



HVAF Happenings

December 2017

HVAF of Indiana, Inc.
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Looking back on 2017, and ahead to 2018

~From HVAF Board Chairman Trent Sandifur~



In looking back on HVAF's performance in 2017, the HVAF board of directors is filled with pride and gratitude for the outstanding results that veterans in need achieved with the help of the total HVAF team of staff, management, directors, volunteers, donors, and community partners. The commitment the HVAF team displayed to our mission to house, support, and advocate for veterans and their families to help them achieve the best possible quality of life allowed HVAF to make significant internal changes in staffing and programs in 2017 without any negative effects on the veterans we serve.

In looking forward to 2018, the board is excited for the HVAF team to start the process of achieving the *four key goals* in the **2018-2022 Strategic Plan**:

1. Tailor services to meet current and future veteran needs.

We will examine the needs of veterans in the communities we serve to determine if those needs are being met and will adjust current HVAF programs or start new programs to fill gaps that HVAF is well-positioned to address. We also will consider expanding HVAF's service area beyond Central Indiana.

2. Create a culture of performance excellence that attracts and retains motivated, talented, and engaged Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and other Partners.

Every member of the HVAF team will embody HVAF's core values of respect, dignity, collaboration, honesty, professionalism, and positive experience to make HVAF's already-great culture even better. This culture will be the key to building and maintaining the team that is best able to accomplish HVAF's mission and achieve HVAF's vision.

3. Increase brand and community awareness of HVAF.

In the competitive non-profit environment in which HVAF operates, we must ensure that current and potential volunteers, donors, and community partners know HVAF's compelling story and understand how critical the services that HVAF provides veterans and their families are.

4. Expand and diversify revenue streams for HVAF.

HVAF historically has relied disproportionately on government funding. HVAF must develop other revenue streams if it is to continue to help veterans as government funding becomes increasingly volatile and uncertain.

The achievement of these four broad goals will allow us to realize the HVAF vision of hope, housing, and self-sufficiency for all veterans and their families. If there is ever anything the board of directors can do to help you do your part in achieving these goals, please contact me or another board member. Now let's get back to work helping our veterans and making 2018 HVAF's best year ever.

2017 Highlights



Hanging out with Gov. Eric Holcomb for Indiana Veterans Legislative Day

Attending the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference in D.C.

Meeting Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch at Hoosier Park Casino

Hosting our first ever Grog Bowl Ceremony at Operation Alpha

Being the charity of choice at the ISAE Star Awards

Thanks to your generous donations, all of our veterans (and their families) were able to receive Christmas gifts. From treats to toys, from clothing to canned goods, our veterans received lots of love this holiday season.

Merry Christmas to HVAF!



Marine Corps veteran Bobby Weaver and his family donated **sixty backpacks** full of essential food! Bobby and his family, along with his mother, did this in honor of his grandmother, who would have wanted them to help out our homeless vets.



Barnes & Thornburg held a **boot drive**, delivered **Christmas gifts** and presented a check for **\$2,000!**

At the Plainfield Correctional Facility, Recreation Director Chad Platt had some of the offenders create a **dollhouse** as part of their arts and crafts activities. The dollhouse, which took about six months to put together, was given to Michael Sparks' two daughters, Bella and Citaly.

"Many days I wake up knowing I'm blessed to have two wonderful daughters, but still have worry through special days like holidays and birthdays even though it seems like I'm at work all the time.

A week or so ago, I happened to be at the right place at the right time. Just lucky I guess. Katie, at the front desk, saw my girls and I as we were not having a very good day. We stopped into the lobby of HVAF to ask for guidance and as we sat patiently waiting, she (Katie) asked Bella and Citaly if they liked dollhouses. Of course most three and four-year-olds love to play with dolls. She asked me if we would like to receive a 'one of a kind' custom handmade dollhouse. Surprise and elated, we all said, 'Thank you Jesus. YES!! PLEASE.' *Phew, this could be a deserving Christmas gift for the both of them*, I thought.

Pictures did not do it justice. It is more beautiful and much bigger than I had expected. We all took a couple hours and connected as a family while we put it all together and decorated. Loved and fulfilled by a blessing from the heart. We all thank everyone who took part in the dollhouse." —Michael Sparks



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' regional office was definitely in the Christmas spirit! While using **essential hygiene, clothing and food items** to give to HVAF, they held a contest to see who could create the best holiday display. Which one is your favorite?



Thank you to everyone who made our veterans' Christmas *merry and bright*

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We are also on Instagram! Follow us @HVAFofIndiana



HVAF Needs:

- ~Canned meat
- ~Canned fruit
- ~Winter coats (2x, 3x and 4x)
- ~Men's gloves

Drop off your donations to HVAF Headquarters today!