



WARRIOR

BONFIRE PROGRAM

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



OUR MISSION



Warrior Bonfire Program provides opportunities that improve the lives of enemy combat-wounded veterans—Purple Heart recipients—on their lifelong journey of recovery and healing. We create activity-based, small group retreats that foster healing, build support communities, and transform lives. We place warriors, wounded in combat with others of a similar experience, in a stress free, safe and secure settings designed to help our Purple Hearts become better individuals, discover their post service purpose, and encourage building strong family and community relationships.



**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.

Over the past years, we have made tremendous progress, yet there is much work to do, and the Warrior Bonfire Program needs your help. Recently released, pre-COVID studies show the Veteran suicide rate is dropping, from 22 each day in 2014 to 17.6 in 2018, however, an alarming uptick we are gravely concerned about the increasing Veteran suicide numbers NOW due to isolation created by COVID-19 restrictions. We must all continue to combat this national tragedy. Our independent COVID-19 Impact Survey Results show a great need for our services and that our concerns are valid.

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.



Dan

Dan Fordice
FOUNDER

Mike

Mike Foss
PRESIDENT

Eric

Eric Zeek
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Hunter

Hunter Fordice
FOUNDER

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 2020

\$297,000 MONETARY DONATIONS
+\$220,000 IN-KIND DONATIONS

\$517,000 TOTAL DONATIONS

 **13**
BONFIRES

 **2,300**
VOLUNTEER HOURS
WORTH \$70,000

OPPORTUNITIES

 **84** VETERANS
 **9** SPOUSES

97%
OF PARTICIPANTS SAY
THE BONFIRE HAD A
POSITIVE IMPACT ON
THEIR LIVES

LARGE FUNDRAISERS

- Warbirds, Wings & Wheels, Tallulah, LA,
- Diamonds & Dog Tags Denver, CO

SMALL FUNDRAISERS

- Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast Oxford, MS



PROGRAM EXPENSES TO TOTAL EXPENSES

 **4**
CAMPFIRES

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. We also offer Campfire retreats. Jammin' at the Bonfire, and a Bonfire Warriors leadership program.

VALUE STATEMENTS

**HELPING VETERANS:
FOSTER HEALING,
BUILD SUPPORT
COMMUNITIES AND
TRANSFORM LIVES**

FINANCIALS

For a deeper dive into Warrior Bonfire's financials please send your request to info@warriorbonfireprogram.org. Financials available: 2020 P&L, 2019 990, 2018 Audited Financials, 2018 990.



**WARRIOR
BONFIRE PROGRAM**

LOCATIONS



2021 INITIATIVES



STRONG HEART SPOUSES BONFIRE RETREATS: Strong Heart Spouses Retreats are retreats to help energize and motivate the treasured caregivers of our modern-day heroes, and are full of rest and relaxation. Designed just like our Bonfire Retreats these retreats offer a greater understanding of what the veteran experiences while attending a retreat and provide a support community. Typically spouses are surrounded by a civilian community at home which lacks the understanding needed to offer healthy support and often can lead to encouragement of divorce. This program is necessary to provide solid support the entire veteran family.



STRONG HEART COUPLES BONFIRE RETREATS: Strong Hearts Couple Retreats are designed to promote healthier relationships for the veteran and his or her partner in life. These retreats follow the same structure as our other retreats but with a focus on communication, partnership, and cultivating quality time together. A married couple expects to meet challenges throughout but a combat wounded couple didn't anticipate the added heavy burdens to carry for 30 plus years. These couples need added support to combat the growing rate of divorces in this community.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Future programs are in the design phase. We plan to develop a post-retreat program to help our members achieve the personal goals identified while attending a bonfire retreat. This program would help the veteran integrate with their local community to provide the resources they need to reach their goals.

Warrior Bonfire Gear Store: In 2021, we will be creating an online store with Warrior Bonfire Program created merchandise for the public, our team and our Purple Hearts.



**“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

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& PURPLE HEART WARRIOR

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DIRECTOR OF VETERAN & MILITARY CARE

Erin Stepp

SPOUSE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

“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

2020 TOP SUPPORTING PARTNERS*



DAN FORDICE

JEFFREY BLANCHAT

2020 NONPROFIT PARTNERS

