

2023 Global Women Foundation & Band of Brothers Impact Report

Global Women Foundation & Band of Brothers

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1. Message from the Executive Director

“As we continue our mission to end veteran homelessness, 2023 has been a landmark year for us. Through the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our community, and impactful partnerships, we’ve been able to grow from our roots to create real change. Each donation, hour volunteered, and partnership forged has directly contributed to helping our veterans thrive. Thank you for standing with us.”

Brandy Gray, Executive Director

2. Mission & Vision

Mission: To support and empower veterans experiencing homelessness through mental health support, empowerment, community reintegration, and housing access.

Vision: A future where every veteran has access to safe housing, holistic rehabilitation, and the resources they need to rebuild their lives and thrive.

3. Key Accomplishments (2021-2023)

Since beginning as a grassroots initiative under UScension in 2021, Global Women Foundation & Band of Brothers (GWFBBOB) formally incorporated as a nonprofit in 2023.

Key achievements include:

- **Safe Emergency Housing:** Assisted over 40 veterans in securing temporary and long-term housing solutions.
- **Wellness and Rehabilitation Retreats:** Hosted multiple events and wellness retreats focused on mental health, rehabilitation, and community building.
- **Advocacy:** Supported policy initiatives led by Robert Reynolds to improve housing eligibility for disabled veterans by advocating for the exclusion of disability income from median income calculations and contributing to outreach efforts aimed at restoring the West Los Angeles VA campus to its original mission of providing housing and support for veterans. Strategic outreach efforts included partnerships with initiatives such as the California Women’s Conference and Master Mind Sessions to amplify awareness and engagement.

- Employment for Veterans: Created job opportunities in event roles, providing veterans with income and purpose.
- HUD-VASH Expansion in Houston: Facilitated the transition of a 122-unit apartment building to the HUD-VASH program in Texas.
- Educational Outreach: Educated landlords and financial institutions about the HUD-VASH Program, creating more housing solutions for veterans.

4. 2023 Impact Highlights

Master Mind | Non-Profit Launch | Advocacy Event (April 1, 2023)

- Purpose: Launched the nonprofit and built partnerships with landlords and community members to support veterans.
- Outreach: Connected with over 7,000 individuals in partnership with the California Women's Conference.
- Impact: Enabled connections that resulted in transitioning a 122-unit property with 75 HUD-VASH units for veterans in Houston, Texas.
- Advocacy Efforts: Resulting in Future Policy Change

June Veteran Wellness Retreat (June 2023)

- Purpose: Focused on mental well-being and community support for veterans.
- Services Provided: Transportation, meals, sharing circles, and recreational activities.
- Impact: Reconnected with over 40 veterans now securely housed through the HUD-VASH program. Hosted 7 veterans, including one individual who successfully transitioned back into housing following the event. Engaged 20 community members in building support and awareness.

5. Event Highlights:

Multiple Outreach Events during the Holidays at the West Los Angeles VA- Easter, Veterans Day, Thanks Giving, and Christmas where we feed the Veterans with both meals and with kindness and appreciation of their Service to our country

Lingerace Beach Event and Fundraiser (October 2023)

Our annual Lingerace Beach Event, now in its 12th year, continues to play a pivotal role in breaking down stigmas around veteran homelessness. By fostering an inclusive environment where veterans and community members come together for a day of purpose and connection, the event provides jobs for veterans experiencing homelessness, allowing them to work alongside volunteers and community members, creating meaningful engagement and mutual understanding.

- **Services Provided:** Sports tournaments, wellness clinics, and community-building initiatives designed to promote mental health and resilience for both veterans and participants.
- **Impact:** Approximately 200 participants engaged in this year's event, contributing to fundraising efforts that support veteran retreat programs and monthly VA events.
- **Sponsorship Support:** We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, who provided resources such as venue space, catering, and promotional materials, amplifying the event's impact and enabling us to direct more funds toward veteran support

6. Financial Overview (Coming Soon)

7. Governance and Transparency

Board of Directors:

- **Brandy Gray, Executive Director:** Leads day-to-day operations and mission alignment while actively engaging in veteran advocacy.

- Marc Schuster, Treasurer: Ensures financial transparency and tax compliance for GWFBOB.
- Vacant Board Seat: Reserved for a veteran who has experienced homelessness to honor diverse perspectives and insights.
- Michelle Patterson's Legacy: Michelle Patterson amplified advocacy efforts through her vast network and partnerships, particularly with the California Women's Conference.

Governance Practices:

- Board decisions require a quorum of two directors.
- No salaries for executive leadership, ensuring funds are directed toward veteran services.

8. Volunteer Impact

Total Volunteers: Approximately 500 individuals contributed their time and skills and dollars throughout 2023.

Impact: Volunteers supported event logistics, hospitality, and direct veteran services, allowing us to maximize resources for outreach and services.

Volunteer Highlight: Skilled DJs and wellness facilitators enriched event experiences, while their collaboration with GWFBOB provided exposure and recognition for their contributions.

9. Campaign Spotlight: TOGETHER WE RISE & can buy and build a Sanctuary for those that did so much for us! OUR Veterans!

Campaign Overview:

- Total Funding Goal: \$2.6 Million
- Expected Timeline: 12 Months

- Impact: Serving approximately 700 veterans annually through retreats and workshops.

Support the Campaign: Visit givebutter.com/echobravo

10. Conclusion

2023 has been a transformative year. With unwavering community support, we've created meaningful change for veterans. Together, we look forward to building a brighter future for those who have served.

Contact: Brandy Gray

Email: brandy@gwfbob.org

Phone: 747-224-1253