

# WISCONSIN VETERANS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

**SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED** 

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT** 

#### **OUR MISSION**

Provide affordable housing, support and community to veterans throughout their lifespan.

#### **OUR VISION**

Identify and develop affordable, safe, dignified and sustainable housing for Wisconsin veterans.

# A SENSE OF COMMUNITY. A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

The Wisconsin Veterans Village Association created a first-of-its-kind comprehensive veterans village. Located at the Outagamie County Housing Authority Glenpark Campus in Appleton, veterans have easy access to the John H. Bradley Veterans Clinic and Fox Valley Technical College, while living in a residential neighborhood where transportation and everyday needs are readily available. Additional resources such as Tri-County Dental Clinic and Fox Valley Veterans Council are within walking distance.



#### **OUR PROMISE**

- Provide stable, affordable housing for area single veterans and veteran families to promote employment, training, and self-sufficiency
- Improve quality of life with a continuum of care that is veteran-centric
- Utilize existing community resources through partnerships, avoiding duplication of services
- Support for physical, emotional, and basic needs
- Create multi-generational community of support and understanding
- Honor, dignify, and respect the men, women and families who sacrificed to serve our country

# 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tom Wiltzius



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2022 PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDERS



Mike Thomas
President & Co-founder



Tom Wiltzius PhD, Co-founder

Greetings Friends and Benefactors,

On behalf of the many veterans we served in 2022 and the Wisconsin Veterans Village Association Board of Directors, we offer our deepest appreciation. We continue to have 100% occupancy and a unsolicited waiting list of veterans who seek our support.

For the Wisconsin Veterans Village, 2022 was a year of community service, planning and transition. Our residents were provided safe, dignified and affordable housing throughout the year and experienced support from many community organizations with special events and donations of food, clothing and supplies. Some highlights follow:

- The Building and Grounds Committee worked diligently to select a design/build firm to assist in planning for our future, then immediately began the arduous work of examining options consistent with our vision of expanding our mission impact by adding additional apartments.
- The Finance Committee initiated an evaluation for our financial records systems to ensure optimal financial management of donor dollars.
- The Governance Committee continued to refine our bylaws and operational policies and procedures.
- The Marketing and Public Relations Committee supported the Executive Director in the Awareness Campaign with a complete upgrade of our website and strategic news releases.

If you have not visited the Wisconsin Veterans Village campus in a while, you may not recognize the many changes of 2022 that are now evident. The entire region by Mud Creek has been cleared and developed, the dead trees adjacent to the resident apartments have been removed, flowers beds have been developed and refreshed, and the buckthorn boarder north of the parking lot has been cleared.

Many more changes will come in 2023. At this writing, some staffing enhancements have already been implemented, spring will see trees and flowers being planted, and planning for additional apartments will be refined.

We invite you to visit the campus and continue to support our mission of providing safe, dignified and affordable housing to our veterans, serving those who served.

Warmest regards,

Mile Thomas That



# \$60,000 FORE FOR OUR VETERANS!





Wisconsin Veterans Village hosted its first golf outing on September 22nd. WisVVA partnered with Purple Heart, Bronze Star Recipient, and four-time Super Bowl Champion, Rocky Bleier, for the Inaugural Rocky Bleier Golf Classic. The golf outing's purpose was not only to raise funds for the WisVVA but to help raise awareness of our mission, serving those who served.

The day before our golf event, we hosted a Meet and Greet with Rocky Bleier at our community center where a buffet style barbeque was served, donated by Mission BBQ. Not only did this gathering give Rocky an opportunity to thank our sponsors and donors but our visitors were able to tour our community center and check out our Otto Bytof Silver Star Museum which currently has World War I artifacts on display.

The day of the outing our attendees were welcomed by the Freedom Irish football players in the parking lot where they took our players clubs and brought them to their golf carts. Our golfers were then greeted by one of our many volunteers at registration, while looking at the many auction and basket raffles on display.

1, EB 11 11 13 77 33

Before the shotgun start, Rocky Bleier presented Army Veteran, Adam Alexander, with the first, Rocky Bleier Fighting Back Award. Adam was severely injured in Afghanistan when a sniper bullet ripped through the center of his forehead before exiting the right side of his Kevlar helmet.



After the award ceremony, the Scarlet Color Guard presented the colors and Mike Bailey, of Vic Ferrarri, sang the National Anthem and then our golfers were off. Rocky sat at Hole #10 the entire afternoon, greeting each foursome, and sharing stories. It really added a personal touch that our attendees are still talking about.

Once our golfers returned from a great afternoon on the course, golf awards were announced, and our guests enjoyed a tailgate style buffet on the beautiful patio of the country club, where the live auction also took place.

The feedback from that day has been phenomenal, it was well attended and yet still felt intimate. And thanks to the generosity of our attendees, donors, and community, we raised over \$60,000!

AND Wisconsin Veterans Village is excited to announce that Rocky said, "Let's do it again," so we will be hosting the 2023 Rocky Bleier Golf Classic on Thursday, June 8th, 2023, at Ridgeway Country Club.



# TASTING FOR THE TROOPS: A TOUCH OF TUSCANY

On October 27, 2022, WisVVA held a fundraiser at the fabulous Grand Meridian, Tasting for the Troops-A Touch of Tuscany, with Carlo Dozzi and wine expert, Luigi. Nine fabulous wines were served throughout the delicious five course meal by Chef Joe, and our attendees were able to bid on our silent auction items right from their seats, with an online auction app.

WisVVA would like to thank our sponsors, donors, and community for their unwavering support—helping us raise over \$30,000!



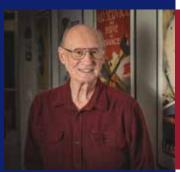
\$30,000

# LIVING AT VETERANS VILLAGE



#### **MEET FANNI, ARMY VETERAN**

Fanni was going through a challenging time in her life when she learned about Wisconsin Veterans Village. Besides being affordable, she appreciated the extra support it offers veterans that she wouldn't find elsewhere. "It's where I got my life back together and could look to the future. [The Village] is a great place for transition and a place for you to stay!", says Fanni. It's a place for everybody who needs it, both young and old.



#### **MEET TIM, NAVY VETERAN**

Everything fell into place when Tim needed it, finding his new home at the Wisconsin Veterans Village two years ago. Tim enjoys the interactions he shares with other veterans and the staff at the Village. "I like that it's tucked away and quiet, the closeness to nature.", says Tim. "It's a nice place to live".



#### **MEET JOSEPH, ARMY VETERAN**

Joseph learned about the Wisconsin Veterans Village through the Village's Navigator and Pillars when he was homeless. "[The Village] is a really nice community," says Joseph, now a three-year resident. "I feel a sense of security here." He also appreciates the close access to other veterans' resources like the VA clinic.



#### **MEET DON, NAVIGATOR**

"I like working at the Veterans Village because it is a unique day here every day. I like helping the Veterans living here with all their requests. From something as easy as opening a new soap dispenser for them to getting them set up for their HUD Vash payments."

# A VISION FOR VETERANS VILLAGE



# A PHASED APPROACH FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

There is an urgent need for affordable housing and community support for local veterans. Our phased approach will ensure we are making the best financial decisions to ensure a strong organization and the ability to best support our community of veterans for generations.

### LOOKING TO 2023 AND BEYOND



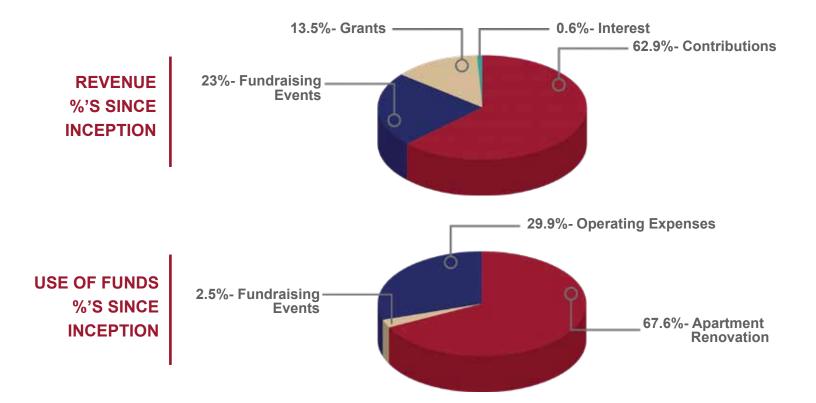
While 2022 was characterized as a year of planning and transitions, 2023 will be a bridge year to 2024. The Wisconsin Veterans Village Board and Committees have been working diligently with the master plan that was introduced in 2019.

Back then, our first goals were to raise sufficient funds to rehabilitate all of the apartments and the community center, establish the Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. as a non-profit 501c3, create a memorandum of understanding for the eventual acquisition of the property from the Outagamie County Housing Authority, and begin to hire the staff required to serve our veterans and administer the growth of the organization. By 2021, these goals were met, in spite of having to do so during the pandemic.

At the conclusion of 2021, the Board and its committees were prepared to embarked on planning and transition efforts to refine our policies, practices and goals. Much of that was accomplished, but not without challenges. Fortunately, members of the Board and committees were up to those challenges and their work has positioned the Wisconsin Veterans Village Association to move forward with the following 2023/24 goals:

- Finalize the acquisition of the Veterans Village property
- Move from concept designs to construction designs for 39 senior veterans' apartments
- Redesign the Honor Home to enhanced living apartments for elderly veterans
- Conclude construction on the Veterans Hooch
- Veterans Lakeside Gazebo and Viewing Platform
- Plant over 100 trees with support from Fox Valley Technical College students
- Design and initiate the Phase Two Capital Campaign to raise funds for new construction
- Hire appropriate staff to meet the needs of veteran residents

### **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**



### SPECIAL PROJECTS AT VETERANS VILLAGE





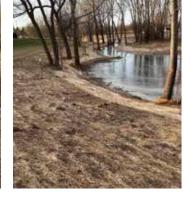
ADA Operating Doors installed in our Community Center and apartment buildings courtesy of Combat Vets Motorcycle Association



AT&T Technology Center | Computers and printer purchased thanks to a grant from AT&T







Mud Creek Clearing

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### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



Your contribution brings us one step closer to closing the gap on affordable housing, vital services, career development and support for veterans. The Veterans Village relies on corporate and community support to reach our goals in supporting veterans. With your one-time or monthly gift, we can support those who have served us and our country.

#### TO DONATE:

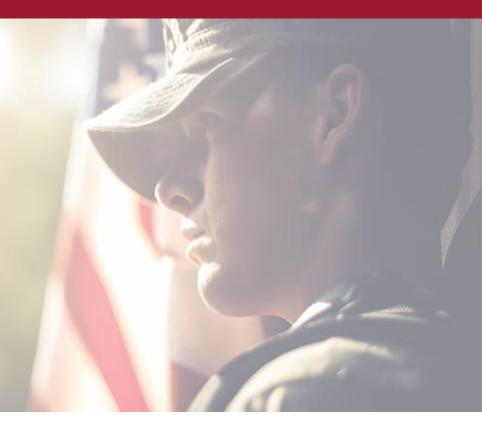
- Visit www.wisvva.org to make a secure online donation.
- To make a donation by mail, request a pledge form at www.wisvva.org or by calling Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. at 920.574.3350.Please make your checks payable to Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. and mail per the instructions found on the form.

The Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Check with your tax consultant for more information regarding tax deductions. A donation receipt will be mailed to you. For more information visit www.wisvva.org.

#### LEAVE A LEGACY

When you create a planned gift, you plant an investment that will continue to grow over time and will benefit your community for generations. A planned gift is the transfer of assets to a designated nonprofit organization during your lifetime or as part of your will or estate plan.

Please consider leaving your legacy for veteran families with Wisconsin Veterans Village Association.





#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. 2919 W. Glenpark Dr., Suite #500 Appleton, WI 54914

920.574.3350 | www.wisvva.org







