



# August 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: Fran Wiedenhoeft

The same physical ailments that forced US Army veteran Fran Wiedenhoeft into medical retirement made it difficult for her to maintain employment as a civilian. While she waited for her benefits to kick in, her house inched closer to foreclosure.

[READ HER STORY](#)





Dear Friends,

This month we are celebrating monumental moments for USA Cares. The generosity of individuals, organizations, and governmental departments allows USA Cares to continue addressing the increasing need for our services, and expands our reach to those who don't currently fall under our general criteria.

I cannot thank CKE Restaurants and the Hardees and Carl's Jr. teams enough for all they do through their Stars for Heroes campaign. A record-setting year means USA Cares will continue to make real and life-changing differences for our veterans and their families. We appreciate all those who went out of their way to support a company that is going above and beyond for our military families.

I am also thrilled to see that we are expecting a record number of guests at this year's gala. Congratulations to

Chairwoman Robin Davis and the rest of the gala committee, who have put in countless hours to exceed our lofty goal of 800+ guests and make this year's gala our best yet. We cannot wait to see everyone Aug. 19.

Another congratulations is in order for Alice Blackburn and the rest of our grants team on securing USA Cares' first-ever federal grant. We are galvanized by this new endeavor and look forward to the difference we can make in the lives of Kentucky's most vulnerable veterans.

Along with all the good news this newsletter brings, I hope you will take the time to read our client testimonials. Fran and Aaron's stories are powerful reminders of the hardships our veterans face long after they leave the service. For all the exuberance we feel in USA Cares' accomplishments, we know our mission remains more pertinent than ever.

I end this letter with a reminder that Aug. 17 is National Nonprofit Day. By receiving this newsletter, I can assume you know the significant impact nonprofits have on our communities. I hope you will strengthen that impact with the pledge of your own support.

Our work is not done.

Trace Chesser

President & CEO, USA Cares



**YOUR DONATION'S IMPACT**

## Aaron Fritcher

US Navy veteran Aaron Fritcher had helped his fellow sailors get the mental health help they needed, but when it was his turn to seek treatment, late mortgage payments threatened to displace his family of four.



## Year-to-Date Numbers



**475 Families**  
with  
**602 Children**  
Assisted



**\$854,068.97**  
of Financial Assistance  
Distributed



**302**  
Evictions/Foreclosures  
Stopped

## News

CKE Restaurants wraps up \$1 million+ Stars for Heroes campaign





We want to extend a huge congratulations to **CKE Restaurants**, and **Carl's Jr.®** and **Hardee's®** franchise owners and employees on another successful Stars for Heroes campaign. In July, the company announced it was extending the campaign to Aug. 1 after raising more than \$1 million by its initial deadline.

Through the tremendous support of Stars for Heroes, USA Cares has been able to provide assistance to thousands of veterans and military families. To all those who made 2023 a success...

# THANK YOU!

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**USA Cares Gala sells out with record number of ticket sales**





More than 800 guests will be in attendance for this year's 'We Salute You' Gala. We look forward to coming together to support our military families and celebrate our organization's 20th anniversary. See you soon!

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### USA Cares awarded first-ever federal grant for maximum amount of \$500,000



Through the diligent efforts of USA Cares Grant Manager, Alice Blackburn, the organization was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the US Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS). The grant will expand USA Cares' services to help Kentucky's homeless veterans find employment stability.

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### USA Cares in the news



**USA CARES**  
VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM

## 20TH ANNUAL 'WE SALUTE YOU' GALA

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

- ▶ TAKING PLACE AT THE GALT HOUSE
- ▶ REGISTRATION AND COCKTAIL HOUR BEGINS AT 5:30PM
- ▶ PROGRAM STARTS AT 7PM

To purchase tickets or tables, guests can visit [www.usacares.org](http://www.usacares.org)



**WLKY**

**Matt Castor shares USA Cares mission with MacLellan Integrated Services employees during weeklong trip**







Matt Castor, Vice President of Government and Corporate Relations, took a weeklong road trip through Virginia, South Carolina and North Carolina to meet some of the wonderful employees at MacLellan Integrated Services. MacLellan is a great example of the tremendous impact an employee giving campaign can make. Thank you to MacLellan Integrated Services and their generous employees who are saving lives and making a difference for veterans and their families!

## CU-Harrodsburg Men's Soccer holds first annual Patriots vs. Pioneers game







Thank you to Coach George Brown, Kellee Stankovich, and the rest of the CU-Harrodsburg Men's Soccer program for putting on a great showcase game in support of USA Cares. We also want to extend a thank you to everyone who came out to watch the game, as well as area sponsors who helped make the evening a success! We look forward to making this an annual tradition!

*Photos Courtesy Scott Beasley*

## Fort Knox Garrison Change of Command



Thank you to Col. Lance O'Bryan for his leadership within the community. Best wishes to you and your family as you embark on a new journey! We also extend a warm congratulations to Col. Ricci on his new position as Garrison Commander, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make on Fort Knox's soldiers and their families.





Welcome to our newest CSP Corporate Fellowship cohort, and thank you to Jacob McAllister for joining our transitioning service members during one of their workshops to share your expertise with them!



### Cincinnati, OH Chapter holds first Topgolf event

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Cincinnati, OH Chapter's Topgolf event, and



congratulations to Executive Director, James Clark, on another successful fundraiser!



## Salt Lake City, UT Chapter partners with Jamba Juice for USA Cares fundraiser

Executive Director, Lee Dixon-Henderson, partnered with Blended Star, LLC (DBA Jamba Juice) to sell these USA Cares reusable cups at stores in Utah and California. \$3.50 from every cup sold is being donated to USA Cares.

Thank you to Malinda Hunt for sharing this adorable photo of her military veteran and USA Cares supporter!



## 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.

July episodes include interviews with **retired Army Col. Greg Gadson** and the return of USA Cares favorite, **retired Army Col. Fred Johnson**. 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?](#)

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