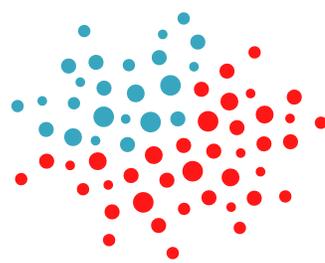




ANNUAL
REPORT
2020



VETS
VETERANS EXPLORING
TREATMENT SOLUTIONS



A person in a military uniform is shown from the back, looking out over a field of flowers. The image has a strong red color cast. The person's head is at the top, and their hands are clasped behind their back. The field of flowers is in the background, slightly out of focus.

**WE ARE STILL
LOSING**

22

**VETERANS
PER DAY
TO SUICIDE**



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.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

- 6** A Letter from Our Founders
- 7** Board of Directors
- 8** Mission | Vision | Values
- 9** Pillars of VETS
- 10** Goals
- 10-11** Achievements
- 12-13** Highlights
- 14** Looking to the Future
- 15** Financial Highlights

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS



With so much happening in our world today, we feel even more compelled and convicted to lend our voices to the growing chorus of support for psychedelic-assisted therapies. Whether dealing with invisible injuries sustained on the battlefield, or the everyday challenges of life, there is significant promise in the power of psychedelic medicine.

As this psychedelic renaissance continues to rapidly evolve, we find ourselves at the forefront of the next frontier in modern medicine. This is both exciting and humbling, and we find great honor in helping lead the way for veterans to receive access to these lifesaving interventions.

2020 was wrought with many unforeseen hardships, including news that despite increased public attention and funding for prevention efforts, the rate of veteran suicides has actually increased in recent years. Sadly, the data we have lags years behind what's happening now, and the coronavirus pandemic is widely expected to make the situation even worse. VETS' work to end veteran suicide is now more important than ever, because we have seen that psychedelic therapies can make a difference.

Despite the challenges of 2020, VETS was able to far exceed the goals and expectations of our first operating year. We provided Foundational Healing Grants to 110 Special Operations veterans and their spouses, exceeding our goal of 100. During the COVID-19 quarantine, we implemented remote group coaching support for men, as well as two groups for women: Spouses' Integration and Spouses as Supporters. The development of a thriving community of support is a distinguishing factor at VETS.

With a solid operating foundation in place, and a growing team, VETS is looking forward to expanding our growth in 2021. Our focus is to continue serving Special Operations veterans, while increasing the number of grants written, expanding programmatic offerings, engaging in a number of exciting research initiatives, and broadening our advocacy efforts. The success of our programming will enable us to advocate for broad changes to veteran healthcare on the national level. We take great honor in doing so!

We could never do this without the amazing support of our generous donors and our amazing veteran community. Thank you for partnering with us in this lifesaving work!



Marcus Capone & Amber Capone
VETS Co-Founders

“VETS' work to end veteran suicide is now more important than ever, because we have seen that psychedelic therapies can make a difference.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Marcus Capone | Chairman

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 entheogenic 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 has a Bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, a Master's Degree in Global Leadership from The University of San Diego, and an MBA from USC Marshall Business School.



Amber Capone | Executive Director

Amber has a history of fixing, building, and tenaciously seeking solutions to complex challenges. In 2019, she chose to walk away from a successful career as a top-producing real estate agent in order to pursue her most critical work yet, serving as Co-Founder and Executive Director of VETS.

As her own personal and professional life began to unravel upon Marcus's separation from the military, she became determined not to become a victim, but to pursue victory for her own family, as well as countless others who are suffering. Amber possesses a heart for serving others, and a steadfast determination to make a difference.



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, deploying to 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 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.



Sara Wilkinson

Sara grew up in a military family, traveling the globe and attending over 15 schools before graduating and marrying Navy SEAL, Chad Wilkinson. Sara has been in the fitness industry 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 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 October 29, 2018. The couple have two teenage children. Unable to receive treatments, himself, 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.



Suzanne Vogel

Suzanne studied English literature at the University of Richmond, and holds certificates in nonprofit management from Duke University and special education advocacy from The College of William and Mary's Law School. Suzanne raised 5 children and supported her husband through 11 wartime deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. She was a Naval Special Warfare ombudsman during her husband's active duty career, serving as a liaison between families and the military command. Suzanne has over 10 years of experience creating and growing successful non-profit organizations to benefit military families. She is honored to serve as secretary on the VETS Board of Directors.

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 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 challenges associated with trauma, and we are leading the way in finding better ways to help 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 embrace 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 cultivate trust

We share a mutual sense of character, strength, and commitment of the veterans who seek healing with psychedelic therapy. VETS is here to lend a helping hand.

“We are never
out of the fight.”

OUR PILLARS



RESOURCES

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



RESEARCH

It is our goal to support 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, and proving the efficacy of these healing modalities.

2020 GOALS

VETS COMMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING GOALS IN 2020:

- 1 Support 100 SOF veterans through Foundational Healing Grants
- 2 Increase our fundraising by 400%
- 3 Expand our group coaching and community support for grant recipients
- 4 Launch research initiatives to better understand the effects of psychedelic-assisted therapy in veterans with TBI
- 5 Develop our internal systems and external communications to reach more veterans, more efficiently
- 6 Reshape the national narrative of psychedelic-assisted therapies by engaging in meaningful conversations and developing strategic relationships that will ultimately help more veterans



DESPITE THE UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES OF 2020, WE MET AND EXCEEDED EACH OF OUR GOALS

110
Grant Recipients



FOUNDATIONAL HEALING GRANTS

In 2020, VETS was able to support 110 Special Forces veterans (Navy, Army, and Marine Corps). With this momentum, we have set a goal of 125 Foundational Healing Grants in 2021.

Spouse Grants

For the first time, we supported 15 veteran spouses through Foundational Healing Grants.

2020 Program Cost

- 110 Grant Recipients
- Total Treatment Grant Cost: \$311,625
- Total Travel Grants: \$12,130
- Coaching Cost: \$55,940
- Grants Written for: Ketamine, Ibogaine, 5-MeO-DMT, and Ayahuasca

\$870K+
Funds Raised



DONOR SUPPORT

We received \$870,780 in donations in 2020, compared to \$226,297 in 2019.

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

GROUP COACHING AND SUPPORT

In 2020, grant recipients received 380 hours of individual coaching and integration support, plus weekly community yoga classes. Additionally, veterans and their spouses engaged in 110 hours of group coaching across four new groups. In 2021, we hope to provide at least 850 hours of group coaching and 1:1 support.

- Men's Integration Circle
- Women's Integration Circle
- Spouses as Supporters Integration Circle
- Weekly virtual group yoga classes

92%
 "very likely" to
 recommend
 the treatment
 to other
 veterans

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

51 veterans participated in a retrospective study, led by Dr. Alan Kooi Davis of Ohio State University. This study examined the impact of ibogaine & 5-MeO-DMT treatment on mental health and cognitive functioning 30 days after treatment. The results were published in June 2020 in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Chronic Stress*.

Let's look at the results:

Significant increases in psychological flexibility	
Significant decreases in suicidal ideation, depression, anxiety, PTSD symptoms	
Participants "mostly" or "totally" satisfied with the program	80%
Said program was "much better" than previous treatments	96%
"Very likely" to recommend the treatment to other veterans	92%
Top 5 most personally meaningful experiences	84%
Top 5 spiritually significant experiences	88%
Top 5 psychologically insightful experiences	86%
Top 5 psychologically challenging experiences	69%

Positive and desirable changes in:

Personal well-being or life satisfaction	77%
Life's purpose	75%
Life's meaning	73%
Social relationships	73%
Attitudes about life	74%
Attitudes about self	72%
Mood	59%
Behavior	63%
Attitudes about death	56%
How spiritual they are	65%
Relationship to nature	57%
Their views regarding the true nature of reality and the universe	69%

96%
 said program was
 "much better" than
 previous treatments

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



DR. BRONNER'S HEAL SOUL! INITIATIVE

VETS was honored to be a chosen recipient of the Dr. Bronner's Heal Soul! Initiative that supported six leading organizations working to bring psychedelic-assisted therapy to those in need. The Dr. Bronner's team generously supported VETS through a \$100,00 gift that allowed us to help more veterans through Foundational Healing Grants.



ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In 2020, the results of a study of the impact of psychedelic-assisted therapy on veteran treatment outcomes, were published in the *Journal of Chronic Stress*.

Participants in the study were referred through the grassroots veteran treatment program that birthed VETS.

2020 Retrospective study

Published in *Chronic Stress*

- Psychedelic Treatment for Trauma-Related Psychological and Cognitive Impairment Among US Special Operations Forces Veterans
- **Principal Investigator:** Alan Kooi Davis, PhD (Ohio State University and Johns Hopkins University)
- **Findings:** Significant and large reductions in suicidal ideation, cognitive impairment, and symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety.



CHANGE REACTION

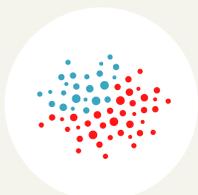
Together with Change Reaction, VETS surpassed our \$50,000 donor match challenge, and with the help of generous donors raised a total of \$167,000 that went directly to supporting our veteran initiatives and programs.



VETS initiated a collaboration with the Stanford University Brain Lab

2021 Observational brain imaging study / Stanford University Brain Lab

- **Principal Investigator:** Nolan Williams, MD
- **Hypothesis:** Can ibogaine therapy also treat the neurological wounds of traumatic brain injury in veterans?
- Starts Spring 2021



EXPANDING THE VETS TEAM

VETS added multiple talented members to our team who bring their expertise in supporting VETS' mission in the areas of Program Development, Public Relations, Systems Administration, and Social Media Management.



MEDIA AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Conferences

Prior to COVID-19, Marcus and Amber were featured speakers at the PsyTech Global conference.

Podcasts



VETS sat down in 2020 for conversations with: Matthew Simpson on *Worth The Fight Podcast*: “Our Warriors Leaning into Trauma with Psychedelic Medicines”



Ronan Levy on *Field Tripping Podcast*: “The Nuclear Option with Marcus & Amber Capone”

Articles

In 2020, VETS was featured in Forbes, Whole Foods Magazine, Psychedelic Times, Input Magazine, and more.



Psychedelic Times: “Veteran Navy SEAL Advocates for Psychedelic Assisted Therapy”

Psychedelic Times: “Special Forces: How Ibogaine is Helping Former Special Operations Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD”

“The impact goes beyond the veterans. It’s the family that’s affected, it’s generations that are affected...These men and women are not done serving their country—they’re coming up on the most important mission yet, which is leading the way for these medicines to be available for the broader population.”

– Amber Capone on *Worth the Fight*

“I thought it was ridiculous that you can take a pill (because I had already been handed bags of pills), and along with psychotherapy, 24 hours later be healed and reborn like you never thought possible...But the impact this has had, and continues to have on myself and others is lasting and powerful.”

– Marcus Capone in *Psychedelic Times*

Social Media

We successfully expanded our community through our social media channels, all of which saw major growth in 2020. Stay connected with VETS in 2021!



@VeteransExploringTreatmentSolutions
Followers
2020: 283 → 2021: 1,158



@veteransolutions
Followers
2020: 0 → 2021: 2,172



Vets, Inc.
Subscribers|
2020: 0 → 2021: 216



@vetsolutionsorg
Followers
2020: 0 → 2021: 140

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



VETS is dedicated to continuing the fight to end the veteran suicide epidemic in 2021.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of 9/11, and almost two decades of sustained combat, the need for expanded veteran healthcare options is greater than ever. VETS intends to increase its number of Foundational Healing Grants in 2021, while broadening the data collection and research efforts, and continuing advocacy initiatives at the national level.



In 2021, we will be introducing the VETS Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board is a dynamic and robust team that is impassioned about psychedelic-assisted therapies for veterans. Together, this team will help guide VETS in ways that expand our reach and enhance our ability to provide potentially life-saving support to our grant recipients.

RESOURCES

Ambassador Program

Launching in 2021, the VETS Ambassador Program will provide ongoing support for fellow VETS grant recipients, as well as the VETS mission and growth. This diverse group of ambassadors will strengthen our community by serving as key connectors in the areas of Peer Support & Mentorship, Advocacy & Awareness, and Fundraising & Donor Relations.

RESEARCH

Upcoming Research and University Partnerships

In 2021, VETS will partner with leading universities and academic researchers to better understand the effects of psychedelic-assisted treatments for veterans.

ADVOCACY

Media Outreach

In 2021, VETS will grow our community of supporters by raising public awareness to promote VETS' work by maintaining our commitment to the integrity and trust of the SOF community.

Veterans 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.

A Special Thanks to Our Donors and Community Partners

Together, we are changing the lives of veterans and their families!

Stanford University, Ohio State University, MAPS, The Change Reaction, Dr. Bronner's, Navy SEALs Fund, SEAL Future Foundation, Top Gun Fighter Foundation, Psychedelic Medicine Association, Aura Ring, Vital Warrior

VETS provides grant funding for veterans seeking psychedelic-assisted therapies in countries where they are legal or unregulated.

PROFIT AND LOSS

January through December 2020

INCOME

Grants and Contributions - Unrestricted	
Unrestricted - Donations and Grants – Individuals	227,997
Unrestricted - Coporations	102,010
Unrestricted - Foundations & other non-profits	233,842
Total Grants and Contributions - Unrestricted	563,848
Grants and Contributions - Restricted	
Restricted - Grants and Donations	105,900
Restricted - Foundations & other non-profits	201,000
Total Grants and Contributions - Restricted	306,900
Other Income	
Other Income	32
Total Other Income	32
TOTAL INCOME	870,780
GROSS PROFIT	870,780

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	
Grants to others	311,625
Coaching	55,940
Grantee Travel	12,130
Other direct program expenses	3,405
Total Program Expenses	383,100
Facility Expenses	
Computer/IT	16,010
Total Facility Expenses	16,010
Personnel Expenses	
Payroll Wages	116,300
Employer Payroll Taxes	11,723
Total Personnel Expenses	128,023
Professional Services	
Accounting Services	7,000
Legal Services	29,112
Other Professional Services	1,293
Total Professional Services	37,406
Total Other Business Expenses	74,970
TOTAL EXPENSES	639,509
NET OPERATING INCOME	231,271
NET INCOME	\$231,271



VETSOLUTIONS.ORG