

A close-up photograph of a woman in military uniform, wearing a helmet and looking intently to the side. Her hand is visible near the helmet. The background features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

A BETTER TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

2021 Annual Report | Veterans Empowerment Organization



RON



TONY

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“Veterans Empowerment Organization of Georgia is dedicated to meeting the needs of veterans in crisis. Our vision is to create programs, services, and resources that will help end homelessness for veterans.”

Ron Lutz

”

Dear Friends,

Too many United States veterans are struggling today. They leave military service with risk factors that lead to crisis. Men and women who proudly served and sacrificed to guarantee our freedoms were trained to fight but not to re-enter a civilian workforce or fast-changing society.

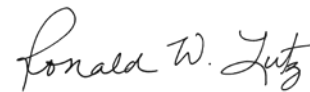
More veterans need essential services so they can get back on their feet. With a dedication to those who served, Veterans Empowerment Organization is driven to connect veterans to the vital resources that will help them rebuild their lives.

In Atlanta, there is a lack of housing for all veteran populations, including females, post-9/11, aging veterans, and those with families. There are gaps in programs and services that address psychological and physical well-being along with job training and placement.

Founded in 2008, VEO is a catalyst for integrated services for our veterans. We provide emergency, supportive, and long-term

stable housing; clinical care for mental health and substance misuse; and, workforce training for sustainable employment.

We invite you to learn more by reading this annual report, visiting our campus, participating in a volunteer service project, or joining the VEO cycling team to spread the word about the organization's good works. We are grateful to the volunteers, donors, foundations, and corporations dedicated to supporting veterans throughout Georgia.



Ronald W. Lutz
Board Chair



Tony Kimbrough
Chief Executive Officer



Veterans Empowerment Organization works to empower veterans along their journey to self-sufficiency. More than 6,500 veterans have been served through VEO's holistic, integrated approach plus programs and services that provide a continuum of care.

- **Housing – safe and secure emergency, supportive, and permanent housing**
- **Optimal Wellness – counseling, evidence-based health programs and services**
- **Workforce Development – job training, preparation, and placement**

HOUSING FIRST

Oftentimes, veterans in crisis are estranged from their families and living in their cars, on the street, or in a tent city. Safe and secure housing is the most immediate need and the first step in stabilization. VEO's priority is to increase the number of beds in emergency, supportive, and permanent housing. Too many U.S. veterans are homeless on any given night.

VEO's evidence-based Housing First model provides safe housing as soon as possible to veterans, ensuring basic human needs are met and wrap-around services can be efficiently and effectively implemented. The ultimate goal is to provide a caring, supportive environment that allows veterans to rebuild their lives by returning the dignity lost to the circumstances which left them homeless.

Females are the fastest growing segment of veterans experiencing homelessness, and they often have children with them. A building renovation on the VEO campus was completed in May 2022 that provides transitional housing for 14 female veterans at immediate risk of becoming homeless.

Special thanks to our partners for making this space a reality:

Caliber Home Loans

Our Construction LLC

Fraser Roofing

Rheem

**The Home Depot
Foundation**

Shaw Floors

Huber

**Thank you to our signature partner, Rollins Foundation,
for advancing VEO's mission and vision.**



"I served 15 years in the U.S. Army Reserve including in Afghanistan. With some unexpected life circumstances, I was at risk of becoming homeless with my son. It was difficult to maintain my mental health, prioritize my son's needs, and keep our lives moving forward. VEO helped me find a safe and affordable place, allowing me to stay motivated and strong for my son."

Monika

OPTIMAL WELLNESS

Licensed mental health professionals conduct initial onsite mental health assessments. An assessment helps to determine the treatment plan and assists case managers in understanding the symptoms and effects of mental health as they determine each veteran's need for wrap-around services.

Veterans participate in counseling and support groups for mental health and substance misuse treatment. They improve their physical health through workshops, nutrition education, physical activity, dental and medical care. Collaborative support is essential, so veterans help themselves by learning to rely on others.

Programs serve those who live on campus and those who are enrolled in programs only and visit the campus for them. The outdoor campus is an extension of program space, and there are plans to create tranquil gardens, green spaces, a healing garden, and a walking trail. VEO's campus is a hub for innovative evidence-based programs that support health and well-being.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Once veterans live in stable housing and work to heal their mental and physical challenges, they can concentrate on employment. VEO's workforce development program meets veterans where they are on their journey to stable, sustainable employment.

Job readiness, training, and placement are the focus. Included are job preparation skills like writing resumes, completing applications, and interviewing. Veterans can receive training and certifications in specific industries; tools, equipment, and uniforms often are included. An employment specialist works directly with employers to help place our veterans in jobs that provide a living wage.



"I served in the U.S. Army, including one year in Iraq, then wound up living in my car with all my belongings. My car was impounded, so I had nothing. I lived in a tent in the woods. One day, a retired vet stopped by and urged me to go to VEO. They helped me enroll in school for auto maintenance. Now, I have a place to live plus access to other programs. I'm on the path to success."

Elijah



A BETTER TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

2021 IMPACT REPORT

They deserve our support

In the United States,
over

40,000

veterans are
homeless on
any given night

1.5 million

veterans are at risk
of homelessness

216,000+

veterans are in the
Metro Atlanta area

★ HOUSING

★ OPTIMAL WELLNESS

★ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

6,500+
veterans served

21,900
shelter nights

750 calls
from veterans
needing
assistance

38,325
nutritional
meals

3,640
mental health
sessions

94 in job
skills training

36 completed
job training or
certification
course

\$19.94
average hourly
rate earned

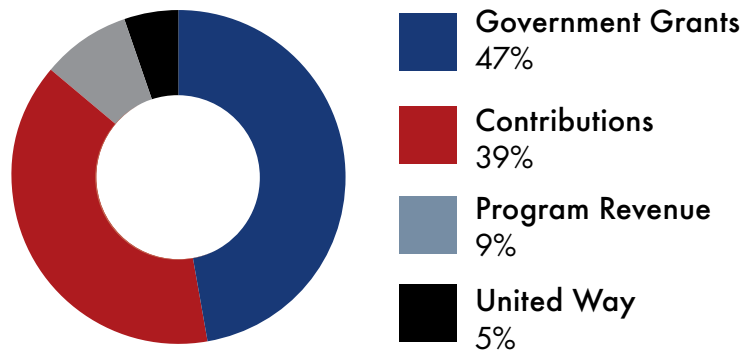
275% above federal
minimum wage

FINANCIALS

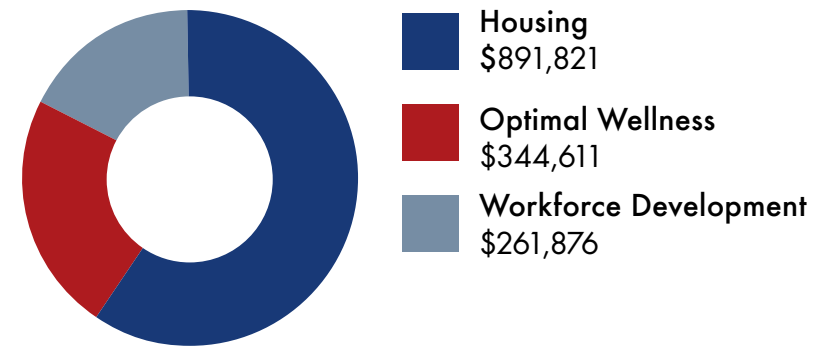
2021 SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Year Ended December 31, 2021

REVENUE TOTAL



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



2021	YTD Totals
Public Support	
Government Grants	\$1,787,300
Contributions	1,475,039
United Way	192,000
Total Support	3,454,339
Program Revenue	324,578
Total Support and Revenue	\$3,778,917

2021	YTD Totals
Expenses	
Program Services	\$1,498,308
Support Services	401,275
Facility & Asset Management	80,028
Total Operating Expenses	2,216,357
Change in Net Assets	\$1,562,560

Unaudited. Audited financial statements, when complete, are available upon request.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ★ ★ ★ ★

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Ardie Harrison, Vice Chair
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Insurance Office of America

Ken Wood, Treasurer
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Matt Still Productions

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Chris Dietrick, Past Board Chair
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Debbie McKinley
The Home Depot

Veterans Empowerment Organization
373 West Lake Avenue NW
Atlanta, Ga. 30318
veohero.org



VEO's Mission is to connect veterans to vital resources that will assist in rebuilding their holistic well-being and empower them to make positive changes in their lives.



Immediate Past Board Chair Chris Dietrick and Tony Kimbrough, CEO, attend the Heroes Ball