



# September Newsletter

2023

*USA Cares' mission is to provide post-9/11 military veterans, service members, and their families with financial assistance and post service skills training to create a foundation for long-term stability. Our services improve the quality of life for veterans and their families and reduce potential factors that can contribute to veteran suicide.*

[MAKE A DONATION](#)



## MISSION MOMENT: Jesus Martinez Rodriguez

Living in Puerto Rico, Air Force Veteran Jesus Martinez Rodrigues had gone through enough hurricanes to know that life without water or utilities is not one he wanted for his children. So when late bills threatened to disrupt his family's home, he reached out to USA Cares.

[READ HIS STORY](#)



Dear Friends,

September is Suicide Awareness Month and it's, perhaps, the biggest awareness month for USA Cares outside of any time set aside to remember and recognize our military and its veterans. To date, we have lost more than 30,000 service members and veterans to suicide since 9/11, four times the number we've lost in combat. Even more troublesome is the recent data, released this April, that shows the VA's Veterans Crisis Line fielded a record of more than 88,000 calls, texts, and chats in the month of March.

The statistics related to suicide among service members and veterans are staggering, and I'm often met with shock and concern when I share them with people while representing USA Cares. The issue, though, is too many are doing what our new staff member, Rick, calls "admiring the problem." (Meet him and the rest of our HVRP staff in our News section below.)

The good news is the work of USA Cares has a real and important effect on veteran suicide, and our supporters have already made an impact on military families all over the country. Jesus, featured in the story above, reminds us that financial crises can happen to all types of veterans, regardless of location or background.

I want to share my gratitude for the work of our Gala Committee, and for all those that attended our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in August. We were humbled by the outpouring of support and look forward to assisting many more veteran and military families because of it.

Helping USA Cares provide that assistance, however, does not require big checks or formal events. Our News section is full of opportunities for everyone to play a part in the USA Cares mission. Please consider donating during Give For Good, attending a local chapter event, or encouraging your employer to sponsor a USA Cares event. We can all make an impact and truly stop 'admiring the problem.'

Let us use the month of September to provide hope and encouragement to the service members and veterans battling the war within. It is through your generosity and support that we not only change lives, but save them.

**Trace Chesser**

**President & CEO, USA Cares**



# YOUR DONATION'S **IMPACT**

Thank You

"I didn't think it would be possible to save myself from eviction. USA Cares showed me different. It gave me hope."

-- Jonathan, US Army Veteran

## Year-to-Date Numbers



**585 Families**  
with  
**972 Children**  
Assisted



**\$1,018,165.07**  
of Financial Assistance  
Distributed



**369**  
Evictions/Foreclosures  
Stopped

## News

2023 We Salute You Gala Hosts Record Number of Guests



Thank you to all those that joined us at the Galt House for our 2023 Gala celebrating USA Cares' 20th Anniversary. We loved seeing old friends and making new ones! We hope you enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to celebrate our military members and veterans. We look forward to assisting thousands of military families through your generous support.

If you were unable to join us, you can still make a positive impact by clicking the button below!

[DONATE](#)

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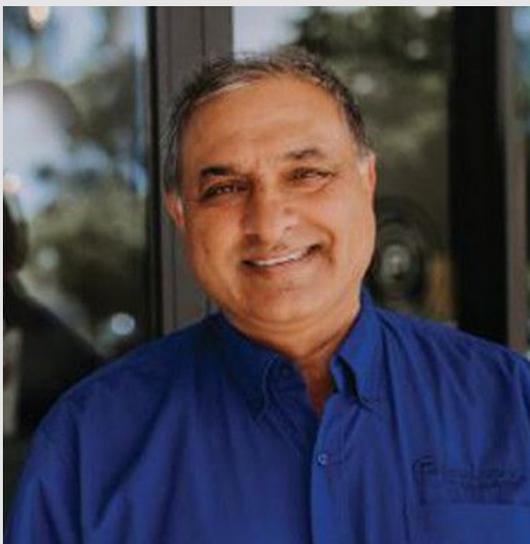
**USA Cares Board of Directors Holds Annual In-Person Meetings**



The Gala offered the USA Cares Board of Directors a chance to hold its annual in-person meeting to discuss a variety of topics within the organization. The Board also welcomed its newest Executive Committee, pictured below.

Thank you to former Chairman Andy Dytrych, and the rest of last year's Executive Committee, for their incredible leadership!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Daljit Hundal**  
*Chair*



**Todd Wilkowski**  
*Vice Chair*



**Heidi Richards**  
*Treasurer*



**Kimberly Jeane**  
*Secretary*

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### USA Cares Leadership Visits Fort Knox for TAP Retiree Summit



CEO & President Trace Chesser, along with Board Members Tim Vibbert and Steve Cunanan, traveled to Fort Knox to present to a group of transitioning service members at the Fort Knox Retiree Summit. We love to see veterans helping veterans!

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### Help Florida Veterans Affected By Hurricane Idalia

# Florida Veterans NEED YOUR HELP

**DONATE NOW**



Florida has the 3rd largest veteran population in the U.S. with more than 1.5 million calling the Sunshine State home. Help those affected by Hurricane Idalia by scanning the QR code or clicking here: [Florida Veterans Hurricane Relief Fund](#)

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**Support USA Cares Through Give For Good Louisville**



# JOIN US

## 9.14.23



←  
**SCAN ME**

**Each gift made during this campaign will allow us to further our mission to reduce factors contributing to veteran suicide, and support post-9/11 veterans and military families all over the nation.**

The Community Foundation of Louisville is holding its 10th annual Give for Good Louisville on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023. This day of giving encourages the community to give back to their favorite organizations by making a gift online at [GiveForGoodLouisville.org](https://GiveForGoodLouisville.org).

You do not have to live in the Kentuckiana area to participate! Donations can be made online from anywhere! Just search 'USA Cares' at the link above.

**IMPORTANT: Donations must be made between 12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. ET on 09/14/23.**

### Meet USA Cares' Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Staff!



**David Keene**  
*Program Manager*

David spent a majority of his 3.5 decade-long career in academia in administration. Before joining USA Cares, he served as Vice President for Community Partnership for Sullivan University. As the program Director for the HVRP, David will lead his team in its efforts to assist veterans in seeking and obtaining employment that provides a life sustaining wage, benefits, and a long-term career path.

**Rick Carullo**  
*Job Readiness Specialist*

Rick's diverse professional background includes a 30-year career in the US Army as a Logistics Management Specialist. He retired honorably as a Command Sergeant Major and will now serve as the HVRP's Job Readiness Specialist, working directly with homeless or at-risk veterans to help reintegrate them into the workforce.

**Jerry Newman**  
*Case Manager*

Jerry has been a staff member at USA Cares for the past 7 years, beginning as an Administrative Assistant and most recently serving as a Case Manager for the organization's Military Assistance Response Program. As the Case Manager for the HVRP with a deep understanding of veteran issues, Jerry is an important asset to the team.

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## USA Cares Receives \$150,000 Grant from DAV



USA Cares is honored to work with Disabled American Veterans again this year to provide life changing support for America's veterans. Through a grant received from the

DAV Charitable Service Trust, USA Cares will be able to protect at least 75 additional U.S. military veterans, active-duty service members, and their families from factors which put them at risk of suicide. The assistance will be provided through the USA Cares Military Assistance Response Program to help veterans pay bills essential to their health and well-being – quality-of-life expenses such as rent, utilities, auto, food, and fuel. DAV has stood by USA Cares for more than 10 years and we value their support! Thanks DAV!

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### Trace Chesser Attends Change of Responsibility in Washington, D.C.



Trace Chesser shared his experience attending the ceremonies surrounding the Change of Responsibility for Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston on social media. Best wishes to SMA Grinston and his family as they embark on their next chapter!

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### USA Cares Gives Presentation at Annual KYSHRM Conference



The Kentucky Society for Human Resources Management hosted USA Cares' Trace Chesser and Paula Redding to share information about hiring veterans at its annual conference. The audience, made up of HR professionals, was given resources and insight into making their hiring process more veteran-friendly.

### Lawmakers in Kentucky Meet With USA Cares Executives



The work continues in the Commonwealth! Thank you to the Kentucky lawmakers who are working passionately alongside USA Cares to address the veteran suicide crisis. Together, we hope to continue to support Kentucky veteran families for years to come!

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## Sponsorships Available for 5th Annual USA Cares Golf Open



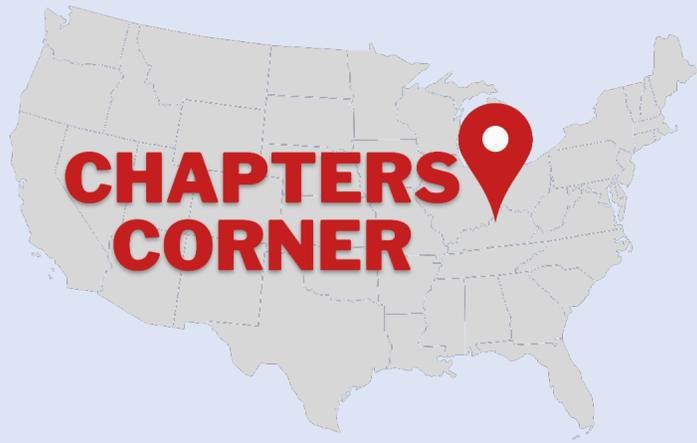
**If you have questions or would  
like information about sponsorships,  
contact Paula Redding at  
[paula@usacares.org](mailto:paula@usacares.org) or 502-424-3338.**

Monday, October 9, 2023

[Hurstbourne Country Club](#)

9000 Hurstbourne Club Lane, Louisville, KY 40242

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Thank you to everyone who attended the Louisville, KY Chapter's *Remembering Cpl. Nich Dieruf Golf Event!* We hope you enjoyed the beautiful course at Champion Trace and are grateful for your support of our military and veteran families!

Special thanks to Emily Chambers and the Dieruf Family for allowing Nich's legacy to help USA Cares provide assistance to military families in crisis.

The golf outing was featured on several Lexington TV Stations, including [FOX 56](#) and [WKYT](#).

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### Upcoming Chapter Events:

- Sept. 7-9 -- **Bulls on the Beach** | *Pensacola, FL Chapter*
- Sept. 30 -- **Goldenrod Tavern** | *Ft. Knox, KY Chapter*
- Oct. 7 -- **Mogadishu Mile Pensacola (30th Anniversary)** | *Pensacola, FL Chapter*
- Nov. 9 -- **Topgolf** | *St. Louis, MO Chapter*
- Nov. 9 -- **Topgolf** | *Cleveland, OH Chapter*
- Nov. 10 -- **Country Boy Brewing** | *Louisville, KY Chapter*
- Nov. 10 -- **Veterans Day Breakfast** | *Cincinnati, OH Chapter*

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### **Check Out This Week's Episode**

Join Annice, Matt, and Josh every week for the podcast series that shares the voices of veterans, military members, and the people around them in an authentic, conversational setting.

August episodes include interviews with **Gold Star sister and author, Lori**

Longfritz, and Army Veteran and author, Eric Burleson. Make sure to subscribe so you don't miss an episode.

[Listen Here!](#)



USA CARES PODCAST AVAILABLE ON ALL MAJOR STREAMING SERVICES



Every donation USA Cares receives helps to change a veteran and their family's life. With the financial need for each veteran continuing to increase, many feel like their single donation is not doing enough. This is where the Cadence Monthly Giving Program comes in.

An automated donation of \$35 every month (\$420/year) pays for a veteran's monthly grocery bill; \$50 per month (\$600/year) pays a monthly car payment; \$100 per month (\$1,200/year) pays a monthly mortgage payment. Your commitment provides USA Cares with a steady, reliable income stream and is the best way to allow us to focus on helping our veteran heroes and their families.



[USA Cares Merchandise Store](#)

Proudly show your support of USA Cares by shopping our merchandise store. You can find men's and women's styles for all types of weather, while knowing 25% of every purchase will be donated to our Military Assistance Response Program that helps veteran and military families in crisis.

[Comments or Questions?](#)

[Keep in Touch!](#)

[Send Us A Message](#)



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