



Military Outreach USA

Stand By Me Heroes

3020 Milwaukee Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062

Winter 2022

OUR MISSION

Military Outreach USA is a faith-based Judeo-Christian organization focused on Veterans and First-Responder Communities, regardless of their denomination or beliefs, demonstrating the compassion, love and healing of Christ our Lord



WHEN YOU CAN'T RUN YOU WALK,
WHEN YOU CAN'T WALK YOU CRAWL
AND WHEN YOU CAN'T CRAWL
WE WILL CARRY YOU



A message from our Founder

Major General (Ret) James H. Mukoyama
U.S. Army 1964-1995

President & CEO of Military Outreach USA

We will soon be saying good-bye to 2022 which has been a banner year for Military Outreach USA in many areas due to God's blessings and the dedication and service of our network organizations, volunteers, directors and staff.

Although we did not have an in-person fund-raising event this year due to the lingering COVID restrictions, we are planning for one in the coming year. Nevertheless, our supporters have continued to provide us with contributions that have resulted in not only the continuation of our Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program (VEHP) collections but an increase in the number of beds provided to veterans and their families and the number of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers throughout the nation requesting our support. Through the end of November, we have provided 296 beds to veterans in 18 states, mostly from referrals from local VA caseworkers.

Special recognition is due to Jim Dunne, our VEHP National Representative who not only supervises our Move-In-Essential (MIE) collections in the Midwest, but has developed a national program with materials for our network organizations. Likewise, recognition is due to Sue Brown, our Executive Assistant, who coordinates our national Beds-for-Vets program with the many VA medical centers whose veterans are receiving our beds. In addition, Sue has the responsibility of coordinating, editing, and publishing our newsletters and performing our administrative functions.

We are especially excited about the work of our Executive Director Philip (Chappy) Ferrer who has expanded our Stand-By-Me-Heroes program to numerous states, traveling in person to meet with volunteer leaders to establish state chapters. He has also coordinated extensively with our partners at Crosswinds Foundation to produce instructional videos for our Foxhole Soul Counselors.

In 2023, Crosswinds Foundation will be releasing their third video in their series dealing with the Invisible Wounds of War. Their first video, *"Invisible Scars,"* dealt with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and established our relationship with them. We helped them produce their second video, *"Honoring the Code,"* with veterans and family members willing to share their stories. Their third video *"Trauma Comes Home,"* will be coming out very soon and, if you watch it closely, you will see some people you might recognize. We again recruited numerous volunteers for this production. It completes the triad concentrating on the effects of the invisible wounds of war on families. They will also be releasing a new book entitled *"Disentangled,"* which will complement their upcoming DVD.

Very recently, I was honored to receive on behalf of Military Outreach USA, the 2022 Vetted2Live Award from the Mental Health Association of Chicago for our work with Veterans regarding PTSD and Moral Injury.

Every day the Good Lord encourages me and, as you can see from the above, this year has been an encouragement. We prayerfully look forward to the New Year with gratitude and confidence in our efforts to serve our God and our nation.



A message from Chappy

Chappy Ferrer
Executive Director & Operations

Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program (VEHP)

Military Outreach USA (MOUSA) Operations Update

Our soul mission continues to impact veterans, first responders and their families. No matter your faith, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or age we honor your service along with a grateful nation.

MOUSA serves communities through two key programs. Our Stand-by-me Heroes Program (SBMH) mission is to reduce 22+ suicides per day in our veteran community and the growing number of first responders and family members. Our second program, the Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program (VEHP), is where we provide Beds-for-Vets and Move-in-Essentials as they move from the streets and alleys into a residence. We partner with local and regional HUD-VASH VA teams, local houses of worship, corporations, schools and service organizations.

Please review our website, MilitaryOutreachUSA.org, and listen to our founder Major General (retired) James H. Mukoyama's introduction of our mission. Also enjoy our quarterly MOUSA newsletters which speak to our impact across this great nation.

Recruiting Foxhole Soul Counselors (FSCs)

We're seeking NCOs, officers, psychologists, counselors, chaplains, nurses and every day folks across the country who have the gift of listening and giving. There are great numbers of people quietly asking for someone to Stand-by-me and expanding our grass-roots approach of volunteers has always been the best solution. How? 80% of our time is listening and providing guidance to mind, body and soul. For those with severe issues we walk with them to professionals, but we remain their after-hours support. We are finding that Moral Injury impacts those with post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma and brain injuries. Successfully impacting our heroes, we have been trust-worthy friends who will guard your six.

We will never apologize for being a faith-based organization. However, we are not a religious entity, nor do we proselytize. We are recruiting and certifying the salt of the earth as Foxhole Soul Counselors with one-on-one engagements. The VA, on average, provides veterans with a meeting once per month; our certified teams provide after-hours support meetings at our corporate offices, (aka Dunkin'-Donuts or a local restaurant). We listen and empathize. We DO NOT provide medical assistance. Our one-on-one grass-roots approach has helped many who were on the precipice and struggling. Walking together we averted tragedies that would have negatively impacted families, children and communities.

Our solution is simple. Anyone in need of help is assigned an FSC to help guard that person's mind-body-soul. Simplicity is the solution, not a monthly clinical appointment and drugs. If interested send an email to Sue.Brown@militaryoutreachusa.org **and help save a life.**

Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program (VEHP)

Our *Beds-for-Vets* program continues to work with our local HUD-VASH partners by purchasing beds for veterans who have qualified to move from the streets, alleys and cars into a residence. To date **2,479 Beds-for-Vets** have been purchased. With your financial support we can continue to grow this number in the greater Chicago area and across the country.

The second part of our VEHP program is called *Move-In-Essentials*. Our team partners with houses of worship, corporations and community organizations collecting those essentials needed when a hero moves into an apartment after sleeping rough on the streets or woods. Essentials include hygiene products, cleaning materials and dishes to name a few. Are you interested?

We are looking for organizers to collect/deliver furniture and basic essentials within their communities. We are proud to have provided **\$1,369,942** worth of **move-in-essentials** helping over **50,000 veterans** to date.

Interested in getting involved in this practical, simple act of kindness? Contact Sue.Brown@militaryoutreachusa.org and impact lives.

Suicide Prevention: Veterans, First Responders

Beginning in 2023 we are launching a free training workshop on suicide prevention which will be available on our website and YouTube.

Anyone willing to sponsor an on-site and in person workshop? Please contact us via our website. We have a planning schedule and template that civilian and veterans organizations can use to organize.

Go onto our website, the Stand-by-me Heroes page, and review Honor the Code and Invisible Scars videos: they are the beginning of our healing program.

We are Blessed!

OUR HERO OF THE YEAR

To give, come forward, sign up, step forward, advance, present, propose, tender, offer, at one's disposal, stand up, to go without pay and sacrifice. These words describe those who have determined to take actions because of the stirring within their soul. Some will be plunged into the fray despite the required activities and obstacles that are sure to arise regardless of age and/or titles. Others will gradually begin out of caution and soon wonder what took them so long. These blessed individuals are ready to impact the lives of others, including people they may never meet in this life. They will serve a transcendent cause regardless; whether dangerous or not, they will advance with a soul-focus. These men and women are full of faith and a ready mission proving that they will make a difference.

Our hero for the year is the **volunteer!** These individuals are unique in their vision and their actions and are quite formidable. They can persevere through many obstacles to meet their goals, knowing the impact to others. For most, it springs from their youth; others were impacted by an experience or struck by an epiphany. Their impact will surpass that of many educated and logical-minded of their peers.

The volunteer has a soul logarithm and in time will grow in magnitude and influence becoming long-ranging. They do not see their actions as great, shy away from the limelight and are enriched by their actions. Those who join military service, despite wars and rumors of wars, muster the strength and courage from within. From childhood into adulthood they understand that the gates of this republic and our freedoms to family, friends and nation are worth the sacrifice and price to endure.

Our first-responders and front-line medical workers understand their greater responsibilities and have no doubts of how they want to impact lives within communities and nations. These men and women of honor stepped up to meet the challenges of Covid showing their grit with little support from their communities. The factor of becoming a hero was not their thought; the stirring in their souls and the challenge before them proved to the world who we can become, no matter the price.

Many other volunteers instantly offered their services from shopping for groceries to picking up medicines, mailing a card of encouragement, and reminded each recipient that they were not forgotten.

The volunteer is a person proving the love of our God in action, not words. They are full of hope, character, focus and humility toward making a difference. Their contributions honor our God and neighbors and they continue to serve and overcome any obstacles which has clearly expanded into Ukraine. It is this person who can change the trajectory of families, friends, community, even a nation.

It is this person we honor who prefers anonymity and humility, to shed light into darkness, to love any and all. The volunteers have contributed for millennia and proven themselves better than worldly leaders. They are, in God's eyes, true ambassadors.

We are Blessed!

Philip Chappy Ferrer
Executive Director & OPS
<https://www.militaryoutreachusa.org/>
(877) 734 - 4244

Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program (VEHP)



Beds-for-Vets Program

Our Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program includes our Beds-for-Vets program. Since our effort began in 2016, we have supplied **2,480 beds** to veterans in 19 states, thanks to the support of people like you!

Funds for these beds come to us from a grateful nation - individuals, schools, VSOs, civic, social and faith-based organizations - to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice and to encourage them in their new lives now that they are off the streets and out of the shelters.

We were recently awarded a two-year \$50,000 Honor Grant from the Cook County Veterans Affairs Department to enable us to continue to provide beds for veterans who are referred to us from Jesse Brown VA and Edward J. Hines VA in Chicago. This was one of only ten such grants awarded to non-profit organizations in the greater Chicago area. We are honored to be recognized for the quality of the past work we have done through our Veterans Exiting Homelessness program and eager to use these funds in 2023 and 2024.

Thank you to all who hold this program in prayer and to those of you who financially support this way of honoring the men and women who served us so well.

Move-in-Essentials Collections

Houses of worship and other organizations, individuals and groups provide hope and encouragement to local veterans transitioning from homelessness into subsidized housing through a program called Move-in-Essentials (MIE) coordinated by Jim Dunne's team of volunteers for Military Outreach USA. To date, we have distributed items valued at **\$1,369,942** to veterans from the Jesse Brown, Edward J. Hines and James Lovell VAs in the greater Chicago area.

Thank you to the Prospect High School (Mount Prospect); Palatine's St. Thomas of Villanova Church, St. Theresa Church, the American Legion Post 690; American Legion Merle Guild Post in Arlington Heights, St. Mary's Church in Buffalo Grove, Transfiguration Church in Wauconda, and St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Melrose Park for their donations of **\$18,450** worth of Move-In-Essentials over the fall months. These items have honored local veterans in Illinois for their service and sacrifice and let them know they have not been forgotten.

A very special thank you to Tom Koenig of the Mundelein IL UNITS facility. He has been donating UNIT containers for on-site collections at local houses of worship, veteran service organizations. He then brings the items back to his warehouse and stores the move-in-essentials until the local VAs come to pick them up for distribution to veterans under their care. We so appreciate how easy this makes it for organizations who want to hold a collection for basic household items to benefit local veterans.

Want more information on how to do this in your area? Leave a voice message for Sue Brown at 877-734-4244 or email JimDunne@militaryoutreachusa.org



How you can reach us!

SBMH Help line - 877-734-4244

For additional information please email us at Info@militaryoutreach.org or leave us a message on our website by [clicking here](#).

Stand by me Heroes (SBMH) Chapters



SBMH Northern Illinois

Contact us

Voice Mail: 877-734-4244

3020 Milwaukee, Northbrook IL 60020



St. Raymond's School Veterans Day Program with military and Boy and Girl Scouts.



Arlington Heights Veterans Day Breakfast. General Mukoyama holding Star quilt.



SBMH IL Chapter Helps Ukraine

Chappy and his wife, Chris, with John.

[Text Link](#)

As a faith-based organization we get to meet many folks as we continue to provide support to our veterans, first responders and their families. Our chapter came across a close friend who left for Ukraine to rescue his daughter, grandson and her husband. Our partners often volunteer for other efforts whether their bandwidth allows or not. This is another of those instances.

John communicated with me and told me his story. Working on obtaining passports for family he lived in an area of Ukraine where the town restaurants were converted to soup kitchens. John described the resilience of the people, how they help each other, their faith and courage against an enemy superior in weapons, but lesser in faith and courage. As he continued to describe the people he became confused; he noticed many of the seniors had marks on the back of their hands, some on their wrists, and he did not understand. I immediately froze as years earlier I attended an event where Don Shule, WWII veteran captured, placed in a Nazi death camp and then was marked. My heart sank that these folks would be exposed to yet another war and have their old fears

reignited.

Family and friends heard we were putting together care packages that would support Ukraine with protein bars, powdered drinks and other small items that would be of great use for women and children. Then a friend mentioned a team working in a warehouse where others contributed pickup trucks, clothing, generators and much more at no cost. I knew of specific places that were not getting much needed items in the country.

Bottom line is there are families continuing to provide help and it is projects like this that add purpose and swell one's soul. You can reach out to us or contact info@helpheroesofukraine.com. We will continue to offer help where we can and pray for Ukraine, repentance of Russia and peace. Let us all continue to pray for the strength of Ukraine and offer the help they require to survive. I pray, like King David of old, that Goliath would be defeated and go home never to return.

We are blessed!



Support Over Stigma, *one of our partners founded by Zoeie Kreiner, focuses on reducing the number of suicides among veterans and first responders. Her team of volunteers provides care packages to deployed troops and first responders to remind them that they are appreciated. Each care package, gift, snack and visit includes cards and letters of encouragement and resources on where to find help if they or someone they know is struggling with thoughts of suicide.*

Volunteer to donate items or pack boxes in Geneva, IL. [For more information, click here.](#) or call 630-492-0308

First-responders, active duty and veterans struggling with anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, moral injury? We can help! Call 630-492-0308.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are links to some events you might like to attend in the greater Chicago area:



Christmas Day, 2022 beginning at 9:00 AM at Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights. Help welcome US Navy Recruits from Great Lakes Naval Station with a Christmas luncheon and party. Come and join the fun. Lots of opportunities to help and to socialize over good food with these young men and women. More information, click here [Christmas Day with Navy recruits.](#)



Winter Coat drive to help homeless veterans. 300 new or gently used, clean coats, as well as hats, scarves and gloves are being collected by the Bloomingdale IL VFW Post 7539 and will be given to the homeless program at Jesse Brown VA. [Click here for more information](#)



MISSION: #REACHOUT Social isolation and lack of connectedness have been proven to increase the likelihood of suicide. Sponsored by the Jesse

Brown VA Medical Center, this 14 day initiative will help you connect with veterans and others who may be at risk. Together we can save lives by just walking alongside someone who is struggling. Lots more information [at their website](#)



Animal Therapy for Veterans and their families Last Sunday of each month 10:30 AM to Noon. SOUL Harbour Ranch, Barrington IL www.soulharbourranch.com RSVP: Jodie@ 855-408-7685 or call Veteran Liaison USAF Pilot, Lt. Colonel Gina Stramaglio 316-708-9788.



Military Families - 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm CST in person or via Zoom. Maria's Tribe, a support group for veterans' spouses, caregivers, partners and loved ones offers an opportunity for members to share personal experiences, feelings and coping strategies. Bodyworks for Vets, 1448 Old Skokie Valley Road, Suite A, Highland Park IL 60035 [Bodyworks for Vets](#) RSVP @ 312-818-9721.



Salutes SBMH Missouri



Toni and the SBMH Team in West Plains, Missouri

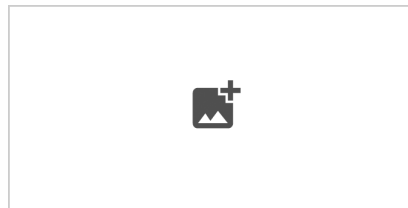
Facility Directors Kevin and Bethany Falkner, Toni's team and the local community continue their efforts to provide a self-supporting Community Center and residence for homeless veterans in West Plains, Missouri.

The center also added a country music and dance on Saturdays in the community room. This not only helps with donations, but includes the surrounding communities.

We continue to pray and lift up this West Plains SBMH Veterans Community Center as they provide many supports as part of the recovery process and eventually toward full-time employment . Strong partnerships include Pine Bluff VA, Sheriff's department, combat veterans and others.



SBMH Florida





Chapter director Phil Jelen is in Englewood, FL. He is a proud member of American Legion Post 113, Rotunda West, FL, and VFW Post 5151 in Streamwood IL.



Chapter Directors Rick and Gwen (Leah) McCool are in Seminole FL

South Carolina

Welcome to our New SBMH Partner

Love of God and Country

Executive Director, Antinea Martin-Alexander



[Text Link](#)

This non-profit located in Greenville SC is one of our newest partners to support local veterans who are homeless or recovering from homelessness.

They work with many other veteran organizations to fill in the gaps where the most help is needed. Currently the need is for transportation as the local VAs have suspended this aid. Many veterans have no way of getting to and from critical appointments. Love of God and Country fills that need by scheduling Uber and Lyft rides for these veterans. The average ride costs about \$30 one-way. They rely solely on community donations to keep this essential program funded.

One testimonial that will forever be with us came from a young Army veteran who was suffering from PTSD and was at an inpatient psychiatric facility in Greenville SC. The call came in at 11pm and said this veteran had to be transported to the VA in Augusta Georgia in the morning as he qualified for a three-month rehabilitation program and if he didn't make it, that was his last opportunity. So, Antinea awoke at 4:30am to schedule a ride for this veteran at 5am, not knowing if she would even be able to find an Uber driver who was willing to travel 3 hours to Georgia. God's hand was in this all the way, and they were able to secure a ride for this veteran to get him to the facility and receive the treatment he desperately needed. This same veteran called about a month later to let us know that the ride we gave most likely saved his life.

Finally, soon we enter a new year! These last few years has caused us to re-evaluate our faith and character. Millions were lost, but new heroes came forth meeting the challenges of Covid and a new war. First responders stepped up and made the sacrifice, impacting the world at large. Everyday people volunteering to bring food and medicines to families and seniors reminded each that they are not forgotten. As governments and professionals preached their confusion, forcing unproven methods that failed, 'WE THE PEOPLE' took the actions to do what was necessary regardless of the dangers. Fearless and knowing the consequences, we proved that there is no greater sacrifice than to lay down one's own existence for others. This truth alone caused many to re-evaluate their life and spiritual condition. The salt of the earth walked in this insight while others could not stop talking. In all the turmoil we learned about ourselves, our God, and, just as important, about others.

LOST HOPE. This definition is based from my experiences.

Lost hope is the wrong belief and perception that all is lost, that there can be no deliverance. It is a false thought that darkness has prevailed, that you will never see the light of freedom. When mind, body and soul grows weary, when you believe you are in a prison, canyon or alley with no exit, when every effort and thought is exhausted, when a numbness engulfs your whole person, this false idea will lead to suicide.

Examples, I have witnessed:

§ Veterans who prepared their uniforms, cleaned their weapon and set a date to end it all.

§ Warriors who fought in hellish fire fights and won. Once the smoke cleared all were devastated by the death of children as the cowards had held them as shields.

§ Those who came home not knowing their spouse had left with the children, no warning, no forwarding address, the house run down and bills unpaid.

§ A father sends his kids to school and then calls local police letting them know he is taking his life.

§ Parents, grandparents, children and friends at funerals with heavy hearts, too exhausted to cry.

In all these cases our grass-roots methods have brought hope and a positive and lasting remedy that came through actions. There are many volunteer organizations with unique solutions and effective actions that do not include dependency on drugs. How? These volunteers, individuals, friends gathered together demonstrating love and providing help to mind, body and soul. Join us and let us come together and make greater differences in the years to come.

Our organization is spreading the light of HOPE and recovery to mind, body and soul wherever we are asked to speak or visit. Our team of Foxhole Soul Counselors continues to grow across this nation and provide hope. Our mission remains to reduce the 22+ suicides per day by veterans and growing numbers of our first responders and families.

Our mantra: When you can't run you walk, when you can't walk you crawl and when you can't crawl we will carry you.

Join us and help us carry others. Let's walk as one, into a mission of HOPE and restoration.

Contact us via email at info@militaryoutreachusa.org or call our Helpline (847) 734-4244. There is HOPE!

Leave a short message and let a Veteran return your call.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Foxhole Soul Counseling



Foxhole Soul Counselors (FSC) from our SBMH Chapters attend events and engage any who ask for 1:1 Soul Counseling. Not only are those who lost comrades continuing to hurt, but we must not forget their families and friends. We hear souls crying out for someone to ‘Stand-by-me.’ Our Foxhole Soul Counselors are there to speak

with anyone suffering from a soul pain, moral injury or PTSD.

Foxhole Soul Counselors focus on faith, not religion, to restore one's whole person and to walk with them as friend, as family. Help Line ((877)734-4244. Conversations are private, names are never released and you can use your call sign.

Worthwhile Women

OWNERSHIP

Leah Gwen McCool, SBMH Florida Chapter

Co-Director with Rick McCool

Veteran Sergeant, US Air Force, MAT education Liberty University



Watching a young couple maneuver furniture from a store into a truck brought back memories of the past. Exciting and overwhelming are a few words that describe the journey known as “life.” Today's decisions can enhance or undermine a person's purpose, progress, and passion. Mistakes are inevitable, for without them learning would not occur. Mobility, or moving beyond mistakes, requires patience with yourself and others in your sphere of influence.

Corrie ten Boom survived Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in Germany, but her life and love for people led her to speak in 64 countries before her death in 1983 at the age of 91. Cornelia (Corrie) ten Boom knew love, loss, death, anger, and forgiveness, yet her resilience was rooted in faith. Corrie witnessed the unimaginable while in a concentration camp, but Corrie did not get discouraged! She wrote, “When a train goes through a tunnel, and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.” Her story is remarkable, and her faith was unwavering. Corrie “owned” her story, her trials, and her triumphs.

Past hurts, mistakes, and unhealthy relationships must remain in the past. The past mistakes of others do not belong to you or me. Therefore, we do not “own” the mistakes of others. We are accountable for our actions, and if we wrong another it is our responsibility to take corrective action. If this is not possible, try faith. Release the

negative, and embrace the positive. Walk with your head held high, shoulders back, and your chin up. You have been created to do incredible things, so do not let your mind, your mistakes, your comparison to others, or your emotions hold you down.

Looking behind is wonderful if you are driving a car and need to put your automobile in reverse to back out of a parking spot. Learn, love, and look forward to the greatness ahead of you! You are a miracle with a purpose! You are a blessing to others, and you have the ability to transform a room because you are a Worthwhile Woman!

Need Help?

SBMH Help line - 847-734-4244

For additional information please contact us at Info@militaryoutreach.org or email us on our website by [clicking here](#).

To receive our newsletter electronically every other month, click on the Newsletter box on our website at [Military Outreach USA](#)

If you're interested in helping out, [***DONATE HERE***](#)

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