VETS INTENDS TO END VETERAN SUICIDE

VETS
ANNUAL REPORT 2021
When it comes to getting the support veterans need, every minute counts. VETS is the leading organization focused on ending the veteran suicide epidemic with psychedelic therapy.
Dear friends and supporters of VETS,

What a year it has been! While 2021 presented many challenges and setbacks, it was also a year of unprecedented growth and excitement for the mission of Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS). As word of our work continues to spread, we have been met with an increase in applications, interest, and most importantly, love and support.

Together, we are creating an impact that will ripple out across communities and throughout generations. Hope is being restored to individuals, marriages, families, and futures. We are turning the tide on veteran suicide!

After 20 years of sustained combat, our nation’s veterans deserve access to therapies that work! We know firsthand the power and premise of psychedelic therapies, which is why we are committed to helping all veterans receive access to them. We are kicking off 2022 with a steadfast commitment to expanding our messaging and impact to do just that.

The core of our programming remains the same:

**Resources:** For Special Operations veterans in need of a lifeline, many of whom are clinging to the promise of psychedelic therapy as a last hope. We will expand our programmatic offerings in 2022 to provide an even more comprehensive support solution to those in our pipeline.

**Research:** Our groundbreaking collaborative study with Stanford University will come to an end in 2022, and we’ll be unveiling a first-of-its-kind data collection partnership with Ohio State University.

**Advocacy:** Our involvement with the historic passage of Texas House Bill 1802 has opened similar opportunities in a number of other states, prompting the drafting of VETS’ model legislation. In addition to increasing our policy efforts at the state level, we are implementing a federal strategy as well. We are confident that 2022 will be a year of exciting policy initiatives across the nation.

We realize that we’ve only arrived at this pivotal place because of the incredible support of our amazing VETS community. We are humbled to stand alongside you and honored to continue carrying the VETS mission forward for all who are in need. Thank you for your steadfast support!

With deep gratitude and respect,

Marcus and Amber Capone
Co-Founders
Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS)
Our Mission

To end the veteran suicide epidemic by providing resources, research, and advocacy for U.S. military veterans seeking psychedelic-assisted therapies for traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), addiction, and other mental health conditions.

Our Vision

We envision a world where our veterans have access to the most advanced healthcare options to heal from the mental and physical wounds of war.

Our Values

We Lead with Integrity
We are the vanguard in finding effective tools to heal our fellow veterans.

We Are Determined
For veterans on the brink of suicide, every minute counts. VETS is never out of the fight and we prioritize expediency, effectiveness, and perseverance through struggle.

We Possess Resolve
Enormous resilience and bravery are needed to overcome the mental health challenges associated with trauma, and we are leading the way in finding better ways to heal our fellow veterans.

We Work in Service
We are proudly and humbly in service of our fellow veterans, families, and communities. VETS is dedicated to saving lives, with gratitude and generosity for those who support us along the way.

We Lead with Compassion
We recognize the suffering of our brothers and sisters as our own. We know what it’s like to feel separated from our families, friends, and ourselves.

We Embrace Trust
We have faith in the character, strength, and commitment of the veterans who seek healing with psychedelic therapy. VETS is here to lend a helping hand.

Resources
We provide Foundational Healing Grants and Coaching to veterans within our programs.

Research
Supporting dedicated, scientific research in our programs to better understand how psychedelic-assisted therapies can help veterans.

Advocacy
We’re shedding light on root-cause issues, changing the narrative around veteran mental health, and proving the efficacy of these healing modalities. VETS is leading the way at both the state and federal levels in pushing for policy change around psychedelic-assisted therapies.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcus Capone
Chair of the Board

Marcus is an entrepreneur and former Navy SEAL who spent a sizable portion of his 13-year military career deployed to a war zone. After Marcus’s transformational experience with psychedelic medicine, he felt compelled to immediately begin helping others who were also experiencing the same post-war challenges.

Marcus has been involved with several start-up companies since leaving the military, serves on a number of advisory boards, and is the Co-Founder of VETS. He is currently finishing his MBA at USC Marshall School of Business.

Nick Norris

Nick is a graduate of both the United States Naval Academy and Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL (BUD/S) Class 24/7. Upon completion of SEAL training in 2004, Nick assumed progressively higher positions of leadership within Naval Special Warfare. His deployed roles included combat advisor to Iraqi and Afghan military units, Cross Functional Team Leader, and Brigade Force Commander during combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Originally from Chicago, Nick received his Bachelor in Science from the United States Naval Academy in 2009 and his Masters of Science in Real Estate from The University of San Diego in 2019. Nick is also the Co-Founder and CEO of Proven Products, a wellness company that is committed to positively impacting customer health via both personal care products and nutritional supplements.

Sara Wilkinson

Sara Wilkinson grew up the youngest child in a military family. Traveling the globe and attending over 15 schools before graduating prepared her for a life married to Navy SEAL Chad Wilkinson. Along with military life, Tara has been in fitness injury for over 15 years. As a successful gym owner and tenacious entrepreneur, Tara was recruited by CrossFit LLC to become a course supervisor, and spent the past 4 years traveling the globe, engaging in public speaking, training, and instilling cohesion and camaraderie within the CrossFit global community. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree within the College of Health and Human Performance from the University of Florida and is a Level 3 Crossfit Coach.

Tara’s husband served 35 years as an active duty Navy SEAL with more than 10 deployments before succumbing to the affects of PTSD, TBIs and blast wave injuries leading to his death by suicide on Oct. 29, 2016. The couple have two teenage children. While Chad was unable to receive treatments, Tara has seen the positive impact VETS has provided to Chad’s comrades and hopes to lend her voice and story to change the narrative and numbers surrounding the veteran suicide epidemic.

Jarred Taylor

Jarred Taylor is originally from Washington state. After graduating high school in 2002, he joined the Air Force, where spent 16 years as a joint terminal attack controller. At the end of his time in the Air Force he co-founded two successful companies: Artline II clothing and (Leadsinger’s) Whiskey, as well as launched a successful podcast, Drinkin’ Bros. In 2011, Jarred co-founded Black Rifle Coffee with Matt Best and Evan Hafer, which has become a stable in the conservative coffee space and directly rivals Starbucks.

STAFF

Amber Capone
Executive Director

Cynthia Rajaic
Lead Integration Specialist

Suzanne Vogel
Program Director

Chris Bollnesa
System Administrator

Brad Burge
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Robert Myers
Director of Ambassador Program

Ashley Ogburn
Project Manager

Dylan Petties
Research Coordinator

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Amanda Feilding

Dr. Lynn Marie Moniei

Dr. Joseph Barraclough
2021 GOALS

Despite the tumultuousness of 2021, we met and exceeded each of our goals.

1. Support 150 SOF veterans and spouses with Foundational Healing Grants
2. Increase our fundraising by 400%
3. Host our first annual fundraising gala in San Diego
4. Expand our group coaching and community support for grant recipients
5. Launch research initiatives to better understand the effects of psychedelic-therapy for veterans with TBI and substance use
6. Develop our internal systems and external communications to reach more veterans, more efficiently
7. Rely on the national narrative of psychedelic-assisted therapies by engaging in public conversations and developing strategic relationships to help more veterans

6. Different psychedelic modalities were utilized to help heal these veterans
   - 5-MEO-DMT
   - Ayahuasca
   - Iboga
   - Psilocybin
   - Ibogaine
   - Ketamine

$465,043 awarded in Foundational Healing Grants

685 hours of individual integration coaching were provided to vets grant recipients

$110,563 awarded for integration coaching

50 hours of men’s integration group sessions were provided to vets grant recipients

50 hours of women’s integration group sessions were provided to vets grant recipients

$24,084 in travel assistance was provided

150 hours of spouse/supporters group sessions were provided to grant recipients’ partners

Vets Foundational Healing grants were provided to US military veterans and spouses
They represent 2,215 years of military service to our country and 1,107 post-9/11 combat deployments.

2021 Achievements

Foundational Healing Grants

In 2021, VETS was able to support 150 Special Operations Forces veterans, representing the Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, compared to 118 in 2020.

Spouse Grants

VETS supported 9 Gold Star spouses and 11 other veteran spouses through Foundational Healing Grants.

2021 Program Cost

150 Grants
- Total Treatment Grants: $662,424
- Travel, Coaching, and Other Direct Support: $197,580

Grants provided for treatment with ketamine, ibogaine, iboga, S-Methoxy-5-MeO-MT, psilocybin, and ayahuasca

Total Direct Program Cost: $865,043

Group Coaching and Support

In 2021, grant recipients received 750 hours of individual coaching and integration support, plus weekly yoga and meditation. Additionally, veterans and their spouses engaged in 150 hours of group coaching across four new groups.

- Men's Integration Circle
- Women's Integration Circle
- Spouses as Supporters Integration Circle
- Weekly Kundalini Yoga

They represent 2,215 years of military service to our country and 1,107 post-9/11 combat deployments.

More Reasons to Love Our 2021 Vets Grant Recipients:

Military Veterans: 128
Veteran's Spouses: 19
Gold Star Spouses: 3

They reside in 28 states with Texas, California and Virginia having the highest concentrations.

E-Course

VETS has partnered with Psychedelic.Support, a leading psychedelic education provider, to create interactive and in-depth information about psychedelic-assisted therapies specifically for veterans.

Refined the VETS mission, brand identity, and communications strategy to better advocate for veteran health and psychedelic therapies.

Expanded the VETS Team and Advisory Board

Donor Support

We received $4,907,815 in donations in 2021, compared to $870,780 in 2020 and $228,297 in 2019.

> In December 2021, we received our largest donation ever to establish the $1 million Janice B. Birthingham Endowment for Veteran Healing, which will be used to expand VETS' capacity to provide Foundational Healing Grants. Read more on page 18.

Retrospective Study

On November 16, 2020, the first-ever study to explore the effectiveness of psychedelic therapy in veterans for treating alcohol use disorder and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Psychodermatology Studies. Dr. Alan K. Davis was the lead investigator for the study, and was also the lead investigator for the previously published (July 2020) study of psychedelic therapy for trauma-related psychological and cognitive impairment in SOF veterans. Together, the two studies were part of the grassroots effort that launched VETS in 2018.

Study Results

- Significant and very large decreases in alcohol use
- Significant and very large decreases in PTSD symptoms
- Significant and large increases in psychological flexibility
- 85% reduced alcohol use on non-risky levels
- 83% were abstinent 90 days later

Course Curriculum

Lesson 1: Psilocybin 101
- Learn psilocybin terminology and the history of psilocybin.

Lesson 2: Honor Health & Psychedelic Research
- Understand common mental and physical challenges that veterans face and what current psychedelic research suggests for these conditions.

Lesson 3: Do You Psilocybin? How
- Define your psychedelic intake on the brain, body, and behavior.

Lesson 4: The Ins & Outs of Psychedelic Substances
- Gain insight into how psychedelics influence and their aggress in medical and non-medical settings.

Lesson 5: Taking a Psychedelic Journey
- Learn about the integration process of preparing for a psychedelic journey, the different types of settings where psychedelics are commonly taken, and how reduction techniques.

Lesson 6: Psychedelic Integration & Morality
- Take the first step into the significance of integration and care after a psychedelic experience. Learn tools for promoting integration and commit to measures for distilling otherwise.
Strength In Numbers Fundraising Gala

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, over 400 attendees gathered for our sold-out, first-ever fundraising event, the Strength In Numbers Gala to End Veteran Suicide. It was a powerful and heartwarming evening honoring the brave heroes who’ve selflessly served and defended our nation. The event featured a vibrant cocktail reception, a silent auction, an inspiring drumline, elegant dinner, speaker addresses and a live auction. Countless connections were made within the Special Operations and psychedelic therapy communities. We can’t wait for next year!
VETS RECEIVES $3 MILLION ENDOWMENT TO GIVE VETERANS A LIFELINE WITH PSYCHEDELIC THERAPIES

The Janice B. Brittingham Endowment for Veteran Healing cements VETS' ability to offer Foundational Healing Grants to veterans.

In March 2022, we announced the establishment of the Janice B. Brittingham Endowment for Veteran Healing. The $3 million fund will be used to expand VETS’ capacity to provide Foundational Healing Grants to veterans seeking treatment with psychedelic-assisted therapies.

Before my mother passed, she asked me to find the very best organization where her donation would do the most good for our vets and wounded warriors. I believe I have fulfilled her wishes by placing her generous donation in the hands of VETS!"

– Janice’s son, Jack Brittingham

The endowment is made possible by a major gift from the estate of Janice B. Brittingham. Janice was born to Toby and Sarah Burke; her father was an Air Force officer who retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. As an “Air Force brat,” Jan lived in many different locations while she was growing up, finally moving to Dallas, Texas, in her mid-20’s where she met Robert M. Brittingham, whom she married soon after. She remained by his side for more than 30 years.

The endowment is the largest gift that VETS has received since its founding in 2019.

Strength In Numbers was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

House Bill 1802 Passes in Texas, Opening The Door for Psychedelic Studies

In 2021, VETS helped pass HB 1802 in Texas, authorizing Texas state-sponsored research of psychedelic-assisted therapy for veterans with PTSD. Introduced by Rep. Alex Dominguez (D), the bill moved through the Texas legislature quickly. With broad support from a bipartisan coalition of policymakers, scientists, veterans, family members, and others, while states across the country consider how best to address the mental health crisis facing our nation, I hope they will again look to Texas for leadership,” said Rep. Dominguez.

Advancing Scientific Research

Stanford Brain Imaging Study Launches after COVID Delay

After an 18-month pause due to COVID, Stanford University gave the green light for Dr. Niles Williams’ ongoing observational and brain imaging study of the safety of ibogaine-assisted therapy in veterans with head trauma, combat, or blast exposure, which VETS is supporting by referring Foundation Healing Grant recipients as study participants. In addition to psychological and cognitive testing of 30 veterans receiving ibogaine treatment outside of the United States, Study participants will also receive functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) to explore possible brain changes associated with its use. The first participants were scanned in December 2021.

Media and Public Education

Conferences

In 2021, VETS was a proud partner of Mind Medicine Australia’s International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness, which took place in Melbourne in November.

Marcus and Amber Capone presented on “The Heroic Dose,” a one-day virtual conference presented by Microdose exploring psychedelic therapies for veterans and first responders, in April. They were also invited speakers at Microdose’s Molecular Masterclass Ibogaine Conference on the role of ibogaine in veteran healthcare.

Marcus and Amber Capone were featured alongside some of the most influential voices in modern healing, including Deepak Chopra, Dr. Joe Dispenza, and Anthony William (The Medical Medium), during the 2021 Hay House HEAL Summit.

Marcus and Amber spoke at Wonderland Miami, the world’s largest psychedelic business conference to date, about their work to end the veteran suicide epidemic.

Podcasts

VETS sat down in 2021 for conversations on:

- The New Health Club Podcast
- The Shawn Ryan Show
- Free Range American Podcast
- Cleansed Hot Podcast
- Field Tripping Podcast
- The Team Never Quit Podcast
- The Duncan Russell Family Hour Podcast
- The HEAL Podcast
- Psychedelics Today
- Brass and Unity

WE ARE NEVER OUT OF THE FIGHT
Articles & Interviews
VETS was also featured in:
- TIME Magazine: Inside Illegale.
- San Diego Union Tribune: "Post-9/11 war vets go to Mexico to treat trauma with a psychedelic that's illegal in the US".
- The Donlon Report: "Tears will study psychedelic therapy to treat veterans with PTSD.
- Danford on Newsinvitation: "Experts weigh in on the often misunderstood world of psychedelics."

Social Media
We successfully expanded our community through our social media channels, all of which saw major growth in 2021. Stay connected with VETS in 2022!

Expanding the VETS Team
In 2021, VETS added multiple members to our team who bring their talents to support VETS' mission:

- Robert Myers: Director of Ambassador Program
- Eric Smith: Director of Veteran Mentorship
- Jarred Taylor: VETS Board of Directors
- Suzanne Vogel: Programs Director (Previously served on Board)
- Ashley Ogburn: Project Manager
- Dylan Peters: Research Coordinator

Profit and Loss
January through December 2021

INCOME
- Grants and Contributions - Unrestricted: $1,386,551.98
- Grants and Contributions - Restricted: $3,210,000.00
- Non-Cash Donations (In-kind): $1,810.50
- Other Income: $50
- Special Events: $309,452.61
- TOTAL INCOME: $4,907,815.59

GROSS PROFIT
$4,907,815.59

EXPENSES
- Program Expenses: $662,424.17
- Personnel Expenses: $211,097.14
- Professional Services: $104,184.33
- Other Professional Services: $150,605.49
- TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,130,170.05

NET OPERATING INCOME
$3,777,645.54

NET INCOME
$3,777,645.54

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS AND PARTNERS
TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING THE LIVES OF VETERANS!

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MAPS
THE CHANGE REACTION
DR. BRONNER’S
NAVY SEALS FUND
SEAL FUTURE FOUNDATION
PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE ASSOCIATION
OURA RING
VITAL WARRIOR
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
2022 GOALS

EXPANDING

• Policy & Advocacy
• Education
• Programmatic Growth
• Research

RESEARCH

• VETS Program Evaluation, in partnership with Ohio State University
• Completion of the Stanford University ibogaine fMRI study
• Evaluation of studies involving MDMA, psilocybin, and 5-MeO-DMT

ADVOCACY

• Model legislation
• Development of state & Federal policy strategies
• Increased national media coverage
• VETS intends to expand our mission and footprint globally, creating impact around the world.

RESOURCES

• 150 Grant Recipients
• Expanded community engagement & online resource portal
• Expanded group integration support
• Expanded VETS Ambassador program
• Peer-to-Peer Support
• Donor Relations
• Advocacy
• Meditation trainings
• Quarterly offerings
• VETS integration workbook
• Veterans E-Course