



Charitable Service Trust



2024
Annual Report

The Mission of the DAV Charitable Service Trust

By supporting the DAV Charitable Service Trust, you help to fulfill a focused and noble purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

To carry out this responsibility, the Trust supports physical and psychological rehabilitation programs, enhances mobility for veterans with amputations and spinal cord injuries, benefits aging veterans, aids and shelters veterans experiencing homelessness, and addresses the needs of veterans returning from recent combat service.

Contents

A message from the Trust	1
Victories for veterans	2
Supporting team	4
The victories	5
A triumph for the bold	10
2024 financials	11
Governing board	12

A message from the Trust

Dear Caring Friend,

Thank you for your generosity and support of the DAV Charitable Service Trust over the past year. Your steadfast commitment to our nation's veterans allows good work to be done.

It's easy to define the times as being in constant chaos, but a slight shift in focus reveals people like you who quietly prioritize the well-being of others. However, the effect you've had is anything but silent.

Because of you, veterans and their families are able to connect with programs and services designed with them in mind. From employment and housing services, to creative healing, to adaptive sports and more, organizations answering the noble call of helping veterans can do that without compromise.

This report shares some of the supported organizations you've helped this past year and represents thousands of lives touched and changed. We frequently hear it's because of the Trust that many of these programs and services can exist.

You've entrusted us with your donations, and we take this responsibility seriously, awarding the organizations that consistently provide the very best for our veterans and their families.

Again, thank you for all you do and for the difference you've made in so many lives.



J. Marc Burgess

J. Marc Burgess

President

Victories for veterans

Our nation's heroes leave nothing to chance when it comes to defending our country. And we, as concerned citizens, owe them nothing less than the best when they're changed as a result of their service.

By supporting the DAV Charitable Service Trust, you help veterans connect with new possibilities and address the most challenging hurdles that stand between them and their maximum potential.

The programs that benefit from the Trust address a wide range of physical and psychological barriers that can affect a veteran's quality of life. The Trust identifies and assists initiatives that enhance mobility for veterans who have lost limbs or experienced spinal cord injuries, help our aging veterans enjoy a sense of dignity and peace, provide shelter to veterans experiencing homelessness and give them a path toward a fulfilled life, and give caregivers and families of veterans the tools and resources they need to lead sustainable and enriched lives.

The Trust looks proactively at ill and injured veterans of all generations, with a particular focus on those who have served in recent wars. The goal: Help succeeding generations confront the barriers of war's wounds so they can make the most of their lives following trauma in the military.

When America's veterans win, we all win

The transition to civilian life is a major adjustment for those who served, especially for those who were changed as a result of their service. The support and stability service members become accustomed to can vanish the day they're discharged. If that day comes, the culture and structure they know are taken away, and the bonds of service—of counting on one's fellow service members—are made distant.

Veterans are resilient by nature, but even the hearts of warfighters can be challenged when the foundation they know is removed and can't be fully replaced. This is especially true for recent veterans, who may have endured multiple combat deployments as our nation waged war on two fronts.

The Trust looks for initiatives that ease this transition and reconnect veterans with opportunities to enhance their health and outlook on life—for them and their families.

Historically, funds have been awarded to support:

- Programs ensuring quality health care for veterans
- Assistance to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma, substance use disorders, and related or co-occurring conditions
- Programs enhancing mobility for veterans with amputations, spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities
- Additional initiatives addressing the needs of veterans and caregivers or families from each era of conflict

To date, funded programs and projects aid in providing a number of necessities to veteran clients and their families in each service region. Grants are typically distributed to offer:

- Food, shelter and other necessary items for veterans and their families who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness
- Mobility items or other assistance specific to veterans with blindness, vision loss, deafness, hearing loss or amputations
- Qualified, evidence-based therapeutic or recreational activities for veterans and their families
- Physical and psychological rehabilitation projects
- Education, training and career readiness
- Animal-assisted therapy
- Other forms of support, as appropriate, for short- or long-term relief for veterans, caregivers and their families

The Trust carefully evaluates and addresses the most vital needs of wounded veterans and their families while empowering them to maximize their quality of life after service. Throughout these pages, we highlight the past year's grant recipients who demonstrate the influence the Trust has on the lives of the community it serves. We're grateful to those dedicated patriots who serve and volunteer to enact these important programs.

More than 95 cents out of every donated dollar went directly to support programs that contribute to the victories the Trust makes possible. Notably, the Trust has received the coveted 4-star rating for "sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency" and multiple perfect-score ratings from Charity Navigator. Since first being evaluated in 2002, the Trust has received the 4-star rating nearly 20 times and earned the Accountability & Finance, Culture & Community, Impact & Measurement and Leadership & Adaptability beacons under the Encompass Rating System. It's also listed as one of Charity Navigator's "Most Followed Charities." As Charity Navigator is the nation's largest independent charity evaluator, these acknowledgments speak volumes about the Trust's careful and efficient stewardship of donated funds.

As a testament to the Trust's commitment to sharing information, the Trust also received Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2024.



in grants were awarded throughout the United States in 2024.

More than **95 cents** out of every dollar donated directly supports programs that help veterans and their families.



Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.



Supporting team

Most of the victories veterans enjoy through the DAV Charitable Service Trust are made possible by generous individuals making personal donations or participating in workplace giving campaigns and matching gift programs. We have also received tremendous assistance from various companies who recognize and contribute to our cause.

Specifically, the Trust extends appreciation to Ford Motor Co., The Walt Disney Co., The Wild Flower Foundation Inc., Mattick Family Foundation, Myra L. Kitchen Charitable Fund, Chris and Melody Malachowsky Family Fund, Booz Allen Hamilton, Wargaming USA, U.S. Family Foundation Inc., Counihan Family Foundation, Schulze Family Fund, and many other corporations and foundations that supported the Trust so graciously in 2024.



Jason Pepper

The victories

Enhanced quality of life

Veterans can sometimes face unforeseen obstacles as a result of their service injuries. For some of our most profoundly injured veterans, a victory can be as simple as the restoration of life's most basic joys. Fortunately, the DAV Charitable Service Trust has dedicated itself to helping entities provide services that substantively improve veterans' quality of life.

- The Trust provided funds to Missouri-based Disability Rights Advocates For Technology's Segs4Vets program, which provides seated, self-balancing mobility devices such as the Segway and Ally power chair for injured veterans.
- Mercy Medical Angels, based out of Virginia, received Trust support for its Angel Wings for Veterans program, which provides air transportation to medical treatments and clinical care appointments for ill and injured veterans and their families.
- The Trust provided funds to Colorado-based Silver Key Senior Services to support its Veterans Companionship program in administering supportive services for senior veterans.

Funds from the Trust help Project MEND provide refurbished medical equipment to veterans in need.

Project MEND

Cathy Valdez loves that her city, San Antonio, has the nickname Military City, USA. "We're extremely proud of our military and veteran population around here," Valdez said.

That pride extends into the organization she runs, Project MEND, which provides no-cost, refurbished medical equipment and other assistive technology to people living in San Antonio and across Texas.

People can come to the organization's warehouse and immediately pick up what they need, or they can arrange for home delivery, often the same or next day.

With a large active-duty and veteran population in the San Antonio area, many people who come to Project MEND are veterans. The Trust provides funds to support the organization's Medical Equipment Reuse and Assistive Technology programs.

"When a veteran or a family member comes to us, it's because they're in desperate need of that piece of equipment, whether it's a hospital bed or a wheelchair—which is always the most commonly requested item. We couldn't do our job without the support of DAV and the other groups that help us by providing those dollars to be able to refurbish that equipment, make sure it's repaired, make sure it's ready to go and safe," Valdez said.



The victories *continued*

Housing and employment

Housing and employment are major components for veterans as they work to return to normalcy after sacrificing for our freedoms. The Trust proudly supports numerous organizations dedicated to helping veterans secure housing and employment when necessary.

- The Chicago Lighthouse, which provides services for individuals with blindness and low vision, received funds from the Trust to support its Veterans' Employment Empowerment Project in conducting employment services to veterans.
- The Trust assisted Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry Inc. of North Carolina (WARM NC) in delivering home restoration and repairs for ill and injured veterans and their caregivers.
- The Edward Kline Memorial Homeless Veterans Fund of Nevada received a grant from the Trust to distribute financial assistance to veterans who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- In California, The HomeMore Project Inc. received funds from the Trust to provide its Makeshift Traveler backpacks to veterans experiencing homelessness. These custom-designed backpacks are made in an effort to keep veterans' belongings safe and secure.

Homes 4 Families is able to provide programs and training to veterans through their Veteran Enrichment Center with support from the Trust.



Homes 4 Families

Los Angeles has some of the highest housing prices and highest numbers of veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. But Homes 4 Families is trying to change the narrative with its Veteran Enriched Neighborhoods model. It provides affordable homeownership to create financial stability and upward mobility in a neighborhood that also serves as a support system for veterans.

“Nobody understands a vet like another vet,” said Stacey Chiang, Homes 4 Families director of development. The program is more than a housing program; it’s a holistic partnership with veterans to provide training and services to ensure they’re set up for success. Chiang said many of the veterans they serve are from immigrant families, only have a high school education and separate from the military not equipped for success outside the military.

“So, this person who didn’t even come from a background where they were set up to succeed, now they’re at even more of a disadvantage,” she said. Homes 4 Families addresses all those areas with programs and training through their Veteran Enrichment Center, which is made possible, in part, through a DAV Charitable Service Trust grant.

Veterans are expected to put up to 500 volunteer hours into helping build their home and going through the different classes and training Homes 4 Families offers. When they get the keys, they also get a forgivable, zero-percent interest mortgage for a purchase price far below the home’s appraised value. They’ll never pay more than 30% of their income.

“It’s a self-sufficiency program,” Chiang said. “We help veterans gain tools, the empowerment, the confidence and the community to be self-sufficient.”





Above: Chicago Lighthouse On Veterans Day 2024, a group of veteran employees gathered to show their pride in their service to our country.

Left top: WARM NC Volunteers with the organization allow people in need to age in place safely by preventing home accidents and illnesses, preserving their dignity and independence.

Bottom left: The HomeMore Project MakeShift Traveler backpacks allow veterans experiencing homelessness to safely and securely store their belongings.

Bottom right: Edward Kline Memorial Homeless Veterans Fund The organization distributes financial assistance to veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Nevada.

The victories *continued*

Adaptive sports, outdoor and animal-assisted therapy

Maintaining physical health and preserving an active outdoor lifestyle becomes more difficult when an injury drastically changes one's physical abilities. Overcoming new challenges and having the opportunity to reconnect with the warrior within are critically important steps toward recovery. Service dogs are often used to make sure veterans have peace of mind while taking on new adventures or simply venturing outside. Animals demonstrate the capacity to assist in the recovery of those with physical and psychological barriers incurred in service.

- Based in Idaho, Higher Ground Sun Valley Inc. received Trust support for the Higher Ground Veteran Sports Program, which provides recreational therapy activities to veterans, their families and supporters.
- The Trust awarded funds to Virginia-based Hope For The Warriors to provide post-9/11 veterans with physical wellness programming.
- Warrior Canine Connection Inc., headquartered in Maryland, received assistance from the Trust to support its Mission Based Trauma Recovery program in providing animal-assisted therapy and trained service dogs to ill and injured veterans.



Funds from the Trust support organizations that allow veterans to maintain active, healthy lifestyles. These organizations include Higher Ground Sun Valley Inc., Hope For The Warriors and Warrior Canine Connection Inc.



Creative healing

Military service ingrains veterans with a sense of selflessness. Their humility and focus on the team over the individual make any form of self-glorification unthinkable. But after veterans experience trauma in wartime service, the ability to express themselves and process deep and complicated emotions can be extremely therapeutic. These creative outlets provide a great vehicle for helping wounded veterans rediscover their sense of self-worth and learn more about themselves and others.

- The Trust supported Comfort Crew for Military Kids, a nationwide program based in Texas, with a grant to provide Comfort Kits to children of military and veteran families dealing with grief and other challenges.
- Funds from the Trust supported Travis Manion Foundation in Pennsylvania with its Leading With Your Strengths seminars, which deliver personal development and leadership training to veterans.

Reuniting the Brave events allow veterans who've served together to reconnect at reunion events.

Robert Irvine Foundation

Last year, around 500 veteran Coast Guard rescue swimmers and their families gathered in Gulf Shores, Alabama, for a weekend reunion hosted by Robert Irvine Foundation's Reuniting the Brave program.

Over shared meals, family-friendly activities and a little bit of spirited competition, the deep bonds formed by service resurfaced. For some veterans, this was the first time in many years they felt the sense of community they had while in service.

One Coast Guard veteran reunited with a good friend at the event and learned that his friend had thoughts of suicide because of his medical conditions and feelings of isolation.

"He told me just before we parted at the airport that this event saved his life," the veteran said.

One spouse shared that the reunion brought back a spark of life she hadn't seen in her husband in years.

"He has not stayed in touch with his fellow veterans, and I know this opportunity really encouraged him and did well for his mind, body and soul," she said.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust grant helps make reunions like this possible.

"It is hard to put into words," said one Coast Guard veteran, "but I felt a sense of unity and camaraderie that I have been missing and looking for since I left the service. It was very good for my soul."



A triumph for the bold

The DAV Charitable Service Trust is proud of its legacy of service to empower veterans. The unique programs outlined in these pages illustrate the life-changing assistance provided to those who served, allowing veterans of all generations to find their victories.

Thanks to the loyal supporters who generously donate to the Trust each year, veterans are able to access the resources and services they need to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.



Sandi Braunstein

2024 financials

Support and Revenue

Support:

Contributions—without donor restrictions	7,897,774
Contributions—with donor restrictions	1,345,511
Contributions of charitable gift annuities	963,244
Bequests	6,886,141
Total support	\$17,092,670

Revenue:

Interest and dividends income—net	2,163,460
Gain (loss) on sale of investment securities	912,900
Total revenue	\$3,076,360

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

\$20,169,030

Expenses

Program services:

11,024,245

Supporting services:

Management and general	168,662
Fundraising	92,068

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$11,284,975

Excess of support and revenue over expenses

Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	4,818,995
Charitable gift annuity valuation adjustment	(96,374)

Net Assets

Change in total net assets

13,606,676

NET ASSETS, beginning of year

\$58,332,375

NET ASSETS, end of year

\$71,939,051



Complete financial statements have been audited and received an unqualified statement. A copy of the audited statement is available online at cst.dav.org/resources.



Charitable Service Trust

Governing board

PRESIDENT

J. Marc Burgess
Kentucky

VICE PRESIDENT

Barry A. Jesinoski
Kentucky

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dennis R. Nixon
Texas

ADMINISTRATOR

Bridgette G. Sorrell
DAV National Headquarters
Erlanger, Kentucky

DIRECTORS

Daniel Contreras
California

Danny D. Oliver

Oklahoma

Denice T. Williams

Virginia

Kim K. Hubers

South Dakota

Nonprofit status

The DAV Charitable Service Trust is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. The Trust is exempt from tax under Title 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3), and all contributions made to it are deductible pursuant to Title 26 U.S.C. §170(c).

Since first being evaluated by Charity Navigator in 2002, the DAV Charitable Service Trust has continually received the coveted 4-star rating and has earned multiple perfect overall scores. As Charity Navigator is the nation's largest independent charity evaluator, this acknowledgment speaks volumes about the Trust's careful and efficient stewardship of donated funds. The Trust also received the 2024 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid.





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at cst.dav.org/resources.