

# July Newsletter

2024



*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.*

[DONATE](#)



## MISSION MOMENT: Brian Fox

Navy veteran Brian Fox was in dire need of immediate and extended psychiatric care, but inpatient treatment meant no income for his family of 7. Without USA Cares, he may have had no home to return to after discharge.

[Read His Story](#)



## TRACE'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

As we approach the cherished July 4th holiday, I find myself reflecting on the profound significance of this day for our nation. Independence Day is not merely a celebration of our country's birth; it is a tribute to the values of freedom, sacrifice, and unity that underpin the American spirit. It is a time to honor the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to preserving these ideals, ensuring the liberties we hold dear continue to thrive for future generations.

At USA Cares, our mission is deeply intertwined with these values. We are committed to supporting our military families, veterans, and active-duty service members who have made immense sacrifices in the name of freedom. Their courage and dedication serve as a constant reminder of the cost of independence

and the ongoing need to support those who protect it.

In the spirit of unity and community, I encourage you to get involved with USA Cares and our initiatives. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading awareness, every effort counts in making a difference. Together, we can continue to uphold the values that make our nation great and ensure that those who serve are never forgotten. Wishing you all a safe and joyous Independence Day.

Best Regards,

Trace Chesser, President & CEO

## Year-to-Date Numbers



**398 Families**  
with  
**525 Children**  
Assisted



**\$777,139.37**  
of Financial Assistance  
Distributed



**245**  
Evictions/Foreclosures  
Stopped

**USA CARES**  
VETERAN & FAMILY  
SUPPORT SYSTEM

**JOIN THE \$22 CHALLENGE**

Honor Their Service, Change Their Future

*Every day, 22 veterans die by suicide, forever altering the lives of those closest to them.*

Join USA Cares' Cadence Program and pledge a monthly donation of \$22.

**Join Now!**

## NEWS

### LAST CHANCE: Buy Tickets for 2024 We Salute You Gala

Don't miss your chance to enjoy an elegant evening steeped in military tradition.

Click the button below to purchase your table or tickets!

Interested in supporting through sponsorship? Reach out to Whitney Hobbs by emailing [whitney@usacares.org](mailto:whitney@usacares.org) or calling 502-653-0105.



REQUESTS THE HONOUR OF  
YOUR PRESENCE AT OUR ANNUAL

# Gala

2024 WE SALUTE YOU  
HONORING HEROES, EMPOWERING LIVES

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**MICHAEL "ROD" RODRIGUEZ**  
PRESIDENT/CEO GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

7·27·24 • LOUISVILLE, KY  
GALT HOUSE HOTEL

BENEFITING POST-9/11 MILITARY VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS OR  
SPONSOR PACKAGES!

**5:30 PM COCKTAILS**  
BOURBON PULL & SILENT AUCTION

**7 PM PROGRAM BEGINS**

[Purchase Tickets](#)

## Stars for Heroes 2024!

There are just a few days left in CKE Restaurants' annual Stars for Heroes Campaign! Thank you to everyone who has already participated by finding their nearest participating Hardee's or Carl's Jr. restaurant to purchase a star for at least \$1. This fundraiser helps provide assistance to thousands of veterans and their families every year and it only runs through July 4th. Don't forget to encourage your friends and family to buy their stars before it's over! Together, we can change lives!



## Trace and Daljit Connect with Veterans First

While in California, USA Cares President & CEO, Trace Chesser, along with Board of Directors Chair, Daljit Hundal, spoke with members of Las Positas College's Veterans First Program.

Their visit was an inspiring and insightful experience, highlighting the incredible work Las Positas College is doing to support our veterans. The Veterans First Program is dedicated to providing essential resources, guidance, and a community for those who have served our country, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to succeed in their academic and personal endeavors.



## Introducing...

**Karla** spent the last 30+ years volunteering and working to support veterans and their families. Her spouse is a recently retired 30-year career veteran. Karla is passionate and dedicated to continuing her service to veterans and their families as she continues her education at UofL in social work, with an emphasis on veteran case management and PTSD. Karla is thrilled to be a part of the USA Cares team and deeply appreciates their mission and dedication to our veterans.

**Adam** served in the Marine Corps from 1992-1996. As a civilian, he spent more than 10 years as a transportation coordinator for Jefferson County Public Schools. Feeling called to help serve his fellow veterans, Adam is looking forward to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

**Ty's** passion for helping others led her down a path that included a more than 15-year career in Medicare at Humana with stops at Central State Hospital and Our Lady of Peace. As the daughter of an Army veteran, and a bonus mom to a sailor, Ty looks forward to helping veterans in crisis.

Originally from South Jersey, **Michael Whittick** served 20 years in the Army, including five overseas. He is a former hockey player who loves to spend quality time with his family and coaching volleyball with his girlfriend. If you have any interest in volunteering or supporting a local USA Cares chapter, please reach out to Michael using the contact info below!

# MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS!



KARLA



ADAM



TY

FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALISTS



## MICHAEL WHITTICK CHAPTER OUTREACH MANAGER



800-773-0387 ext. 130



[michael.whittick@usacares.org](mailto:michael.whittick@usacares.org)



[www.usacares.org/chapters](http://www.usacares.org/chapters)

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## Food Truck Rally in Louisville, KY 7/26/24

Get a taste of Louisville's veteran-owned food trucks and support USA Cares at the same time! Mark your calendars!



USA CARES  
&  
Louisville Food  
Truck Association

**PRESENTS**

# “HONORING THE BRAVE”

## Food Truck Rally

10+ veteran owned food trucks,  
music & vendors

Food trucks include:

Ramiro's Cantina • Everybody Loves Bacon  
Roll-Up Cafe • Fry Daddys  
JP's Outdoor Kitchen • Empanadas Alchemy

**Friday** St. Leonard Parish  
**July** 440 Zorn Ave., Louisville, Ky.  
**26th** 5pm - 9pm

\$5 admission  
kids under 12 FREE



100% of proceeds go to  
USA CARES

### Jeptha Creed Hosts First Concert in Summer Series

We had a wonderful time at Jeptha Creed Distillery's first 'Jammin' at Jeptha' show of the year! USA Cares had the opportunity to meet a lot of new faces and encourage them to support USA Cares through the purchase of Jeptha Creed's Red, White, & Blue Bourbon!

To find the nearest retailer near you, or purchase tickets to the next concert in August, visit [JepthaCreed.com](http://JepthaCreed.com)!



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## Nicole Takes Flight for Boss Lift

USA Cares' Nicole McCoy went on a Boss Lift at Fort Knox.

Boss lifts are an opportunity for the Kentucky National Guard and Reserves to educate business and community leaders about the roles and missions of its citizen soldiers, sailors, and Marines when they are in uniform. It also highlights the benefits that military experience brings to organizations with guardsmen and reservists as full-time employees.

Special thanks to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, John Gipe, Mike Richie, and Shawn Malone for the invitation and continuing support of USA Cares!

WATCH: WDRB did a story on Boss Lifts, watch [here](#).





## Kentucky National Guard Recognizes USA Cares

USA Cares was so humbled to have LTC Esther Pratt visit USA Cares headquarters to deliver a certificate of appreciation for toy donations to the Kentucky National Guard's Operation Military Cheer.

With the wonderful support of our community, we were able to help:

- 47 adopters
- 62 families
- 177 children

Thank you to everyone who helped collect and donate toys to make sure our service members and their families have the Christmas they deserve!



## Government Relations - Expanded Reach for Texas Veterans

USA Cares was recently awarded a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Texas remains our most assisted state as we help active-duty and veteran families avoid evictions, foreclosures, vehicle repossessions and keep their utilities connected. This funding will enhance the lives of these worthy recipients and will help eliminate factors that can contribute to veteran suicide. On behalf of everyone at USA Cares, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the TVC!



This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The Fund for Veterans' Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information, visit [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov).

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## Can USA Cares Help a Veteran You Know?

Our Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) is looking for homeless Kentucky veterans in need of assistance in finding employment and access to housing.

*"Homeless" doesn't only refer to those living on the streets. It also includes veterans living with friends/family, in a shelter, or out of their car.*

If you know a veteran that fits this description and lives in one of the highlighted counties below, please contact David Keene by emailing [david.keene@usacares.org](mailto:david.keene@usacares.org).





## Upcoming Chapter Events

- July 26 - "Honoring the Brave" Food Truck Rally (Louisville)
- Sept. 7 - J-Town Beach Volleyball Tournament (Louisville)
- Oct. 6 - Red River 22 Charity Hike (Stanton, KY at The Gorge)
- Oct. 12 - BBQ Competition (Shelbyville, KY)
- Nov. 6 - 2024 American Heroes Breakfast (Cincinnati, OH)

## STAY CONNECTED



**24/7, confidential crisis support  
for all Veterans and their  
loved ones**



11760 Commonwealth Drive • (800) 773-0387

[www.usacares.org](http://www.usacares.org)



USA Cares | 11760 Commonwealth Drive | Louisville, KY 40299 US

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