



WARRIOR
BONFIRE PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT & IMPACT

CONNECTION. HEALING. COMMUNITY.



**PAIN SHARED IS PAIN DIVIDED.
JOY SHARED IS JOY MULTIPLIED.**



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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

At Warrior Bonfire Program, our mission is simple and deeply personal: to serve Purple Heart recipients through small, trusted groups that foster healing and connection, while recognizing and supporting the vital role of their spouses.

What we hear most often from the veterans and families we serve is that coming home can be harder than expected. Not only because of what happened during service, but because of what comes after. The disconnect. The isolation. The feeling that the people around them do not fully understand.

Around the bonfire, something changes.

We see veterans connect with others who just get it, without needing to explain themselves. We see spouses find space where their experiences are acknowledged and supported. And we see relationships form that continue long after a retreat ends.

From both a leadership and governance standpoint, we are proud of the way Warrior Bonfire Program approaches this work intentionally, responsibly, and with deep respect for the people we serve. From a human standpoint, we are proud of the quiet but meaningful impact that happens when connection is placed at the center.

This report reflects more than a year of activity. It reflects the trust placed in this organization by veterans, families, and supporters, and the responsibility we share to protect and strengthen this mission.

Thank you for standing alongside Warrior Bonfire and for helping ensure that no Purple Heart recipient has to navigate healing alone.

With gratitude,



Mike Foss
President



Keestan Cole
Chairman, Board of Directors



WHO WE SERVE

Warrior Bonfire Program serves post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients who have been wounded in combat and often carry both visible and invisible injuries long after their service ends. We also intentionally support spouses, recognizing the essential role they play in healing, stability, and long term resilience.

Many of the veterans who arrive at our retreats describe feeling disconnected after returning home. They may be surrounded by people, yet still feel profoundly alone. What they are seeking is not treatment, but understanding.

"I didn't realize how alone I'd been until I was sitting with people who got it." - Jared, Purple Heart recipient

WHY IT MATTERS

Healing does not happen in isolation. It begins when people feel seen, heard, and understood.

By bringing Purple Heart recipients together in small groups with peers who share lived experience, and by creating space outdoors where conversation unfolds naturally, Warrior Bonfire Program helps reduce isolation and rebuild connection. These moments of belonging become a foundation for renewed purpose, trust, and community.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Behind every number is a moment of connection. A conversation that did not require explanation. A reminder that no one has to carry this alone.

In 2025, Warrior Bonfire Program created space for healing and belonging through small, trusted gatherings built around shared experience.

These numbers represent more than participation. They represent people who felt seen, understood, and welcomed back into community.

"I left feeling like myself again."

- Daniel, Purple Heart recipient

181 Purple Heart recipients gathered at Adventure Retreats designed to restore connection, trust, and purpose

10 spouses and partners participated in Strong Heart Spouses Retreats, finding community, understanding, and support

15 couples attended Couples Retreats, creating space to reconnect alongside others who share a similar journey

37 retreats were hosted across 19 states and 1 territory (Puerto Rico) supporting Purple Heart recipients and their spouses and partners nationwide

230 therapeutic opportunities centered on peer connection and shared experience

2949 volunteer hours (estimated) helped make these moments possible





*"Being around other couples who understood helped us feel less alone."
- Couples Retreat participant*

PROGRAMS & OUTCOMES

Across all Warrior Bonfire Program retreats, participants consistently describe the same outcome: the relief of not having to explain themselves. The relationships formed during these retreats often continue long after participants return home.



BONFIRE ADVENTURE RETREATS

Purple Heart recipients participate in small group outdoor experiences designed to encourage trust, reflection, and shared experience. Many report feeling less isolated and more connected to others who understand their journey.



STRONG HEART SPOUSES RETREATS

Spouses gather in spaces created specifically for them, where their experiences are acknowledged and supported. These retreats foster connection, validation, and renewed strength among those who often carry the weight quietly.



COUPLES RETREATS

Purple Heart recipients and their spouses attend together, creating space to reconnect, communicate, and heal alongside others navigating similar challenges.



BEYOND THE BONFIRE

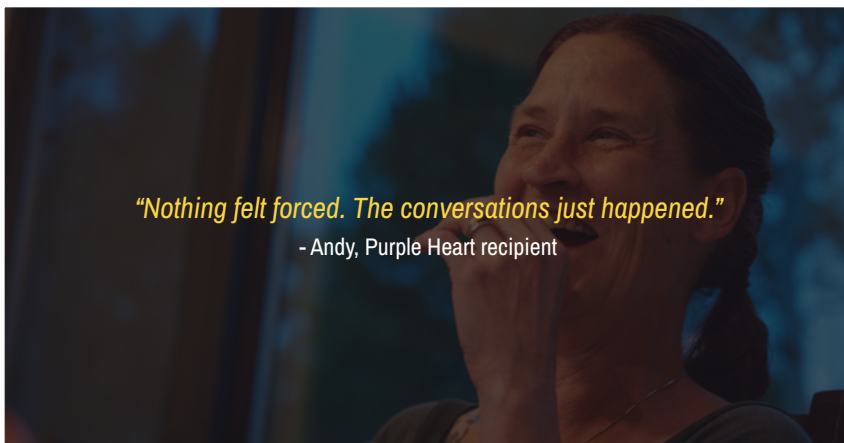
Warrior Bonfire Program's impact continues well beyond the retreat circle. Through initiatives like Bonfire Leaders, Purple Heart volunteers, Give Back Bonfires, and Leaders Retreats, participants stay connected, support one another, and extend the mission into their home communities. These programs empower veterans and spouses to lead, serve, and build meaningful relationships long after their first bonfire experience. Together, they strengthen the network, deepen connection, and amplify the impact of Warrior Bonfire Program year-round.

WHY THIS APPROACH WORKS

Warrior Bonfire Program's impact is rooted in simplicity and intention.

Small group sizes allow trust to form. Shared experience removes the need for explanation. Outdoor environments lower barriers and invite openness. And the sense of community created at each retreat extends well beyond the experience itself.

This work does not replace clinical care. It fills a different, essential role by creating connection, belonging, and peer support that many Purple Heart recipients and families are missing.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FISCAL YEAR 2025

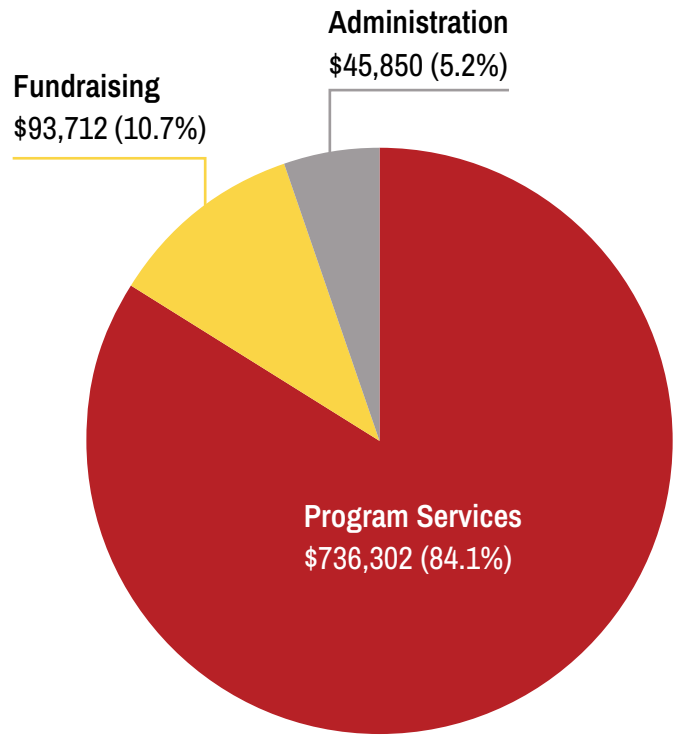
Warrior Bonfire Program is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of every dollar entrusted to our mission.

Total Revenue	Total Expenses
\$1,087,307	\$875,325

Financial information reflects fiscal year 2025 and aligns with our Form 990.

As of December 31, 2025, Warrior Bonfire Program's endowment fund stands at \$609,165, supporting long term sustainability while allowing annual contributions to directly fund current programs and retreats.

EXPENSE ALLOCATION



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Purple Heart recipients carry an invisible weight long after service. Many arrive to Warrior Bonfire retreats facing anxiety, depression, isolation, and loss of connection. That is why Warrior Bonfire matters: our retreats create space for real camaraderie, honest conversation, and the kind of connection that helps people feel like themselves again.

94.3% report making connections they will work to keep after retreat

88.6% report reduced anxiety after participating

91%+ of at-risk veterans rated retreat outcomes positively, even though only 37% wanted to talk to peers beforehand

90%+ consistently report their retreat will have a positive impact on their life

52% of veterans who arrived with suicidal ideation reported those thoughts ceased following retreat participation

WITH GRATITUDE

This work is possible because individuals, foundations, and partners believe in the power of connection and community. Every retreat, every conversation around the bonfire, and every relationship that continues beyond it exists because of shared commitment to serving Purple Heart recipients and their families with dignity and respect.

LOOKING AHEAD

As demand for Warrior Bonfire Program retreats continues to grow, so does the opportunity to reach more Purple Heart recipients and families seeking connection.

In the year ahead, we are focused on expanding access, reducing waiting lists, and strengthening the community that forms beyond each retreat. Continued partnership makes it possible to ensure that no Purple Heart recipient has to navigate healing alone.



"The connections I made didn't stop when the retreat ended."

- Levi, Purple Heart recipient

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Warrior Bonfire Program is guided by an engaged Board of Directors and dedicated leadership team committed to ethical governance and mission integrity.

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