



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Veterans Services Foundation

Board of Trustees

Office of the Chairman

Kayla Arestivo
Telephone: (804) 690 4282
Executive Director
E-mail: kayla.arestivo@vsf.virginia.gov

December 18th, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Craig Crenshaw
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23219

Members of the Virginia General Assembly
The Capitol

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Annual Report to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the General Assembly Code of Virginia - § 2.2-2715 (B.)

Executive Summary

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (the Foundation) is an independent state agency and was established to support the interests of Virginia Veterans and their families. The Foundation is governed and administered by an appointed Board of Trustees. The Foundation provides supplemental funding for designated Veteran programs and services through the Department of Veterans Services when state and federal funds are not available. The Foundation depends solely on contributions from the generosity of community and civic organizations, businesses and corporations, grants, and caring individuals. The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation provides support to our veterans in crisis or in need of assistance. Each dollar raised stays right here in Virginia.

About the Veterans Services Foundation

The Foundation is governed and administered by the Board of Trustees (the Board), consisting of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Chairman of both the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) who serve as ex officio voting trustees; along with eight non-legislative citizens appointed by the Governor; five non-legislative citizens appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and three non-legislative citizens appointed by the Senate

Committee on Rules.

The Foundation administers the Veterans Services Fund (the Fund); providing supplemental funding for veterans' services and programs in the Commonwealth currently designated by DVS; in accordance with an annual budget approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Foundation depends on contributions from community and civic organizations, businesses and corporations, grants, and individual donors to support the unmet needs of veterans and their families. General Funds are allocated in the Appropriation Act approved by the General Assembly, for staff salaries and for the Foundation to compensate DVS with a total of \$130,000 annually for administrative support. The Foundation is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. Donations may be tax exempt under section 170 (c) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 2.2-2719 of the Code of Virginia.

Chairman's Report

As Chairman of the Virginia Services Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to provide an annual report required by §2.2.2715(B) of the Code of Virginia regarding the supplemental funding the Foundation provided to Virginia veterans through programs designated by DVS. The Foundation closed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 with \$2,944,461 in assets which are held by the State Treasurer. Throughout FY24 the Foundations received \$382,680 in donations and grants.

A strong collaboration between the Foundation and DVS is essential for the Foundation to be successful. DVS' ability to identify unmet veteran needs allows the Foundation to communicate to donors where funds are most needed and how the assistance is implemented.

During FY24 the Foundation provided \$839,014 to DVS in support of Virginia veterans. The distribution of those funds is shown below:

- Virginia Veteran and Family Support (Direct): \$383,715
- Virginia Veteran and Family Support (Homeless): \$291,591
- Veteran Education, Transition and Employment \$120,352
- Veteran Care Centers \$ 43,111
- Other DVS Programs \$ 245

Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) is the largest DVS directorate supported by the Foundation. The statewide program offers a wide-range of direct services to Virginia veterans; members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves not in active federal service; and family members and caregivers of those veterans and service members. VVFS programs include direct linkage to medical and behavioral health, peer support, family programs to include couple retreats, and assistance to homeless and incarcerated veterans. VVFS partners with several other organizations to ensure veterans get all the support required.

In FY24 the Veteran Education, Transition and Employment (VETE) program which includes the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program and the Virginia Women Veterans Summit, provided employment support and credentials to 45 veterans, and 198 laptops to support veterans or their families. Much of their funding is obtained through grants to support credentialing and laptops for veterans in need. FY24 Grant funding was provided by Altria and Newport News Shipyard.

December 18th, 2024- Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Annual Report

The Foundation was also active in supporting Virginia's Veterans Care Centers. Currently, there are three (3) centers operating – Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke; Sitter-Barfoot Care Center, Richmond; Jones-Cabacoy Care Center. The Puller Veterans Care Center, Fauquier County is scheduled to open in 2025. The Foundation funds provided to the Care Center support programs and needs for veterans at the centers.

The Board is committed to raising additional revenue from all sources, including grants and private donations from individuals, businesses, and other organizations. During the budget development process in April 2024, DVS identified close to a \$3 million ask to support Virginia Veterans and their families. With a new strategic plan in place and a nearly full board with 15 Trustees the foundation hopes to raise \$900,000 in FY25.

Since the beginning of calendar year 2024, the Foundation has been fortunate to receive generous contributions from individual donors, businesses, and organizations Commonwealth wide. These contributions have totaled \$685,321, including the donation of four brand-new, fully equipped medical vans for the Virginia Veterans Care Centers by the DAV Department of Virginia. This level of support is a testament to the foundation's successful outreach efforts and its strong commitment to serving those who have served our nation.

Additionally, we proudly launched our new website on August 15th. This site has been designed not only to better convey our mission and share the impactful stories of veterans but also to enhance user experience with improved aesthetics and functionality. The new platform represents a significant step forward in our efforts to engage with the community and highlights the important work we do.

Lastly, the foundation currently employs its largest team to date, with two full-time positions: Executive Director and Business Manager, as well as a wage position for a Grant Writer. Each team member's role is focused on specific areas to enhance the foundation's efficacy, ensuring that all efforts are streamlined, and mission driven.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, I can report we have administered the Fund, maintained Fund integrity, ensured accountability and transparency, and provided revenue for selected services and programs requested by DVS in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

We look forward to fulfilling our responsibility to aiding Virginia veterans and their families when other funding sources are not available. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Williamson

Brad Williamson
Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation