

### In this issue...

- Grand Park hosts Grand Run
- Rotarians pack for vets
- Find out HVAF's pantry needs

## Indy's Veteran Homelessness Population Down 20 Percent

Each year, on one cold night in January, representatives go out into their community and identify homeless individuals, providing a snapshot of the area's homeless population. In 2017, 328 homeless veterans were identified. This year, that number dropped by 20 percent to 261.

"This is remarkable but only made possible by the tireless efforts of agencies like HVAF and dozens of other agencies working in the trenches," Aaron Carmichael, VP Advancement at HVAF, said. "And of course, our frontline social workers and case managers that dedicate their lives bringing hope to our veterans."



Pictured, from left to right: Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett, Mayor Joe Hogsett, Veteran David Stokes, VP Advancement Aaron Carmichael and CHIP Executive Director Alan Witchey

As a way to share the good news, Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett joined the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention's (CHIP) executive director Alan Witchey and announced the results at HVAF Headquarters earlier this month.

"In January, we gathered as a unified front to continue our effort to end homelessness. Having a place to call Home is something we must strive to provide for every single one of our residents and neighbor," Mayor Hogsett said. "Last year, we pledged to identify supportive housing for an additional 400 individuals living with homelessness – a promise that has been fulfilled. But again, that is not the whole solution - only part of it."

Aaron thanked Mayor Hogsett and the City of Indianapolis for all of the

*"Mayor, your continual push to see true, lasting change is making a difference."*

work they do to help homeless veterans.

"In 2017, more than 600 veterans moved into permanent housing through HVAF's assistance. This was made possible because a whole community is coming together," Aaron said. "And

Mayor, your continual push to see true, lasting change is making a difference."

The mayor added that he and his team will be doing even more to join the fight in ending veteran homelessness.

"This year, our focus will be providing rental assistance and wraparound support services," he said. "We'll continue to identify and eliminate the root causes of homelessness like poverty, mental health, and addiction; and we'll work until every single person has a home here in Indianapolis."

**TABLE 1. Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons in Marion County (January 2014-2018)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2017-2018
Low temperature night of the Count	-3°F	15°F	23°F	37°F	27°F	-
Persons in emergency shelters	991	817	877	1,131	1,082	-4.3%
Persons in transitional housing	810	715	600	505	396	-21.6%
Persons in Safe Havens*	22	23	12	21	68	+223.8%
Persons unsheltered	74	111	130	126	136	+7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
Number of families	161	136	156	158	128	-19%
Number of veterans	370	389	326	328	261	-20.4%

# A Grand 'Ole Time!

Thank you to the town of Westfield & Grand Park for making us the beneficiary of this year's Grand Run! What a wonderful way to honor those who have fallen for our freedom.



## Rotary Club packs for vets

As a way to carry out their motto "Service Above Self," the Indianapolis Rotary Club packed backpacks for Indianapolis' homeless veteran population.



Last year, they packed 144 backpacks, and packed 180 this year!



HVAF was also blessed to have Senator Joe Donnelly come to HVAF Headquarters and help some of the Rotarians pass out the backpacks to some veterans!



## Volunteers Needed



**Veterans  
Community  
Center**

As we work on opening up a Community Center for Indy's veterans, we are in need of volunteers to spend time with them. This includes playing games, watching movies, and fellowshiping.

Interested? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Audrey Hopkins: AHopkins@hvaf.org or 317-951-0688 ext. 2116

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR 25TH BIRTHDAY!

6.14.18



**ANNUAL MEETING**

• 4PM •

JOIN OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND GUESTS TO HEAR THE IMPACT AND OUTCOMES OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR, REFLECT ON THE PAST 25 YEARS, AND LEARN THE GOALS OF THE NEXT 25 YEARS AND BEYOND.

STICK AROUND AFTER FOR A SPECIAL CAKE CUTTING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

RSVP to Aaron Carmichael:  
317-951-0688  
ACarmichael@hvaf.org

## HVAF Highlights

April & Shawn Leo hosted the very first John McGuire Benefit Ride, where 100% of the proceeds went to HVAF



Salesforce packed snack bags so our veterans don't go hungry

CharityChug raised a glass to HVAF



Southside Mustangs hosted a car show, which supported our vets

## Connect with us!

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Follow us on twitter



@HVAFofIndiana

## HVAF Needs:

- ~Canned meats
- ~Chili beans
- ~Granola bars
- ~Rice
- ~Ready-to-eat soup
- ~Cereal
- ~Pasta
- ~Instant Potatoes

Drop off your donations to HVAF Headquarters today!

Do you have a group that would like to help in our food, clothing, and hygiene pantries? Call 317-951-0688 for more info!