

*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.

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# LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

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 promise 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.

*VETS IS DEDICATED TO CONTINUING THE  
FIGHT TO END VETERAN SUICIDE*

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)



# THE VETS VISION

## 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 Pillars

### 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.

## 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're 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.

# 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 friends 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.



**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, Sara has been in fitness injury for over 20 years. As a successful gym owner and tenacious entrepreneur, Sara was recruited by CrossFit LLC to become a course supervisor, and spent the past 8 years traveling the globe, engaging in public speaking, training, and instilling cohesiveness and camaraderie within the CrossFit global community. She holds a Bachelors of Science degree within the College of Health and Human Performance from the University of Florida and is a Level 4 CrossFit Coach.

Sara's husband served 21 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, 2018. The couple have two teenage children. While Chad was unable to receive treatments, Sara has seen the positive impact VETS has provided to Chad's teammates and hopes to lend her voice and story to change the narrative and numbers surrounding the veteran suicide epidemic.



**Nick Norris**

Nick is a graduate of both the United States Naval Academy and Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL (BUD/S) Class 247. 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 Ground 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 2003 and his Masters of Science in Real Estate from The University of San Diego in 2013. Nick is also the Co-Founder and CEO of Protekt Products, a wellness company that is committed to positively impacting customer health via both personal care products and nutritional supplements.



**Jarred Taylor**

Jarred Taylor is originally from Washington state. After graduating high school in 2002, he joined the Air Force, where spent 14 years as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller. At the end of his time in the Air Force he co-founded two successful companies: Article 15 clothing and Leadslinger's Whiskey, as well as launched a successful podcast, Drinkin' Bros. In 2014, Jarred co-founded Black Rifle Coffee with Mat Best and Evan Hafer, which has become a staple in the conservative coffee space and directly rivals Starbucks.

# STAFF

**Amber Capone**  
Executive Director

**Cynthia Rajcic**  
Lead Integration Specialist

**Suzanne Vogel**  
Program Director

**Chris Bellesia**  
System Administrator

**Brad Burge**  
Director of Communications and Public Relations

**Robert Myers**  
Director of Ambassador Program

**Ashley Ogburn**  
Project Manager

**Dylan Peters**  
Research Coordinator

**Eric Smith**  
Director of Veteran Mentorship

**DaisyMae VanValkenburgh**  
Social Media Associate

# ADVISORY BOARD



**Dr. Bob Koffman**



**Dick Simon**



**Dr. Mark Bates**



**Frank Larkin**



**Lt. Gen Martin R. Steele**



**David Bronner**



**Brian Losey and Ivy Losey**



**Kevin J. Weiss**



**Dr. Rick Doblin**



**Dr. Kirk Parsley**



**Josh Green**



**Amanda Feilding**



**Dr. Lynn Marie Morski**



**Dr. Joseph Barsuglia**



# 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 Reshape 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
- IBOGAIN
- KETAMINE

VETS FOUNDATIONAL HEALING GRANTS WERE PROVIDED TO US MILITARY VETERANS AND SPOUSES

**150**

**\$465,043** AWARDED IN FOUNDATIONAL HEALING GRANTS

**685** HOURS OF INDIVIDUAL INTEGRATION COACHING WERE PROVIDED TO VETS GRANT RECIPIENTS

**50** HOURS OF SPOUSE/SUPPORTERS GROUP SESSIONS WERE PROVIDED TO GRANT RECIPIENTS' PARTNERS

**\$24,084** IN TRAVEL ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED

**\$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

**12** DIFFERENT TREATMENT PROVIDERS PROVIDED VETS GRANT RECIPIENTS WITH PSYCHEDELIC ASSISTED THERAPIES



# 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 110 in 2020.

## Spouse Grants

VETS supported **3 Gold Star spouses** and **19 other veteran spouses** through Foundational Healing Grants.

## 2021 Program Cost

**150 Grants**

**Total Treatment Grants:** \$465,043

**Travel, Coaching, and Other Direct Support:** \$197,380

Grants provided for treatment with: ketamine, ibogaine, iboga, 5-MeO-DMT, psilocybin, and ayahuasca

**TOTAL DIRECT PROGRAM COST:**  
**\$662,424**

## 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

MORE REASONS TO LOVE OUR 2021 VETS GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**128** MILITARY VETERANS

**19** VETERAN'S SPOUSES

**3** GOLD STAR SPOUSES



THEY RESIDE IN **28 STATES** WITH TEXAS, CALIFORNIA AND VIRGINIA HAVING THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS

THEY REPRESENT **2,215 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY** AND 1,107 POST-9/11 COMBAT DEPLOYMENTS

THEY SERVE IN **4 BRANCHES OF THE US MILITARY NAVY, ARMY, MARINES AND AIR FORCE**

THEY ARE AIR FORCE COMBAT CONTROLLERS, AIR FORCE PARARESCUEMEN, ARMY GREEN BERETS, ARMY NIGHT STALKERS, ARMY RANGERS, MARINE MARSOB, NAVY EOD, NAVY SEALS, NAVY CORPSMAN, NAVY F-14 PILOTS, AND SOF DIRECT COMBAT SUPPORT VETERANS.



## Donor Support

We received \$4,907,815 in donations in 2021, compared to \$870,780 in 2020 and \$226,297 in 2019.

> In December 2021, we received our largest donation ever to establish the \$3 million Janice B. Brittingham Endowment for Veteran Healing, which will be used to expand VETS' capacity to provide Foundational Healing Grants. *Read more on page 16.*

## Retrospective Study

On November 16, 2021, 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 Psychedelic 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 2019.

## 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

**\$4,907,815**  
**Funds Raised**



## 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 to non-risky levels

33% were abstinent 30 days later

## Course Curriculum

### Lesson 1: Psychedelics 101

Learn psychedelic terminology and the history of psychedelics.

### Lesson 2: Veteran Health & Psychedelic Research

Understand common mental and physical challenges that veterans face and what current psychedelic research applies to these conditions.

### Lesson 3: How Do Psychedelics Work?

Explore how psychedelics interact on the brain, body, and behavior.

### Lesson 4: The Ins & Outs of Psychedelic Substances

Gain in-depth knowledge on psychedelic substances and their uses in medical and non-medical settings.

### Lesson 5: Taking a Psychedelic Journey

Learn about the importance of preparing for a psychedelic journey, the different types of settings where psychedelics are commonly taken, and harm reduction techniques.

### Lesson 6: Psychedelic Integration & Aftercare

Dive deep into the significance of integration and care after a psychedelic experience. Learn skills for practicing integration and connect to resources for obtaining aftercare.



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## 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 heart warming 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!



**THE FIRST ANNUAL**  
**VETS FUNDRAISING GALA**  
 NOVEMBER 11, 2021 • HOTEL DEL CORONADO  
 @veteransolutions #strengthinnumbers



GOVERNOR RICK PERRY



TIM FERRISS



JARRED TAYLOR



DR. RICK DOBLIN



MARCUS LUTTRELL



BRIAN LOSEY



SARA WILKINSON



# 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 Burks; 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

DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



TABLE 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 once 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. Nolan Williams' upcoming 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 Foundational 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.



WE ARE NEVER OUT OF THE FIGHT

VETERANS EXPLORING TREATMENT SOLUTIONS

## 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.



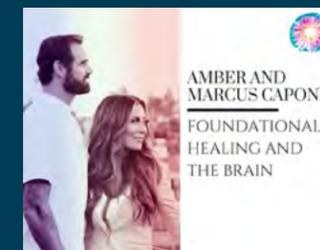
Microdose



### Podcasts

VETS sat down in 2021 for conversations on:

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



### Articles & Interviews

VETS was also featured in:

- TIME Magazine:** Inside Ibogaine
- 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:** "Texas will study psychedelic therapy to treat veterans with PTSD"
- Banfield on NewsNation:** "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!

2020		2021		2022	
	@VeteransExploringTreatmentSolutions FOLLOWERS 283 → 1,158 → 1,724		Vets, Inc. SUBSCRIBERS 0 → 216 → 1,510		@veteransolutions FOLLOWERS 0 → 2,172 → 9,077
			@vetsolutionsorg FOLLOWERS 0 → 140 → 767		

### 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



**Ashley Ogburn**  
Project Manager



**Dylan Peters**  
Research Coordinator



**Suzanne Vogel**  
Programs Director  
*Previously served on Board*

**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

## 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
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,907,815.59</b>

### 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
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,130,170.05</b>

### NET OPERATING INCOME

**\$3,777,645.54**

### NET INCOME

**\$3,777,645.54**



# 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

## 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

## 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.



VETSOLUTIONS.ORG

