



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 10 Years of Service to Our Warriors and Their Families







UWS is proud to celebrate 10 years of service to our local warriors and their families!

Collaboration has always been at the heart of our work, and we are grateful for countless partners who share our vision of restoring purpose and hope by ending veteran suicide, homelessness, and unemployment in our community. Together, we have served over 10,000 warriors and family members since 2013, and we are only just beginning.

The past decade has come with periods of growth for our organization and expansion of our partnerships, and 2022 was no exception. Over the last year, we formalized our partnership with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, launched our First Responder Program, became 1 of 80 organizations nationwide to pilot the VA's SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Program, and established the Rupert Huse Veteran Center—the first resource center of its kind in the state.

We are as committed as ever to serving our veterans, first responders, and their families. As you'll learn in this report, **our collaborative work is literally saving and changing lives.** We're excited to see what the next decade of service will bring for our organization and the Upstate.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Charlie Hall
Lieutenant Colonel, USMCR
President, UWS



Our founding team gathered to celebrate 10 years of service (*left to right*): Maj. Gen. Mastin Robeson, Don Koonce, Theresa Thompson, Nate Moore, Emily Cargill, Charlie Hall, Kevin McBride, Paul Howell.

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"As a career Navy officer, I understand the dedication to duty that runs deep in our nation's military. Ensuring our local veterans have the resources and opportunities they need is the best way to honor their service to us. I challenge the Upstate community to stand behind these warriors by supporting the work of UWS."

—Richard Hagins, Commander, USN (Ret); Chairman, US&S

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Kara Rutter

Project Victory Gardens

Matt Rutter

Project Victory Gardens

Donna Pittman

Southern Wesleyan
University

Jessica Varney

Pickens County Behavioral
Health Task Force



2022 OUTCOMES & IMPACT



SERVING LOCAL WARRIORS IS OUR DUTY & HONOR



1,310
Local
Veterans
Served



204
Family
Members
Served



16
First
Responders
Served



2,249 Life-Changing Resources Provided



231
Benefits
Assistance



412
Workforce
Development



278
Mental & Physical
Health



288
Housing



171
Basic
Needs



121
Legal



189
Family
Support



318
Recreational
Events



148
Therapeutic
Art



93
Transportation

SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS



BRINGING LIGHT INTO DARK PLACES



Last year was difficult for Jason, a Navy veteran living in Spartanburg. After losing his job, he faced an eviction and became justice-involved for substance misuse. Jason connected with UWS through a friend, and our team worked to address his immediate employment, housing, and behavioral health needs.

During this time, Jason expressed a desire to end his life, saying he was overwhelmed with his financial hardships and lack of purpose. After personally ensuring Jason was safe, our case manager immediately coordinated inpatient care with a behavioral health hospital and drove him to the facility for treatment.

To help Jason remain focused on recovery, our team worked to pause the eviction and requested the court reschedule his hearing. After Jason completed treatment, UWS helped him find transitional housing that supports rehabilitation.

"It takes a true warrior to ask for help," says Rob Reveles, UWS Justice-Involved Veteran Outreach Coordinator. "Jason faced very real challenges and found himself in a dark place. Many of us veterans have been there. Our team is here exactly for those moments, but Jason's openness to receive the help he needed made all the difference in getting on the road to stability."

A SUCCESSFULLY COORDINATED RESPONSE



Thomas is an Army veteran in Anderson and the primary caretaker for his disabled wife. The couple lives on a fixed income and were already having difficulty meeting their mortgage, utility bills, and other needed repairs when their water heater broke. When we connected with them, they only had \$60 in their bank account.

Our Anderson County team coordinated with Glen Plumbing, a local handyman, and a private donor to get a leak repaired and the water heater replaced. We partnered with Anderson Interfaith Ministries for assistance paying the inflated water bill that resulted from the leak. Meals on Wheels and community-based emergency resources provided food and gift cards to sustain the couple while their budget was maxed.

Today, our Anderson case management team continues to seek out and coordinate resources to help Thomas and his wife address other critical vehicle and home repairs, improving their overall stability and well-being.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

Fire fighters, EMS, and law enforcement provide crucial emergency services that keep our communities safe. Like veterans, they put their lives and wellbeing on the line for us and are at risk for many of the same negative outcomes. They deserve support, yet there is a lack of resources dedicated to them.



In 2022, we expanded our services to bridge this critical gap. UWS's First Responder Program seeks to improve access to support for injury and disablement, professional development and career transition services, and perhaps most importantly, mental/behavioral health care.

The vicarious trauma and emotional toll that comes with providing emergency services are often overlooked, but the impact is real. Studies show that law enforcement, fire fighters, and EMS experience suicide, depression, substance use, and post-traumatic stress at high rates. Building on new and longstanding partnerships, we aim to connect first responders to peer support networks, treatment for substance use, counseling services, and more.



UWS's programs have always been centered on community-based solutions. When it comes to supporting first responders, nothing could be more appropriate. "These men and women are vital to our community, and their service often comes at a personal cost," says Theresa Thompson, UWS's COO and former Greenville Police Department officer. "It's our privilege to support their health and wholeness in every way we can."



SSG FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2022, UWS became 1 of 80 organizations nationwide to pilot the Department of Veterans Affairs' new SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Program to help community organizations identify veterans who are at-risk for suicide and provide holistic case management in collaboration with the VA.

Our partnerships with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Prisma Health, detention centers and treatment courts across the Upstate bring us in contact with veterans in crisis daily. Through the SSG Fox Program, we plan to screen 1,000 veterans in the next year and anticipate 10 percent will present as at-risk for suicidal ideation.



The SSG Fox Program also enables us to bring educational opportunities to the community, such as a recent workshop at The Dream Center in Pickens County where nearly 200 people were trained on intervention and suicide prevention.

Reducing and preventing veteran suicide through holistic care has been at the heart of our work for over a decade. The SSG Fox Program supports our life-saving work, and we are grateful so many of our local partners have joined our mission to expand critical services for Upstate veterans.



SSG Parker Gordon Fox joined the Army in 2014 and served as a sniper instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia. Known for a life of generosity and kindness, Fox tragically died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25. His legacy will carry on in the countless veteran lives saved through this suicide prevention program.

RUPERT HUSE VETERAN CENTER



WHOLE PERSON, ONE PLACE

Upstate Warrior Solution (UWS) was established to foster a community that embraces our warriors and their families. Understanding that veterans are diverse and that no single provider can meet every need, we set out to build a network of partners to provide holistic services. For a decade, UWS has served as a hub of these resources, with case managers triaging and coordinating care.



In 2022, we took this collaborative approach to the next level by creating the Rupert Huse Veteran Center (RHVC) in Greenville. A resource center unlike any other in the region, the RHVC brings partner providers and businesses under one roof to streamline services for veterans, first responders, and their families.



Access to holistic, supportive services is crucial for preventing veteran and first responder suicide, and the collaborative of partners behind the RHVC is committed to providing that wrap-around care.



At this one-stop shop, warriors and their families can easily connect with on-site services as well as a host of additional resources through our network of off-site partners. Our providers address workforce development, entrepreneurship, housing stability, legal services, physical and mental health, enrichment through the arts, community integration, and much more.



PARTNER PROVIDERS



To our long-standing partners and donors, *thank you* for your ongoing support. Together we are changing the lives of our local warriors and are poised to accelerate that work in the decades ahead. Through our collaboration, this center will literally save lives.

DONOR RECOGNITION

**Thank you
to our contributors!**

OVER \$25K

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Wells Fargo Foundation

\$10K-\$25K

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Veterans United Foundation

\$2.5K-\$5K

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\$1K-\$2.5K

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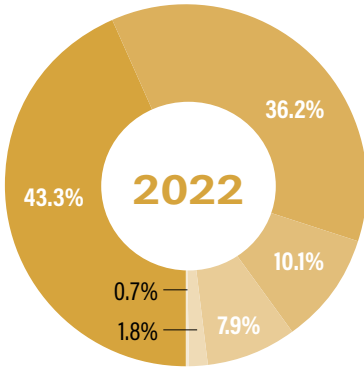
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The Rose and Walter Montgomery
Foundation
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TNJ Trailers, Inc.
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Trusco, Inc.
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Foundation, Inc.
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W.R. & E.H. Floyd Foundation
Warriors Once Again
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Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Wounded Warrior Project
Young Office Enviroments
Youturn Health
Zimmerli Foundation, Inc.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

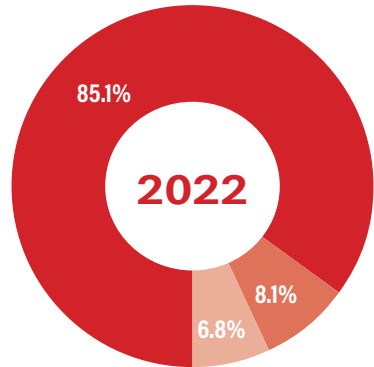
We are staunchly dedicated to responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us and to transparent accountability in all that we do.



TOTAL REVENUE

\$3,391,642

- Fundraising Events **\$1,481,084** (43.3%)*
- Grants **\$1,237,594** (36.2%)
- Individual Donations **\$346,666** (10.1%)
- Corporate Donations **\$268,370** (7.9%)
- Donated Goods/Services **\$61,322** (1.8%)
- Sublease **\$24,000** (0.7%)
- Net Investment Loss **-\$27,394**



TOTAL EXPENSE

\$2,292,357**

- Program **\$1,950,756** (85.1%)
- Management **\$186,339** (8.1%)
- Fundraising **\$155,262** (6.8%)

* The capital campaign for the Rupert Huse Veteran Center accounted for \$1,344,455 of this fiscal year's revenue and is included in the Fundraising Events category.

** The net income of \$1,099,285 was spent in fiscal year 2022 to create the Rupert Huse Veteran Center.



In 2022, we were proud recipients of Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency, which demonstrates our commitment to sharing our progress and impact with the community we serve.



**Together
we are literally
saving and
changing lives.**

**Thank you
for your support!**



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