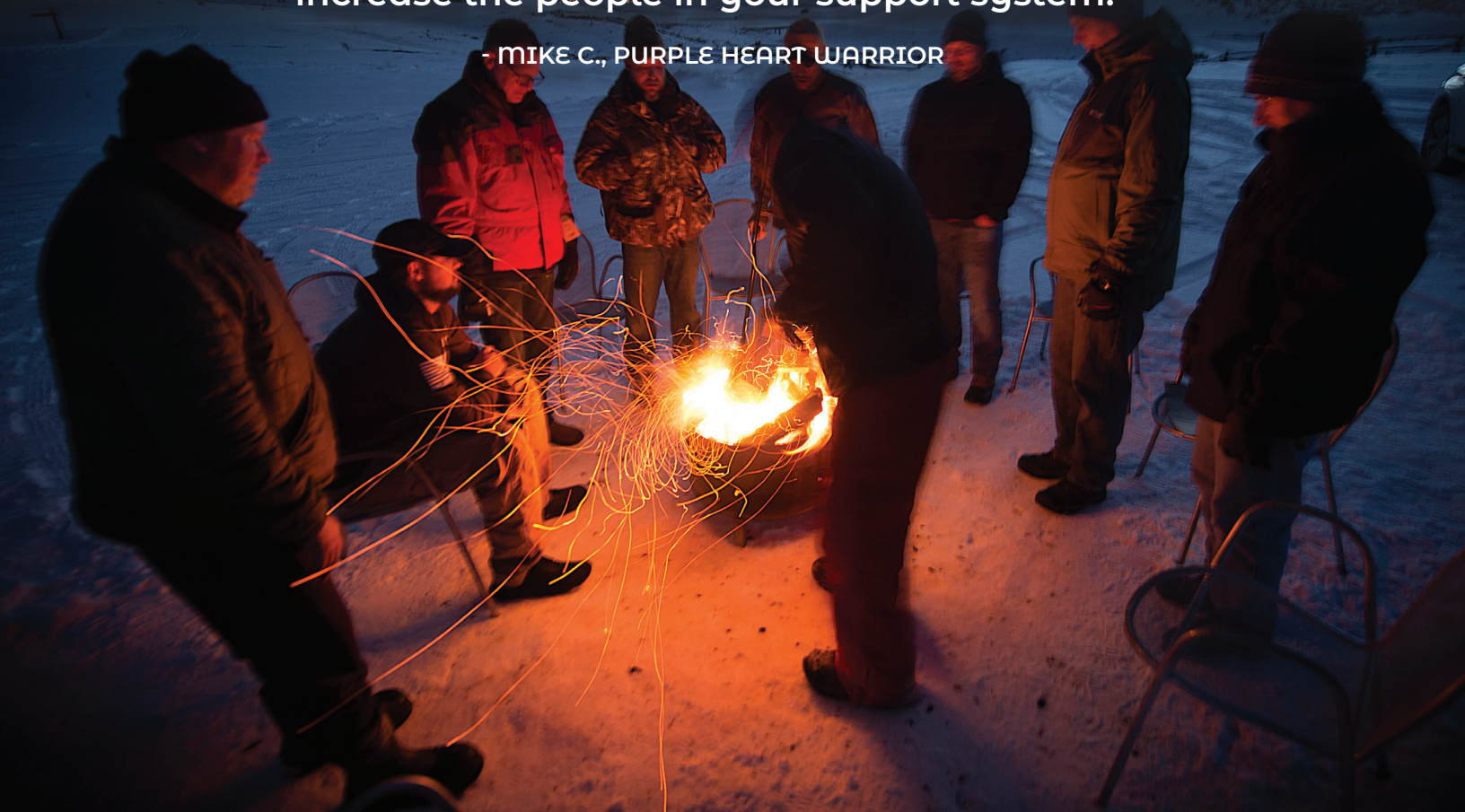
**Enhance Donor Database:** With over 7,500 post 9/11 Purple Heart Warriors there are many more of the organization to serve. To serve more of those wounded in their service to us all we need increase fundraising. Through the development of our Board Strategic and Fundraising committees and acquirement of a large, specific lead list, we feel we are destined to increase our revenue in 2020 by more than \$100,000.





**"This program can change lives,  
help reconnect you to your veteran family and  
increase the people in your support system."**

**- MIKE C., PURPLE HEART WARRIOR**



## **2019 Board of Directors**

**Dan Fordice**  
FOUNDER & MEMBER AT LARGE

**Eric Zeek**  
CHAIRMAN

**Allen Pugh**  
VICE CHAIRMAN & PURPLE HEART WARRIOR

**George "Thatch" Shepard**  
TREASURER

**Joe McDonald**  
SECRETARY & PURPLE HEART WARRIOR

**Keestan Cole**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Connie Golas**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Erik Hearon**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Ken Miner**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Lloyd Munn**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Dave Parker**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Former Mississippi Governor  
Phil Bryant**  
HONORARY MEMBER

**Doug Smith**  
HONORARY MEMBER (DECEASED)

## **2019 Operations Board**

**Jim Bevacqua**

**John Compton**

**Tim Day**

**Bob Fontneau**

**Kyle Foss**

**Brian Harvey**

**Neal Huffman**

**Randy Hux**

**Brandon Jewell**

**Jordan Jhabvala**

**Omar Logue**

**Ken Lovejoy**

**James Peck**

**Kevin Prior**

**Jerry Selinfreund**

**Taylor Seyler**

**Ben Stepp**

**Bob Walsh**

## **2019 Staff**

**Mike Foss**  
PRESIDENT

**Helen Phillips**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Leigh Ann Vanlandingham**  
MISSISSIPPI REPRESENTATIVE



“The trip brought back some memories I had forgotten but was able to bring them back in a good way. It gave me a good sense of relief and being able to go home feeling good about myself.”

STEPHEN B. PURPLE HEART WARRIOR



## Top Supporting Partners



**Estate of Helen H. Gillespie**

**The Shell Fund**

**Alex & Donna Belingloph**

**Glenn Solomon**

**Veteran's Passport**  
\*\*\* **To Hope** \*\*\*



## Nonprofit Partners

