



**The Joel Fund™**

OCTOBER 2023

Vol 2 Issue 3

## QUARTER 3 BRINGS COMMUNITY FOCUS: MEETING OTHERS WHERE THEY ARE



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# OPERATION CONNECT

## OPERATION CONNECT FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN Q3:

### CASA VETERAN COMMUNITY DAY

On Tuesday, August 1st, The Joel Fund participated in CASA's Veteran Community Day in Durham. The Joel Fund provided donuts and spent the morning engaging in a needle felting activity. Students from Duke's nursing program led the veterans in some dancing activities. Not only did we create an opportunity for veterans to engage with their peers, but TJF also learned about vital resources they needed.



### 2nd ANNUAL VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR AND STAND DOWN - DURHAM

On Saturday, **September 16th**, The Joel Fund co-presented the 2nd annual **Durham Resource Fair & Stand Down** at Grey Stone Church. This event connected veterans to resources focusing on:

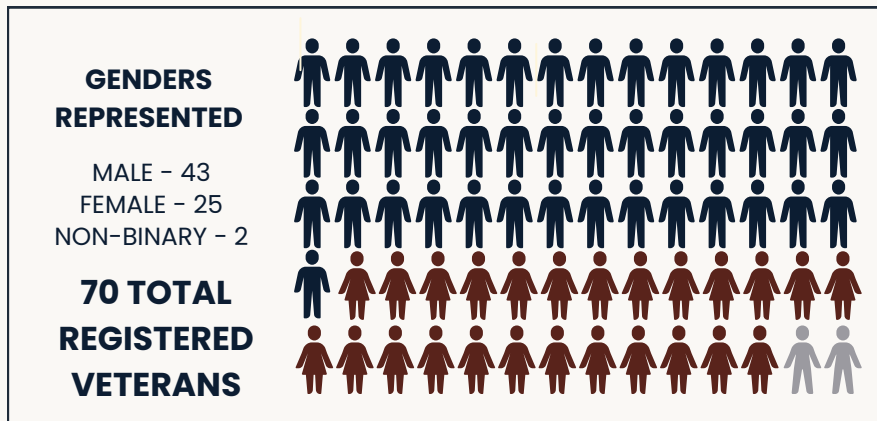
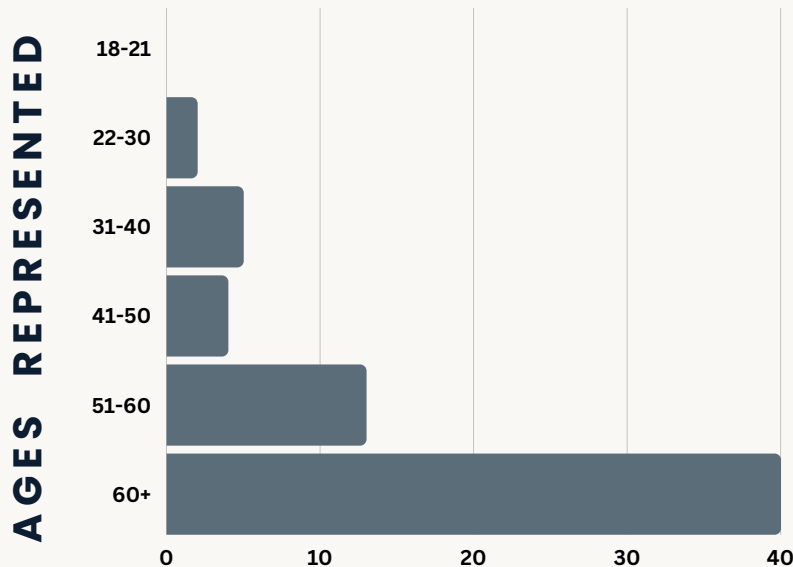
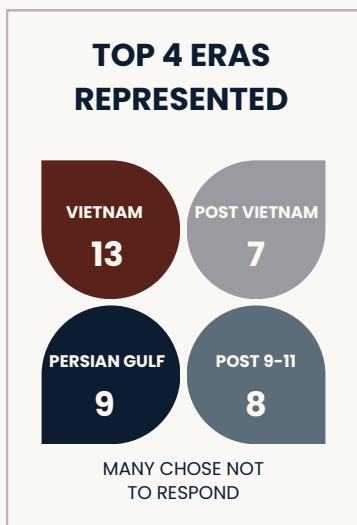
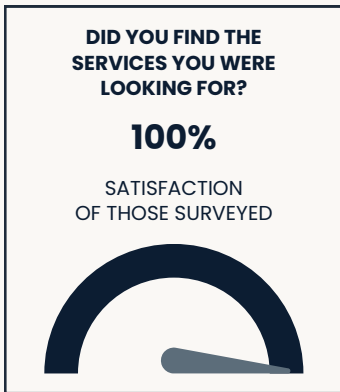
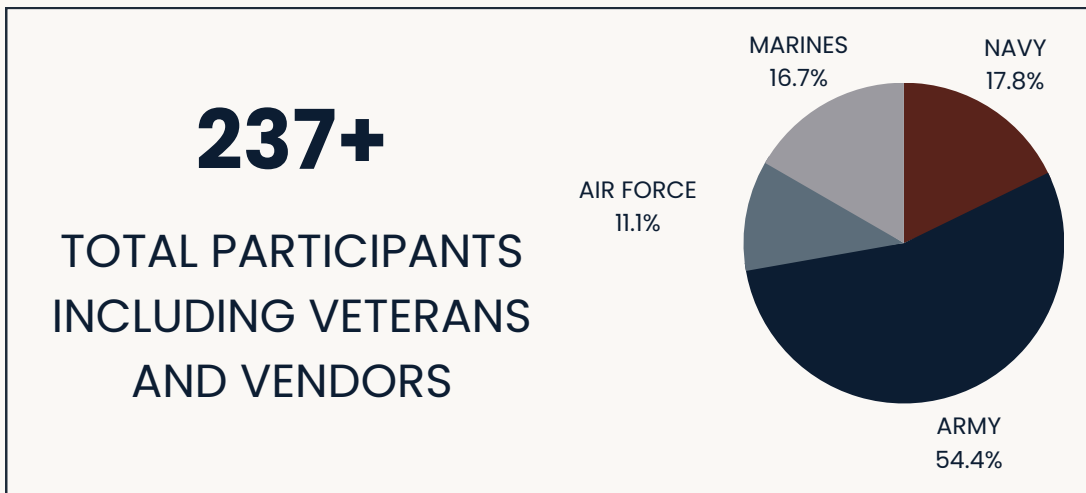
- Healthcare,
- Benefits Navigation,
- Social Enrichment,
- Education,
- Employment,
- Housing, and
- VA Services

With over seventy vendors in attendance, we were able to assist just as many veterans connect to the services they needed. Employees from **DLH** in Durham provided coffee and donuts for breakfast, and the **VFW Wake Forest Post #8466 Chuck Wagon** provided hamburgers and hotdogs for all in attendance. The event started with the **Patriot Guard Riders** presenting the colors during the singing of the National Anthem.

According to those surveyed, the event was unanimously successful.

# OPERATION CONNECT CONTINUED

## VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR & STAND DOWN 2023





# OPERATION ART

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH THE POWER OF ART:

### CASA ART PROJECT

On August 1st, Operation ART Program Coordinator **Isabella Brezenski** led a needle felting project with veterans from CASA. Needle felting is a simple project that sculpts soft wool into firm shapes and figurines using a special barbed felting needle. Using cookie cutters as a guide, veterans felted hearts, stars, airplanes, flowers, race cars and more. This simple activity can be a great creative outlet and stress reliever. While working on their creations, veterans chatted with one another, showing how art can bring people together.



### FAMILY STUDIO SUNDAY

On a drizzly afternoon, three military-connected families gathered at The Joel Fund Studio for the first Family Studio Sunday of the fall. Operation ART instructor **Kristianne Ripple** led participants, age 4 to adult, in the art of printmaking. Families created jelly prints using flexible gelatin plates. After mixing their own printmaking ink to apply to the plates, participants then applied ribbons, textured paper, netting to form imprints in the ink. After pressing the plate to printmaking paper, the reveal showed that each beautiful print was unique. There are more Family Studio Sundays to come!



# OPERATION FURNISH

## NEW PARTNERSHIP HELPS US SERVE

The **Raleigh Elks Lodge No. 735** has been a great partner this quarter by providing Welcome Home Kits for our veterans transitioning out of homelessness. They have a great group who gather the items for the veterans in need and deliver these items to the veteran's new home. It includes sheets, towels, toiletries, cleaning supplies, beds, and coffee pots. We are immensely appreciative for our community partners who help us serve our veterans!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HYBRID VETERAN COFFEE CONNECTION

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY  
OF THE MONTH | 8:30 AM

**UPCOMING:**  
OCTOBER 25TH  
NOVEMBER 22ND  
DECEMBER 20TH



### OPERATION ART SPRING SESSION 1

JANUARY 16, 2024  
THROUGH  
FEBRUARY 23, 2024

**REGISTRATION OPENS**  
DECEMBER 11, 2023



### NORTH CAROLINA VETERAN ART SHOW

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND  
NOVEMBER 9TH - 12TH

**TOBACCO WOOD BREWING CO.**  
2500 MERIDIAN PARKWAY  
DURHAM, NC 27713





THE JOEL FUND'S  
**EVENING OF HONOR**  
BENEFIT

**11**  
NOVEMBER  
6:30 PM



COCKTAIL ATTIRE  
DINNER & DRINKS  
HAND ROLLED CIGARS  
LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

**\$150 / TICKET**  
**\$1200 / TABLE**

**CAROLINA EXOTIC CAR CLUB**  
3107 GLEN ROYAL ROAD  
RALEIGH, NC 27617



**SUPPORT THE MISSION OF TJF**  
WAYS TO GIVE



MONTHLY  
DONOR



ONE-TIME  
GIFT



2023-24  
SPONSOR



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