



The **Great BIG** Gratitude Report
There are 11,274 happy hearts inside ... because of you!

2022



Ron's *smile* is the best!

"I was in a good place. Everyone treated me with respect, even though I didn't feel like I deserved it yet."

He was safe, where he could recover and heal. He learned coping skills to work through the traumas he'd experienced in life. He has new tools to manage and live in recovery.

Because of you, Ron's smile is returning. "Being here, being surrounded by fellow veterans, I feel at home. They are like family."

Ron knows you are rooting for him. Because of your help, today he's working toward a new dream, a bachelor's degree in social work.

"I want to give back. I've been nurtured and loved, and it's time for me to share that with others."

Today, Ron is substance-free and healthy. Because of your kindness, he feels joy in his life again and shares smiles wherever he goes.

"I haven't been this happy in so many years."

Thank you for being a part of an incredible supportive community for veterans. Ron is just one veteran among **4,550 veterans helped last year. You've given tools to help with employment, mental health, housing, basic needs, and life-skills. Take a moment to share in the joy of Ron's smile, you've earned it.**

Because you care, Ron's smile = JOY

U.S. Army Veteran Ron has a joyful smile and a hearty laugh. He shares joy with everyone he meets. Today, he's going to school to fulfill his dream.

But two years ago, Ron was in a very different place. He struggled with the disease of addiction for many years, until he reached his breaking point.

"I lost everything I'd worked 40 years for. I lost my home, my family, my job, and I couldn't pay my bills."

Ron was homeless, hopeless, and alone, living out of his truck for two years. "I was in a downward spiral, and I knew I needed help."

As soon as Ron walked through the doors of a VOA Veterans Resource Center, he felt the warmth of your kind heart.



You're Crystal's *big* squeeze!

She's thriving because of you!

Today, Crystal is over-the-moon excited to go to work and spend time with her sweet baby boy. She finds joy in the little things, like taking walks and exploring nature.

It wasn't always this way. Crystal experienced trauma in her life from a young age. She struggled to process her feelings and emotions. She turned to substance use to numb her pain.

"I felt helpless and lost. I didn't know who I was, or what my goals were."

Her substance use disorder had taken over her life. Crystal couldn't find her light within anymore, and her spirit broke. She knew her son was going to be taken away from her.

Maria is living in affordable housing and has overcome homelessness. Maria had the support and tools she needed to rebuild her family's life. **Over 450 people received housing assistance in the last year.** You made sure they were sheltered with love. Thank you.

You were there for Crystal when she walked through the doors of the VOA Fresh Start Recovery Center. She could feel your kindness and compassion. She found a strong shoulder to lean on, support, and a safe space to focus on her goals and her family.

"This place has helped me find a purpose and a reason to be here in life."

You gave Crystal a place to heal and she no longer feels lost and alone. Crystal now has the tools she needs to rebuild her life and thrive.

Right now, Crystal and her son, Connor, are living their best lives together. Because of you, they are glowing with love and joy.

This past year, over 1,550 people accessed behavioral health services.

With your help, they've received treatment, tools, and a safe space to begin their journey to well-being. Today, they're feeling the warm glow of hope again.

"It meant so much to me and my family to have our own place. I was able to get a job and I started going to school."

Maria





“I know I’ve missed out on too many things, but I want to be there for what’s to come ...”
Jorge

Basic needs = Love

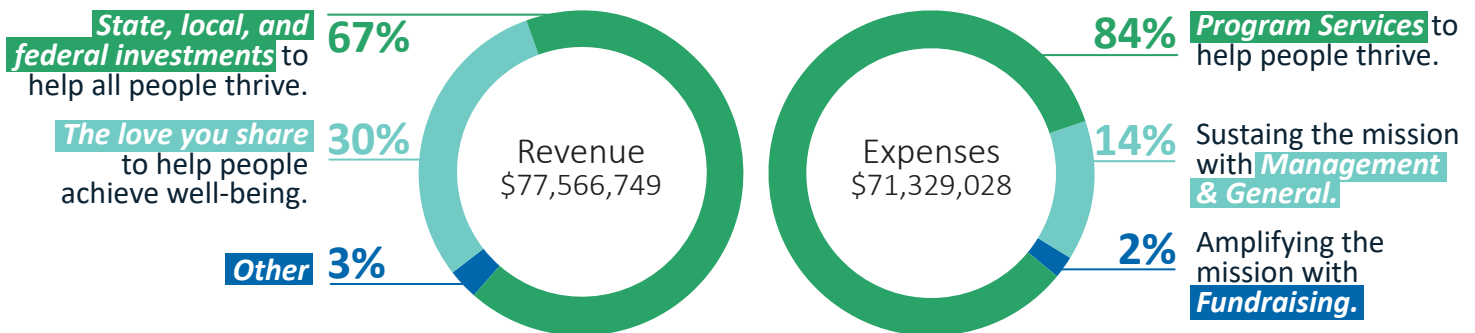
Your kindness became food and clothing **helping over 2,000 people.** You’ve warmed their hearts.



Jorge is thankful for the opportunities and resources available at Volunteers of America. As part of his plan to return home after incarceration, he got help with life-skills, counseling, employment and housing. Because of you, he had a place to rebuild his life, as did **over 2,700 men and women in our communities this past year.** Thank you for offering new beginnings.

How we work **together** to change lives.

For a full copy of the audited financial statements, please visit voahin.org/financials



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