

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

HELPING HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETERANS REACH AND MAINTAIN THEIR HIGHEST LEVELS OF INDEPENDENCE SINCE 2008.

## 2019 SUCCESSES

Women  
Veterans  
Initiative

**196**

WOVIN

Women receiving services to meet unique needs as Veterans. Help them overcome issues different from male counterparts

**272**

Home Support

Veterans receiving household items, furniture, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, bedding, etc.

**147**

Bikes for Stripes

Bikes distributed to Veterans and families to help remove transportation barriers

**671**

Crisis Management

Veterans supported in meeting basic needs, improving community connections and achieving goals

**259**

Children

Children of veterans who received direct services



# GIVING THANKS...

## Reintegrating Women who Served

**C**ystal, a US Army veteran and Waukesha resident bravely bore her country's cause for ten years. In her role as a private first-class cook, Crystal made sure the members of her platoon were fed. Today, this Iraq war veteran struggles to put food on the table for her family.

MHVI and Crystal connected at a WOVIN pampering event. Staff talked with Crystal, learned what she was going through, and surrounded her with supportive services. "Crystal is exactly why we do what we do," said Debbie Buchanan, MHVI Executive Director. "All veterans and especially women need to know they are not alone, and most certainly in times of crisis."

Crystal shares that integrating back into civilian life came with challenges she never anticipated. Seeing oneself as an individual who is no longer part of a larger community like the military can be isolating. Navigating civilian life after 10 years can be overwhelming, especially for single parent.

"I didn't know where else to turn," Crystal said. "I had many things going wrong at the time. MHVI saved me. MHVI delivered furniture, toiletries, bedding, and toys for the family. Crystal and her children remained connected with MHVI and things were looking up."

But the start of 2020 brought unexpected hurdles. Crystal lost her job and serious health issues nearly sidelined this mother of four. As eviction loomed, MHVI helped find Crystal find housing and made sure she and her children had what they needed.

"My 11-year-old and I both ended up with COVID," Crystal said. "I couldn't go anywhere. MHVI delivered food for us. There is no judgment."

## Fire Extinguishes Family's Past

**G**eoffrey and Christine Moore lived happily in South Milwaukee with their adult daughter and her three children. They had many friends among the neighbors, and Christine's tulip garden was a source of pride and joy. Then, an electrical fire changed their lives forever.

"It happened in the second-floor attic," Christine said. "We were left with the clothes on our backs. Between the smoke and water damage, we lost everything."

Geoffrey's health had long been an issue, and the fire made things worse. He tried several times to go back in to save their belongings, which landed him in the hospital. "I was overwhelmed," he said. "I have severe COPD and don't walk very well. That fire was devastating."

Geoffrey served his country as a combat engineer in the US Army. The disabled veteran called the Department of Veteran Affairs for assistance. The VA staff helped the family find housing, and connected them to MHVI.

## MHVI Inspires Future

Two weeks later, MHVI pulled up to the Moore's newly secured apartment, providing household items, cleaning supplies, toiletries and food. While the items in the truck could never replace their photos, mementos and other personal items, the Moore's were grateful for the assistance they received.

"I could just cry thinking about it," Christine said. "We never thought something like this could happen to us. We were overwhelmed that someone would care about us."

## FINANCIALS

<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$649,900</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$732,062</b>
Program Services	\$591,235
Management Expenses	\$ 82,187
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 58,640
<b>Net assets end of 2018</b>	<b>\$484,991</b>
<b>Net assets end of 2019</b>	<b>\$402,829</b>



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“LEARN FROM YESTERDAY, LIVE FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW.” Albert Einstein

**1,216**

Veterans and family members supported with emergency food

Emergency Food Pantry

**371**

Veterans connected to programs and services

Outreach

**84**

Adult family members of Veterans supported with MHVI programs and services

Family

2019 SUCCESSES

414-257-4111



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

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