



BOARD CHAIR LETTER

Dear Friends,

2022 was a year of rejuvenation for Vail Veterans Program (VVP) after navigating the pandemic, with a focused return to our mission of restoring hope and empowering those who sacrificed so much for our country. We were able to offer and deliver a full schedule of Colorado-based winter and summer programming to support and transform the lives of severely wounded military veterans and their families.

Vail Veterans Program first winter program was held in March 2004 serving seven wounded veterans from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Since our initial program, VVP has continued to work with three partner military hospitals in the United States, providing experiential outdoor programming in the Rocky Mountains to more than 3,500 veteran participants and their families, restoring hope, building confidence and helping to define life purpose after their military service injury.

On behalf of the Vail Veterans Program Board of Directors, it is important to acknowledge Vail Veterans Program Founder, Cheryl Jensen. It is her passion and energy that created this unique life-changing experience for thousands of veterans and their families, who continue to require our collective support. The Board would also like to thank our donors and sponsors for their steadfast support and shared passion. Collectively, Vail Veterans Program partners are ensuring the sacrifices our veterans have made are valued and not forgotten. Thank you for your belief in our mission as we continue our important work well into the future.

Sincerely,
Bill Jensen
Board Chair



FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Supporters,

We are pleased to share with you the impact of Vail Veterans Programs in 2022 during the calendar year January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. This re-emergence year provided an opportunity to demonstrate the power of in-person connection, bringing together our wounded veterans, caregivers/ spouses, and children in Vail, with the return of group healing experiences through our programs.

Our commitment to our wounded veterans and their families is unparalleled. Our team's creativity and relentless support through especially enduring times of the pandemic and the evolution of a new norm, allowed us to also quickly return to group in-person programs at the start of 2022.

Complementing the healing nature of the Rocky Mountains, the power of human connection and socialization among military families helped break down barriers formed during isolation. Our 2022 programs offered a new awakening of sorts, re-building trust, hope, confidence, stress-relief and inspiration. For many program participants, it provided the first trip away from their homes or hospital since March 2020. Each program experience felt powerful and beneficial. Participants spent time reflecting and lived in the moment, taking a step forward into their future.

Amidst the transformation for program participants, 2022 also provided an opportunity to focus on the future of Vail Veterans Program. We've spent the past 12 months working to seamlessly transition all day-to-day operations from Founder to Executive Director to continue providing lasting and innovative programs. Commemorating our 20th anniversary in 2024, the organization is well-positioned for our future.

Together, we wish to express our profound gratitude for your support of our life-changing experiences for our nation's heroes.

Gratefully yours,

Cheryl Jensen Jen Brown

Founder Executive Director





Our innovative programs TRANSFORM and IMPROVE the LIVES of our wounded veterans and their families through VITAL **IN-PERSON** CONNECTION.

THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS,
PARTICIPANTS COME TOGETHER
AND CONNECT ON A PERSONAL
AND EMOTIONAL LEVEL.

They learn new skill sets and overcome challenges on the slopes or on the trails that mirror the hardships they face in other aspects of their lives. Together, they encourage, inspire, support, listen and share in a safe and fun environment.

2022 program
participants
were POSITIVELY
IMPACTED by the
power of HUMAN
CONNECTION.

"We all came here in various stages of trying to recover and heal. You have helped to give us hope back. We can do things that we never thought would be possible after what we have been through."

- Mary Garr, US Army COL (Ret)





WINTER
THERAPEUTIC
OUTDOOR
PROGRAMS

SUMMER THERAPEUTIC OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

MILITARY CAREGIVER PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

A SEVERE MILITARY SERVICE INJURY HAS LIFE-CHANGING IMPACTS ON AN ENTIRE FAMILY.

Vail Veterans Program develops unique winter and summer therapeutic experiences intended to eliminate barriers and expose participants to adaptive activities in the Rocky Mountains where nature, fresh air and the healing powers of the mountains can cultivate a new norm in the lives of our service members. We instill hope, independence and create a lifelong community of mutual support.



Programs are offered at NO COST to wounded veterans and their families to SUPPORT their HEALING JOURNEY.















The views from the top of Vail Mountain INSPIRE CONFIDENCE, renew one's SPIRIT, and HEAL the soul.

"Vail Veterans Program has been such an amazing opportunity for my family and I to connect and have a shared experience doing something new together. This trip has given me the opportunity to learn how to do this amazing sport with an adaptive lens, proving to myself and my family we can persevere through anything and overcome the obstacles life throws at us."

- William "Bill" Hochrine, US Marine Corps Capt (Ret)

UNITING OUR WOUNDED VETERANS AND FAMILIES IN THE MOUNTAINS OFFERS A POWERFUL CONNECTION TO ONE ANOTHER AND A SENSE OF FREEDOM, PURPOSE AND INSPIRATION.

Overcoming physical and emotional challenges during Winter Therapeutic Outdoor Programs helps veterans develop new skills, regain confidence, and set new goals as they continue to navigate the life-altering impacts of a service injury.





SUMMER OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES ALLOW
WOUNDED WARRIORS
AND THEIR FAMILIES TO
BENEFIT FROM THE HEALING
ENVIRONMENT OF THE
MOUNTAINS.

Adaptive adventures provide physical accomplishment and create focus. Wellness days teach meditation, yoga and ways to calm the mind in a soothing outdoor setting. Group meals and activities help veterans and families rebuild confidence and bond with other military families.

Families RECONNECT and create lasting MEMORIES.







"Vail Veterans Program is like nothing I could have imagined. It wasn't until returning home and fully reflecting did I understand the impact of the program. VVP provides the opportunity, environment, support, and space for healing of all types."

– Sabina Shaub, US Air Force Capt



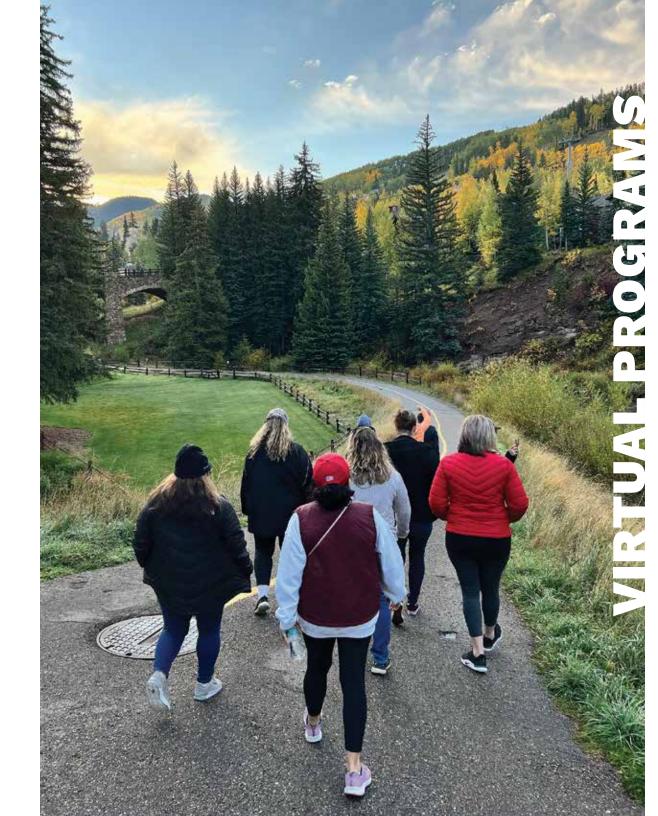
PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WOUNDS OF WAR IMPACT THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

In partnership with Black Mountain Ranch in Colorado, Family Support Programs provide a stress-free, fun outdoor western experience that allows military families to unplug, strengthen family bonds, provide emotional healing, try new activities and restore hope in a safe and comfortable environment. Alumni families enjoy authentic dude ranch adaptive and connective activities that create memories.

Families STRENGTHEN their relationship in a STRESS-FREE environment.

"My girls didn't want to leave Black Mountain Ranch. They had the most amazing time and connected on another level with us, even more so their dad. We are so grateful; this was a much-needed retreat."

– Lymarie Medina, Military Caregiver



VIRTUAL PROGRAMS ALLOW ALUMNI TO STAY CONNECTED, GAIN INSPIRATION AND CONTINUE TO LEARN.

In 2022, a Caregiver Fitness Challenge offered health and wellness tips, inspiration and recognition of accomplishments. Veterans Path to Success program alumni participated in a guided virtual session, led by Dr. Jim Loehr, centered around the power of purpose.

Collectively, 25 Caregivers achieved 6,6776,538 STEPS and 333 SELF-CARE ACTS.

– Charity Reese, Military Caregiver

[&]quot;I am grateful to all of you for sharing your lives so openly as well as showing up for this challenge. Trying to add a few minutes of dedicated self-care makes such a difference and so does this community we share."



A MILITARY CAREGIVER FACES OVERWHELMING CHALLENGES WHICH WERE COMPOUNDED DURING THE PANDEMIC.

In 2022, caregiver programs were especially meaningful, allowing time away for self-care in the mountains. Programs focus on stress management skills, empowerment, nutrition, financial literacy, resiliency, plus mindfulness through yoga and meditation. Caregiver programs allow time for their own health and wellness.

Caregiver programs offer RESILIENCE, SELF-CARE and REJUVENATION.

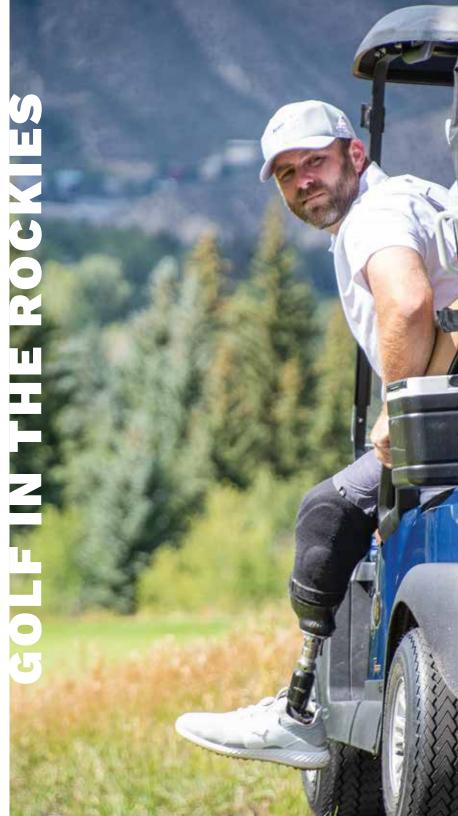
FOR MANY INJURED SERVICE MEMBERS, GOLF THERAPY AIDS IN RECOVERY.

Golf in the Rockies brings wounded veterans together in an outdoor environment to hone skills, focus on their game, work on balance, coordination and stability, and enjoy camaraderie and support.

Golf in the Rockies fosters LIFELONG supportive FRIENDSHIPS and BONDING over a shared PASSION.

"Vail Veterans Program provided me with the belief I can overcome my physical limitations and taught me to embrace my new normal with a renewed sense of being through a positive, driven approach that I now take each and every day."

– Jake Murphy, US Army CPT (Ret)



2022 IMPACT

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS, WE HELPED CHANGE THE LIVES OF WOUNDED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



NUMBER OF LIVES TRANSFORMED

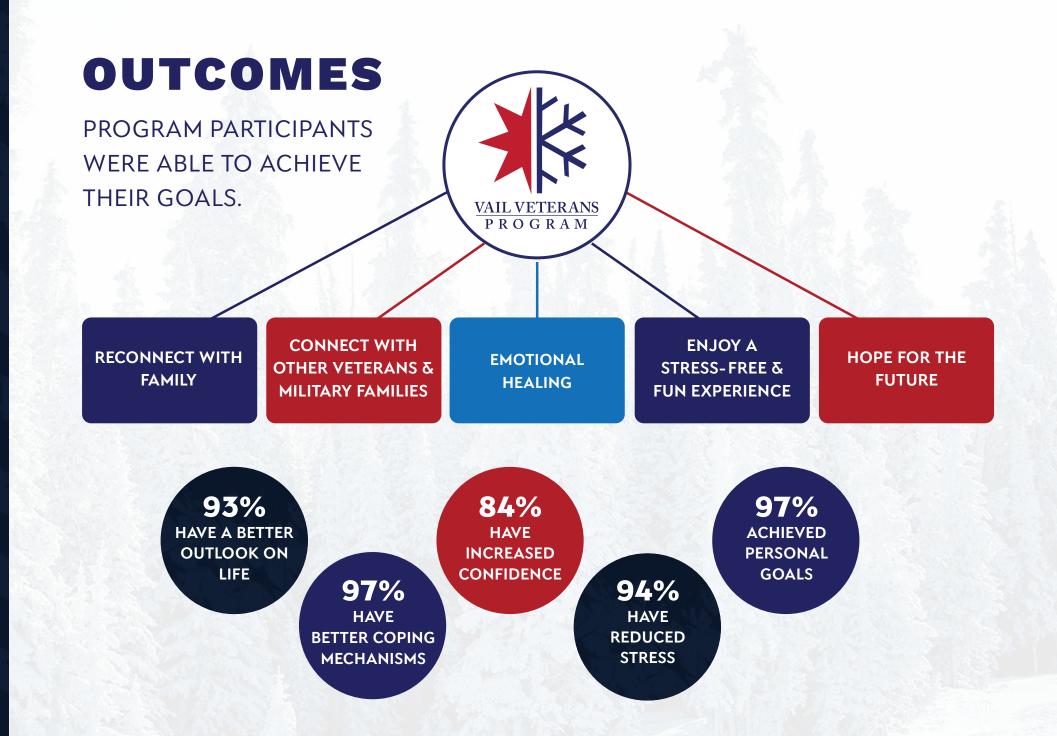


179 Veterans

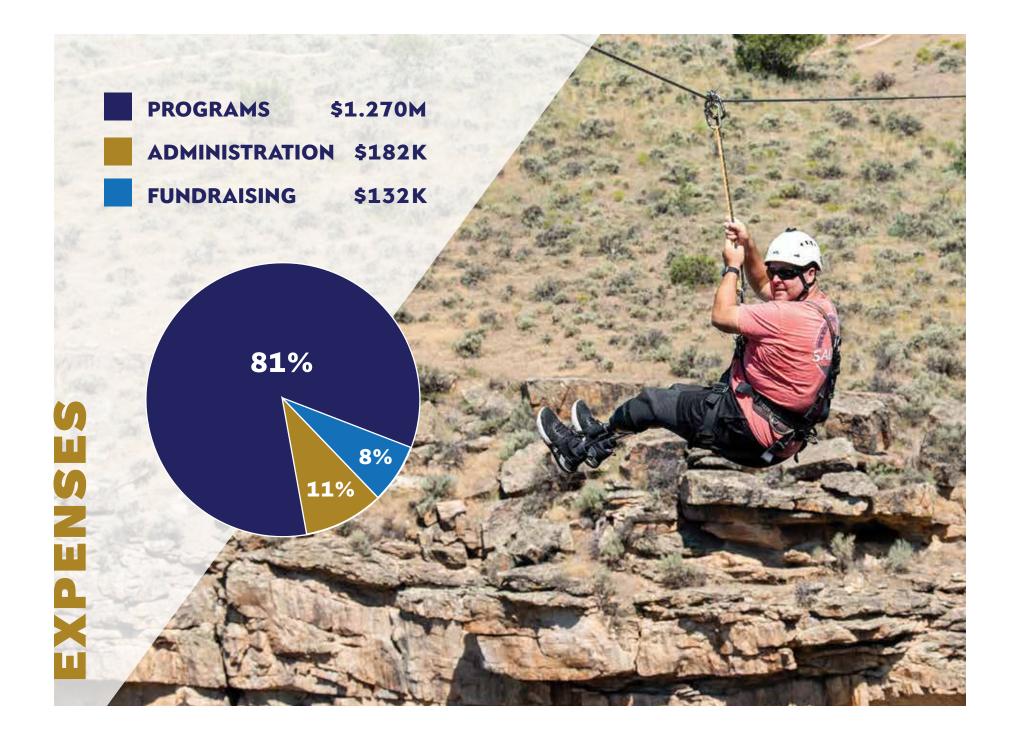
110
Spouses/
Caregivers

33 Children

10 Military Hospital Support Staff







\$100,000 +

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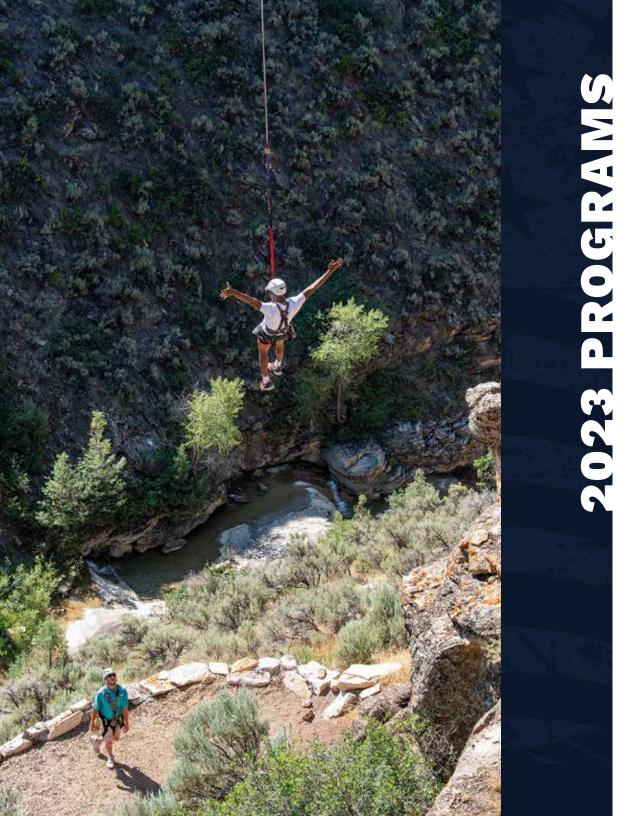












Winter Family Program January 22 - 27

Winter Mountain Adventure Program March 5 - 10

Family Support Program: Black Mountain Ranch June 11 - 17

Summer Family Program July 16 - 21

Family Support Program: Black Mountain Ranch August 13 - 19

Golf in the Rockies August 21 - 25

Military Caregiver Retreat September 6 - 10

Military Caregiver Reunion September 27 - October 1

Veterans Path to Success October 16 - 20









