

**Florida BrAlve Fund
North Florida Grantees
2009-2010**

7-Dippity

American Red Cross,
Capital Area Chapter

American Red Cross,
Northeast Florida Chapter

American Red Cross
of Northwest Florida

Community Legal Services
of Mid-Florida, Inc.

Eglin AFB

Support Center Activities Council

Florida Alliance of Information
& Referral Specialists (211)

Florida State College
at Jacksonville

Greater Jacksonville Area USO, Inc.

Home Front Hearts

Hurlburt Field Airman & Family
Readiness Activities Council

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

JCCI, Inc.

Jewish Family & Community
Services

Legal Services of North Florida

Life Management Center

Marion County Veterans
Helping Veterans

Military Spouse Corporate
Career Network

Milton Elks Lodge

National Guard Foundation

Santa Fe College

United Way of Volusia-Flagler
Counties

University of North Florida

VeteransPlus Inc.

Vets4Vets

Workforce Board
of Okaloosa/Walton Counties

Workforce Plus

Zero to Three

Final Report
Summer 2010



*Helping Floridians impacted by
deployment to Afghanistan & Iraq*

**LEARNING, STRATEGIZING
AND CREATING LASTING CHANGE
FOR NORTH FLORIDA'S
MILITARY COMMUNITY**

Those who work in the field of philanthropy often talk about the difference between “charity” and “philanthropy.” Charity is an act that alleviates immediate suffering, while philanthropy is an act, or more often a collection of actions, that stimulates long-term change.

When The Florida BrAlve Fund began, most would have placed it closer to the charity end of the spectrum, considering it a gift of money to help meet the immediate needs of specific service personnel and their families.

After two years, however, it is clear that The Florida BrAlve Fund was philanthropy at its best. Not only did the fund provide immediate relief to countless service personnel and family members, it strengthened the capacity of the organizations that serve the military community; it strengthened The Community Foundation, which administered the program; it created new networks and relationships among providers, community-based organizations and the military; and it expanded community awareness of the challenges faced by veterans of these conflicts and their families.

In short, The Florida BrAlve Fund created lasting change among a network of entities in North Florida that will benefit the military and civilian communities for years to come.

The Florida BrAlve Fund - From Beginning to End



Helping Floridians impacted by deployment to Afghanistan & Iraq

Three community foundations are collaborating to provide access to The FLORIDA BRAIVE Fund throughout the state. The foundations and their respective regions are:

The Community Foundation in Jacksonville – North Region

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice – Central Region

Dade Community Foundation – South Region

The Florida BrAlve Fund was an outgrowth of the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund at the California Community Foundation. IADIF was established in 2006 by an anonymous donor specifically to meet the needs of American military personnel and/or their families who have been impacted by deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

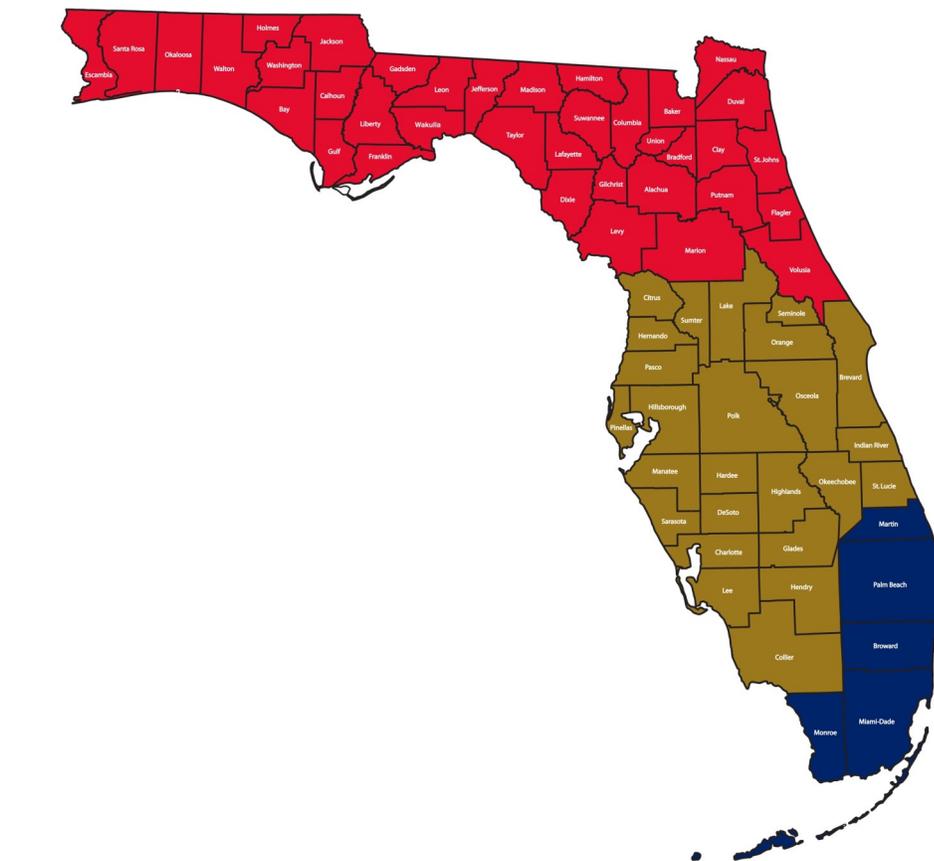
In 2008, IADIF awarded grants of \$5 million (over two years) each to The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, The Gulf Coast Community Foundation in Venice and the Dade Community Foundation. The understanding was that the three foundations collectively would provide resources to support the needs of targeted military personnel and their families throughout Florida.

To accomplish this work, the three Florida community foundations divided the state into regions. The Community Foundation's North Florida region covered 37 counties — the largest geographical region of the three. It also contained the highest concentration of military facilities.

The three Florida foundations agreed to accept each others' applications to facilitate requests from statewide organizations.

The foundations also agreed to create a common brand (The Florida BrAlve Fund) and launch a common website, with basic information and links to each of the three foundation's websites.

The three foundations met with military and nonprofit leaders across the state, including several base commanders and family readiness officers, as well as local government military and veterans' affairs offices.



The foundations ultimately agreed, however, that each would set its own priorities for funding. This enabled each foundation to respond to the unique needs of its region. This decision provided The Community Foundation more flexibility to build relationships and address specific needs, which was critical given the breadth and diversity of the military community in North Florida.

During 2009 and 2010, The Florida BrAlve Fund at The Community Foundation in Jacksonville awarded \$4.6 million in grants to 28 nonprofits to support the needs of military personnel in North Florida and their families.

In late 2009, the anonymous donor

who created IADIF revealed his identity. David Gelbaum announced that the economic downturn had so affected his financial resources that he was forced to suspend funding to IADIF. With no sustaining source of funding, the Florida BrAlve Fund effectively ended grantmaking in late 2010.

Understanding the Challenge, And Meeting It

The Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund's challenge to The Florida BrAlve Fund was clear: address the unmet needs of service men and women deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq and their families.

That challenge prompted The Community Foundation to establish an Advisory Committee comprised of active-duty and retired military personnel and leaders of community organizations that traditionally serve the military. It was there that the learning truly began.

Even among this cadre of experienced and military-savvy individuals, there was surprise at the depth and extent of the needs.

"We learned that the need is huge - probably 10 times greater than we ever expected," said Jack Morgan, CEO of the North Florida Region, American Red Cross, who has 31 years experience with the Red Cross.

Skip Cramer, who spent a career in the Navy before transitioning to civilian work in Jacksonville, said, "I did not fully appreciate what these people were going through."

Not only was the scope of need a surprise, the complexities and subtleties of the need took time to understand.

Many of the unique challenges that accompany deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq have been well-documented:

- Repeated deployments in extremely unstable environments result in very high levels of traumatic exposure for all service members. The toll of multiple deployments also is felt by family members at home.

- Physical wounds from IED's or suicide bombers can be complex and extreme. Because of improvements in evacuation techniques, body armor and battlefield medicine, many who would have died can now be saved, causing an influx of service members returning home needing specialized care.

- "Invisible wounds" - relentless physical pain, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression and Traumatic Brain Injury - can affect veterans and the family, causing physical, psychosocial, economic and spiritual challenges.

But some of the greatest needs in North Florida were driven by the high numbers of National Guard and Reserve troops deployed during these conflicts.

Experts estimate that 45% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are National Guard and Reserve. These forces are not accustomed to serving continuously with active duty. Moreover, they are given little time to transition into or out of active duty.

But most importantly, National Guard and Reserve members generally do not reside in a military community. They live and work in civilian communities, where peer support is almost nonexistent.

"When active duty personnel return from deployment, their active duty peers are around them, and they are attuned and will notice signs of distress," said Gen. Mike Fleming, Assistant Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard. "Civilians are not equipped to recognize the subtle changes in an individual post-deployment."

In North Florida, this is a critical issue. The region is home to the headquarters of the Florida National Guard and the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida National Guard, the Florida Army National Guard and the Florida Air National Guard.

"...these former 'weekend warriors' and their families can face much greater stress than their active duty counterparts," reported Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. in its November 2009 grant report. "Chief among them are the stresses of the reintegration process into the community and family upon returning from deployment."

Given this context, The Florida BrAlve Fund chose to focus its work in North Florida in three primary areas:

- Providing services to aid in reintegration, with a particular emphasis on National Guard and Reserve personnel and families;

- Meeting short-term emergency needs;
- Sharing information and building networks to provide ongoing support.

FLORIDA BRAIVE FUND North Florida Region Advisory Committee

Hon. Harvey Schlesinger,
Judge, U.S. District Court
for the Middle District of Florida
CHAIR

Katherine Betancourt, RN, MSA,
OEF/OIF Program Manager, VA

The Right Rev. Frank Cerveny
Trustee, The Community Foundation
in Jacksonville

Skip Cramer (USN, Ret.)
Executive Director, JCCI

Dave Faraldo
Director, Navy-Marine Corps Relief
Society, Jacksonville

Gen. Mike Ferguson (USA.Ret.)
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the
Army

Gen. Mike Fleming,
Assistant Adjutant General,
Florida National Guard

Lt. Vanessa Givens, USN,
Admin Officer, Naval Station Mayport

Mark Harden, Director,
Navy-Marine Corps Relief
Society, Pensacola

Lt. Col. Ann Johnson, LCSW,
U.S. Army Reserve

Ed Kalakauskis, (USA Ret.)

Capt. Bill Kennedy (USN Ret.),
Director, Navy-Marine Corps Relief
Society, Mayport

Linda Lanier,
CEO/Executive Director
Jacksonville Children's
Commission

Lt. Amy Moore
Director, Family Readiness,
Florida National Guard

Jack Morgan
CEO, American Red Cross,
North Florida Region

R. Daniel Morgann M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
VA—Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic

Nancy Reissener,
Associate Director,
Veterans Health Systems
North Florida & South Georgia

Allen Skinner
Genesis Group

Lt. Col. Alton Yates
(Florida National Guard
& USAF Ret.)

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY TOUCHPOINT?

In another time, after another war, organizations that wanted to reach out to veterans knew where to go: VFW Halls, the Veteran's Administration and other central gathering places for those who had served in conflict.

But today's world — and today's military — is different.

While active duty personnel may still be reached through traditional, on-base channels, the large proportion of those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq who are National Guard and Reserve personnel are much harder to locate after deployment. They move back into their jobs and their communities.

Many organizations trying to reach out to veterans with support from the BrAlve Fund were frustrated when initial overtures through traditional channels yielded minimal response. Eventually, these organizations realized they needed to go where the veterans are — and the concept of “community touchpoints” emerged.

Community touchpoints are those places frequented by ordinary people - including the ordinary people who are veterans. Churches, physicians offices, community centers, schools and universities all are community touchpoints.

One BrAlve Fund grantee, Washington, D.C.-based Zero to Three, recognized pediatricians as a community touchpoint and received a grant to “guide medical professionals as they strive to care for the unique needs of these military families.

“By providing medical professionals with the knowledge and resources to help military families maintain a focus on the needs of their children, the family unit can be strengthened to more effectively surmount the special stresses that come with separations due to deployment, injury, illness or death of a Service member parent.”

The Challenges Of Reintegration After Deployment

For combat veterans returning from deployment, the transition can be difficult on multiple levels.

There is the change of pace, from life in a high-stress battlefield to a comparatively sedate life at home.

"Life is boring when you come home," said OIF veteran Lee Cothren. "You don't have that adrenaline, you're not running from building to building."

"You're used to being on the go," said OIF Tamsen Pintler. "You're goal oriented. Civilian life slows down, you work on things long-term instead of these immediate tasks."

There are challenges reconnecting with family members, who have learned to function on their own and now must accommodate the returning service person.

"You are never on the same page," said Navy wife Ericka Stokes. "You run your household the way you want it run. And he comes in and wants to make up for lost time."

For non-active duty personnel, there is the challenge of returning to work- if the job is still available - or finding a new job.

And wrapped around all of these challenges are the remnants of the battlefield experience - issues that can haunt a combat veteran for months or years.

"I had the typical 'I'm OK' attitude," said Cothren. "I tried going back to work but I couldn't sit at that desk all day. I just couldn't do it."

"When you enter the military, you think you're pretty tough - and that's good, we need that," said Gen. Fleming of the Florida National Guard. "But that makes it difficult later on to acknowledge that you may have mental health issues."

The nuances of veteran needs have forced organizations to rethink the ways they can offer support.

Dan Morgann, chief medical officer of

the VA's Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville admits that his organization changed its perspective as a result of the BrAlve Fund work and his participation on the Advisory Council.

"We are a clinic and we were focused on our clinic work. It was hard to focus on reintegration. The BrAlve Fund pushed us to take a 10,000-foot view. It broadened my view, it educated me and it made me realize that the VA's role needed to be more in reintegration."

Translated, that means that veterans generally need help long before they present at the VA. Cothren's experience is typical:

Unable to return to his pre-combat job, he struggled alone. "Finally I realized I needed help and went to the VA. Going to the VA hospital is pretty traumatic." Today, he and his wife receive counseling weekly. "You come home and you're hurting. It takes a lot of readjustment. it takes a lot of time."

Veterans say that in the early going post-deployment, they are more comfortable talking with peers about the demons they are fighting.

"I felt really comfortable talking to another veteran," said veteran Neri Olea. "You have all these other organizations [offering to help] but you're a soldier and you don't really want to talk to them."

Active duty personnel generally are surrounded by such peer groups. National Guard and Reserve personnel, however, have a more difficult time connecting with peer support groups.

Many of the North Florida BrAlve Fund grantees worked on strategies to create peer networking opportunities for returning veterans.

Vets4Vets, an Arizona-based non-profit, is creating multiple peer support group for Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans in communities throughout Northeast Florida.

The Hurlburt Field Airman & Family Readiness Activities Council in the Florida Panhandle is providing reintegration retreats and activities for returning military personnel and their families. Activities are facilitated by professionals and part of the focus is on peer-to-peer networking and support.

And three Northeast Florida higher education institutions are creating pro-

On Campus: A Critical Connection With Veterans

For many returning service personnel, the logical next step in life is pursuing an education. Consequently, college campuses are an key community touchpoint for those seeking to connect with this population.

Neri Olea, for instance, decided to go to Santa Fe College after his deployment. There, he found a student organization of veterans and "that made me feel comfortable right off the bat."

Yet many colleges and universities are poorly equipped to deal with a large population of student veterans. At Santa Fe College in Gainesville, for example, there are an estimated 800-900 veterans among the student body.

The BrAlve Fund awarded grants to three Florida educational institutions to help each build the capacity and expertise necessary to meet the specific needs of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.



The University of North Florida in Jacksonville is establishing a Veteran Resource Center on campus and developing programs to provide mental health and disability counseling. The university also is working to expand the military competency and capacity on campus and within the community through the development of a military counseling curriculum and expansion of the counseling student interns working with active duty military and veteran students. "Interest, queries and participation by students has been so great we have realized that long term staffing will need to increase to adequately serve the population," the university reported.

Santa Fe College in Gainesville was among the first Florida colleges to establish a center for veterans on campus. The Collegiate Veterans Society at Santa Fe College, a student-based organization, was founded in 1999 to help veterans transition from military to college life. Today, through its "Current War Student Veteran Leadership Initiative," the Society seeks to encourage and promote the creation of new veterans organizations in other colleges in North Florida, creating local support networks and services using the model employed at Santa Fe College.

Florida State College at Jacksonville operates the AI Veterans-2 Students (AI-V2S) Project to improve services for Iraq/Afghanistan Student Veterans on campus. The project involves conducting a campus needs assessment to inform programming, as well as two pilot programs: implementation of a Student Life Skills course designed to meet the unique needs of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans; and professional development workshops for campus faculty/instructors, financial aid representatives, advisors and other non-instructional staff, aimed at increasing their awareness of the unique needs of Iraq/Afghanistan veteran students.

grams to connects with veterans on campus and provide peer support (see above).

In addition to these programs, BrAlve grantees are addressing the employment needs of veterans and their spouses.

The American Red Cross of Northeast Florida is working to connect 50 veterans, active duty personnel or family members who are having difficulty finding employment with training that results in immediate employability.

Workforce Plus in the Panhandle is providing specific job referral and counseling services to Afghanistan/Iraq veterans, with a focus on helping them translate and market their military experience in a civilian employment environment.

And the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) is providing the spouses of those deployed in Afghanistan

and Iraq employment seminars, access to an online job database, individual employment counseling, job placement with MSCCN's partner employers and a network among military spouses.

For this organization in particular, the BrAlve Fund grant has been critical to enabling them to expand their work. In 2009, the group assisted a total of 89 spouses and 9 veterans in North Florida. In the first three months of 2010, the group assisted 224 spouses and veterans.

In September 2010, MSCCN was awarded the Pentagon's highest honor for military-serving nonprofits – the Newman's Own Award – at a ceremony at the Pentagon. Its leaders credit the BrAlve Fund with giving them the ability to expand their work and really "fly."

For many returning personnel, under-

standing and accessing benefits is a major challenge.

The Marion County Veterans Helping Veterans, with the support of the BrAlve Fund, provides counseling, advocacy and integration into the VA system and individually walks veterans and their families through the menu of community and government services and benefits available.

All of these services are intended to help those returning from Afghanistan and Iraq - and their families - find their way back to "normal life" as quickly as possible.

For those such as Lee Cothren, such help is important, if it is offered in the right spirit.

"The more we're walking down the road, the more we're willing to accept help," he said, "if I can do it without losing my pride."

Building the Capacity Of Organizations And the Community

While the staff and advisors to the Florida BrAlve Fund were focused on helping service personnel and their families, secondary — and ultimately more significant — changes were taking place.

The organizations involved began to see their own efforts through new eyes, prompting reassessments of roles and changes in practices.

Organizational leaders met others doing similar or complementary work, and began developing networks that facilitated and enhanced service delivery.

And they recognized how little the community at large understood the military community, and how that gap frustrated efforts to help.

“I recognized that my organization can be pretty insular,” said Dan Morgann, chief medical officer of the VA Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic.

“We thought we had a good system in place, but we didn’t,” said Jack Morgan, CEO of the American Red Cross of Northeast Florida. “We are our own worst enemy: we do not communicate very well.”

For some organizations, change involved identifying their sweet spot — the place where the organization could bring the greatest value.

“In the face of so much need, it is hard to maintain your focus, keep perspective and understand what your role is,” said the VA’s Morgann.

The Red Cross, for example, considered branching out to provide mental health counseling, CEO Morgan said, but the organization realized that it lacked the expertise to tackle the challenges presented by these returning veterans. “We had to recognize that sometimes our greatest service is to refer people, not to provide direct service,” he said.

Realizations such as this came about as

A Stretch for The Community Foundation

The Florida BrAlve Fund had a profound impact on The Community Foundation in Jacksonville in multiple ways.

The Community Foundation had not previously worked with any military organizations. Launching the BrAlve Fund required establishing new relationships, meeting new partners and learning an entirely new language and culture, said Nina Waters, president.

It took time, she noted, to build the trust that is needed to effectively work

a result of the advisory committee — the relationships built there and the experiences and knowledge shared.

“The first couple of advisory committee meetings were eye opening,” Morgan said.

Perhaps the greatest change for organizations, however, was finding new partners that could help facilitate their work.

The Red Cross developed stronger partnerships with military aid societies, the Veterans Administration, the Wounded Warrior Project and Catholic Charities as a result of connections made through the BrAlve Fund, said Christian Smith, director of public support for the Northeast Florida chapter.

For the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, the BrAlve Fund helped build their internal capacity and their networks.

“We [now] have the team, technology, outreach and tracking methods in place and all immediate hurdles we faced are ironed out and working smoothly,” reported MSCCN’S Director Kate Midden.

“We’ve established tighter relationships with Veterans Administration facilities, National Guard and Reserve branches and advocates, and other BrAlve NGOs to assist in our outreach efforts.”

In March 2010, the BrAlve Fund convened a host of grantee organizations for a day-long session of sharing and learning. The covenning proved a great opportunity to strengthen those networks.



together as grantor and grantee. “We had to find a way to, as civilian and military, build a bridge of trust and respect.”

It also required the Foundation to work in new places. Typically, the Foundation’s work has been limited to Northeast Florida. The BrAlve Fund required working in communities from Daytona to Pensacola—and finding ways to make connections and build relationships in those areas.

“One significant challenge is coordination of USO services with other available civilian resources in the community,” reported John Shockley, executive director of the Greater Jacksonville Area USO. “The March BrAlve Fund seminar presented avenues with other grantees to maximize available expertise, collaboration and professional services.”

The power of networking extended to higher education, with the University of North Florida benefitting from the experience of Santa Fe College in establishing its on campus programs.

“Because of the BrAlve project, we have formed alliances with military and veteran students at Santa Fe College in Gainesville,” noted Dr. Kristine W. Webb, director of the Disability Resource Center at UNF. “Leaders from the veterans organization at Santa Fe College volunteered to visit our campus and we have scheduled time for them to meet with BrAlve personnel, [resource center] personnel and UNF students.”

Beyond helping these organizations connect with each other, the BrAlve Fund has created opportunities for community organizations—particularly those providing mental health services—to connect with their military clientele with greater expertise and “cultural competence.”

The key to that effort has been Jacksonville Community Council Inc., a community research and “citizen think tank” organization headed by Skip Cramer (USN,Ret).

Cramer’s military background coupled

with his more recent experiences in the civilian community, helped him recognize the gap in understanding that existed between military and civilian populations. The lexicon, the frame of reference, the cultural landscape all are different, and bridging that gap and building the “cultural competence” of the service providers only enhances their ability to be effective with their clients.

Through a BrAlve Fund grant, JCCI developed a model training program for health care providers, counselors and community first-responders to give them better tools and knowledge with which to address the needs of these veterans and their families.

JCCI also brought the national Center for Deployment Psychology to communities in North Florida to build the skills of providers working with returning veterans.

Early on a needs assessment identified underserved target groups: Reserve and National Guard personnel and their families, female veterans, other than honorably discharged veterans, and rural or isolated veterans. JCCI then identified a network of 20 civilian institutions that provide mental health services. The cultural competency training program was developed for use by these organizations, better equipping them to meet the needs of service personnel while simultaneously broadening community understanding of the challenges created by these two wars.

Further building community assets, all three community foundations that make up the BrAlve Fund invested in the BrAlve Helpline System, establishing a statewide, toll-free helpline and resource center aligned with local and regional 211 call centers, to provide military personnel and their families easy access to information about available services. While still in development, this program will create strong statewide infrastructure and a potential backbone for statewide networking of provider organizations.

Providing Emergency Assistance When Veterans and Families Need It Most

Despite its sometimes ambitious goals, The Florida BrAlve Fund never lost sight of the importance of meeting basic needs and doing it quickly. The Fund made grants of more than \$1.6 million for the specific purpose of providing emergency financial assistance to military personnel and their families impacted by deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Early grant reports indicate that those emergency funds were most often used for rent or mortgage payments, transportation, utilities and food — the very basic needs of individuals and families.

Financial distress often is caused by the bureaucratic snafus that can delay military payments as service personnel transition from active duty to veteran status. One veteran, a single parent with four-year-old twins, was living in a motel room and in financial distress. He was on the verge of losing his vehicle, and had no money for insurance or food. The veteran contacted the American Red Cross, which was able to relocate the family to an apartment. The Red Cross also provided financial help that enabled the him to keep his truck, pay his insurance bill and buy food for the family until he received a paycheck the following month.

Veterans also face the daunting task of finding a job in a weak economy. One veteran had been unsuccessful in finding employment, leaving his family of four in financial distress. The family’s vehicle was about to be repossessed. With the help of the American Red Cross, vehicle and insurance payments were brought up to date, allowing the veteran to continue his job search.

Sometimes veterans need more than just emergency financial assistance - they need legal assistance as well. The BrAlve Fund awarded more than \$225,000 in grants to provide emergency legal services to veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

In addition to the typical legal struggles around tenant rights and benefit determinations, some military personnel experience more challenge legal problems.

One active duty Airman discovered

“My girlfriend (now my wife) and I had both lost our jobs at the same time,” writes another veteran. “we have two small children together and two children from a previous marriage. The bills piled up fast. We both looked for jobs but were unable to find anything—not even the simplest jobs. I had borrowed money from everyone I could to keep us afloat but after three months of unemployment we were sinking fast. I had finally found a job - and a good one - but we were facing losing our electric, phone, our car, our home, everything. My wife suggested calling the Red Cross. We had no other options to get back on track. The best part about calling them was the professional but compassionate assistance I received. The quick response and the amount of assistance we received was so unexpected. We are caught up!. Thank you so much for everything. Without your help, I fear we were headed for homelessness.”

upon enlistment that his uncle had used the Airman’s identity to open credit card accounts and buy a house. The accounts were in default, which threatened the Airman’s service and security clearance. The Airman approached Legal Services of North Florida, which contacted the local JAG to clarify threats to the Airman’s status. They received an admission from the uncle about his misdeeds and provided the Airman with counseling on repairing his credit.

While such emergency assistance helps the individual or family, it often also helps the military mission, noted Ed Kalakauskis (USA Ret.), a member of the Advisory Committee.

“My early thoughts were about how this [aid] will affect the soldier,” he said. “But I realized that by helping these families, we really help the military mission. Soldiers have such highly specialized tasks these days. Family problems can take one specialist out of a unit, or distract him from his duties, putting the rest of the unit at greater risk. Anything that can keep that individual with his unit is important to the success of the unit. “

Florida BrAlve Fund Grants — 2009-2010

7-Dippity - \$444,600 to develop peer guides for Guard and Reserve in North Florida, and for military families, providing specialized outreach and education tools for use by individuals and agencies serving Afghanistan/Iraq service members and families.

American Red Cross, Capital Area Chapter - \$225,000 over two years to create an emergency financial assistance fund to assist military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

American Red Cross, Northeast Florida Chapter - \$842,947 over two years to create and support an emergency financial assistance fund to assist military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

American Red Cross, Northeast Florida Chapter - \$40,100 to connect 50 Afghanistan/Iraq veterans, active duty, or family members with job training.

American Red Cross of Northwest Florida - \$380,000 over two years to create an emergency financial assistance fund to assist military personnel, veterans, and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

American Red Cross of Northwest Florida - \$18,000 to connect OEF/OIF veterans and family members with job training.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - \$75,000 to provide legal services to Afghanistan and Iraq veterans.

Eglin AFB Support Center Activities Council - \$20,000 to provide a monthly Deployed Spouse dining program and special events for families affiliated with Eglin Air Force Base and to offer emergency assistance.

Florida Alliance of Information & Referral Specialists (211) - \$306,990 over two years to establish the BrAlve Helpline, a single 1-800 number accessible throughout the State of Florida and operated through regional 211 call centers, which will offer streamlined information and referral services for active military personnel and veterans serving or who have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan and their families.

Florida State College at Jacksonville - \$79,623 - To support its AI Veterans-2 Students (AI-V2S) Project. (see Page 5)

Greater Jacksonville Area USO, Inc. - \$75,000 to provide mental health professionals

at its family support group meetings to make appropriate referrals to clinical mental health services.

Home Front Hearts - \$75,000 to expand the organization's network of partners and volunteers in North Florida and market services more broadly.

Hurlburt Field Airman & Family Readiness Activities Council - \$40,000 over two years to provide reintegration retreats and activities and a deployed-spouse and returning-families dining program for military personnel and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid - \$79,060 to support the Veterans Legal Advocacy Programs providing free legal advice, representation, and advocacy to Afghanistan and Iraq veterans and their families in North Florida.

JCCI, Inc. - \$121,167 over two years to research and develop a training model that will be used to educate nonprofit service organizations and mental health counselors on culturally appropriate approaches in working with military personnel and their families; and to coordinate the delivery of training sessions in Tallahassee, Pensacola and Gainesville/Daytona to help community organizations and institutions better understand the psychological impacts of deployment and support service members' reintegration into civilian life.

Jewish Family & Community Services - \$75,000 to provide individual, couples, family and group counseling services to military veterans and families affected by deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Legal Services of North Florida - \$100,000 to provide free legal services to Afghanistan and Iraq active-duty personnel, veterans and their families.

Life Management Center - \$72,420 to provide specialized behavioral health services and supported employment services to Iraq and Afghanistan military veterans and their families.

Marion County Veterans Helping Veterans - \$31,000 to provide financial assistance and counseling, advocacy and integration into the VA system.

Military Spouse Corporate Career Network - \$107,000 to provide intensive support to OEF/OIF military spouses in North

Florida who are seeking employment.

Milton Elks Lodge - \$5,000 to provide transportation for veterans to the Veteran Administration Joint Ambulatory Care Center and Pensacola Navy Hospital in Escambia County.

National Guard Foundation - \$429,456 over two years to establish the Florida National Guard Emergency Relief Fund to assist eligible Florida National Guardsmen and families impacted by deployments to Iraq and/or Afghanistan with financial emergencies and reintegration assistance following a deployment.

Santa Fe College - \$75,000 to support its "Current War Student Veteran Leadership Initiative." (see Page 5)

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties - \$240,000 to increase the community's capacity to care for OEF/OIF military personnel, veterans, and families who need access to mental health support services.

University of North Florida - \$217,046 to establish a Veteran Resource Center on campus. (see Page 5)

VeteransPlus Inc. - \$100,500 to offer financial counseling seminars to veterans and active duty personnel and more intensive services for those who need them.

Vets4Vets - \$50,000 to create a peer support group for Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans in Northeast Florida, specifically targeting the Daytona community.

Workforce Board of Okaloosa/Walton Counties - \$50,000 to provide specialized training for school guidance counselors and community support organizations to enable professionals to better understand and provide support to military personnel and families affected by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Workforce Plus - \$150,000 over two years to provide job referral and counseling services to OEF/OIF veterans.

Zero to Three - \$130,000 to develop and provide training models for medical professionals that will assist them in identifying and caring for children who are suffering emotional or physical stress as a result of a family member's deployment.



Helping Floridians impacted by deployment to Afghanistan & Iraq

Kathleen Shaw
kshaw@jaxcf.org
Tracy Tousey
ttousey@jaxcf.org
Program Directors

www.floridabraive.org
www.jaxcf.org



245 Riverside Avenue
Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
904-356-4483