



**The Joel Fund™**

DECEMBER 2023

Vol 2 Issue 4

## A FULL QUARTER FOUR



### OPERATION CONNECT

Families Focus for Q4  
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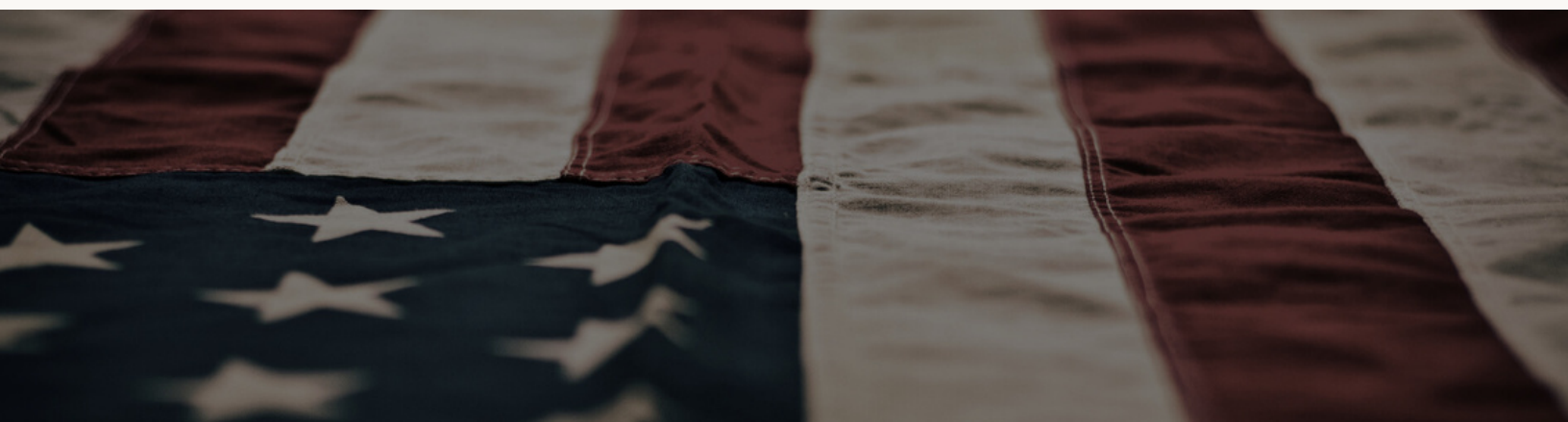
### OPERATION ART

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### OPERATION FURNISH

Ending 2023 Strong  
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*As I reflect on this past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support from both our participants and donors. Each of you has been a part of the driving force behind our success. Together we have achieved incredible milestones and created positive change in our community. I hope you enjoy these updates on our programs and successes of 2023!*

Best,

*Brooke*

# OPERATION CONNECT

## OPERATION CONNECT FOCUSES ON FAMILIES IN Q4:

Whew! We feel like Operation Connect is exploding, and we love it! We had a jam-packed 4th Quarter. Our favorite highlight was the first **TJF Family Game Night**. Military-connected families enjoyed a fun night with food, games, and crafts! We are grateful to our event sponsor, **NC State's Jeffrey Wright Military and Veteran Services**, and our amazing volunteers.

We also had a fantastic time at the **NCNG Boo Bash** this year! Thank you, **North Carolina National Guard Family Programs**, for the invitation to serve NCNG families! We think everyone enjoyed decorating (eating) Halloween cookies!

TJF board member **Jes Averhart** hosted a **Cookies & Cocoa Holiday Drop-In!** We are thankful for her willingness to share our mission and the work she has been doing with TJF. Because of the generosity of those who dropped in, we were able to raise funds to support military-connected teens in our community.



# OPERATION ART



**NC Veteran Art Show:** The Joel Fund and **Heart2Hand Veteran Artist Bernardine Donato** organized the 2nd annual **North Carolina Veteran Art Show** at **Tobacco Wood Brewing Company** Thursday, November 9th-Sunday, November 12th. This show featured 20 Veteran Artists from across North Carolina representing multiple military branches and showcasing varying art mediums. The Closing Reception featured live readings of literary submissions and gave the artists a chance to connect over light refreshments. This 4 day event highlighted the artistic talent and expression within the local veteran community.

Thank you to all the artists who participated, volunteers and partners who helped, and visitors who attended.



**Family Studio Sunday:** Three families joined us for the last Family Studio Sunday of 2023 on December 3rd. Participants worked in pairs to create tealight holders out of air dry clay. Families took their creations home with them to enjoy.

Stay tuned for more Family Studio Sunday Workshops for military connected families in 2024!

## 2023 SPRING SESSION 1 CLASSES

Woodcarving  
Virtual Photography  
Printmaking Workshop  
Virtual Intro to Creative Writing  
Virtual Writing Your Book 1  
Virtual Finding Your Writer's Voice  
Fiber Arts for Women  
Family Studio Sunday



# OPERATION ART CONTINUED

**End of Fall Session 2:** The end of Fall Session 2 closes out 2023 Operation ART programming. This past session, students sewed infinity scarves, hand-built clay, and carved spoons in person. Online, students honed their photography skills and continued writing poems, stories, and memoirs. In addition to regular Operation ART classes, **The Veterans Life Center** brought students to TJF for a handbuilding clay class.

Stay tuned for Spring Session 2024 classes and workshops! **Spring Session 1 dates are January 16th - February 23rd** and the schedule is now live. **Spring Session 2 dates are March 18th - April 26th** and the schedule will be released in February.



# OPERATION FURNISH

## BUSY 4TH QUARTER FOR OPERATION FURNISH

Operation Furnish had a busy quarter to finish out the year. We delivered to **7 veteran households** and picked up several large donations. A special thank you to the **Nurse Ambassador Program with IQVIA** for the household essentials gift!

We are immensely grateful to our donors throughout this year! Your generosity roughly totaled **\$14,000 of in-kind donations** and provided furnishings for **34 veteran households** in 2023.



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

We had the most beautiful Evening of Honor on Veteran's Day! With immense appreciation to all who came in support, **Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Amendola Family Cigar Co., NC Tarheel Challenge Academy Salemburg Color Guard, Mysti Mayhem, Sam Rodriguez Images, Brian Pate, Amy Dozier, Jim Dyer, and Carolina Exotic Car Club** for your efforts in making the evening so magical!

Because of your generosity, we raised

**\$ 6 0 , 8 8 4**

SAVE THE DATE

**9**

NOVEMBER  
2024



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HYBRID VETERAN COFFEE CONNECTION

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

**UPCOMING:**  
JANUARY 24TH  
FEBRUARY 28TH  
MARCH 27TH



### OPERATION ART 2024 SESSION SCHEDULE

**SPRING 1:** JAN16-FEB23  
**SPRING 2:** MAR18-APR26  
**SUMMER:** MAY20-JUL12  
**FALL 1:** AUG05-SEP13  
**FALL 2:** OCT07-NOV15



### QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE

FEBRUARY 2024

### BAGS-N-BBQ

APRIL 2024

### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

MAY 2024

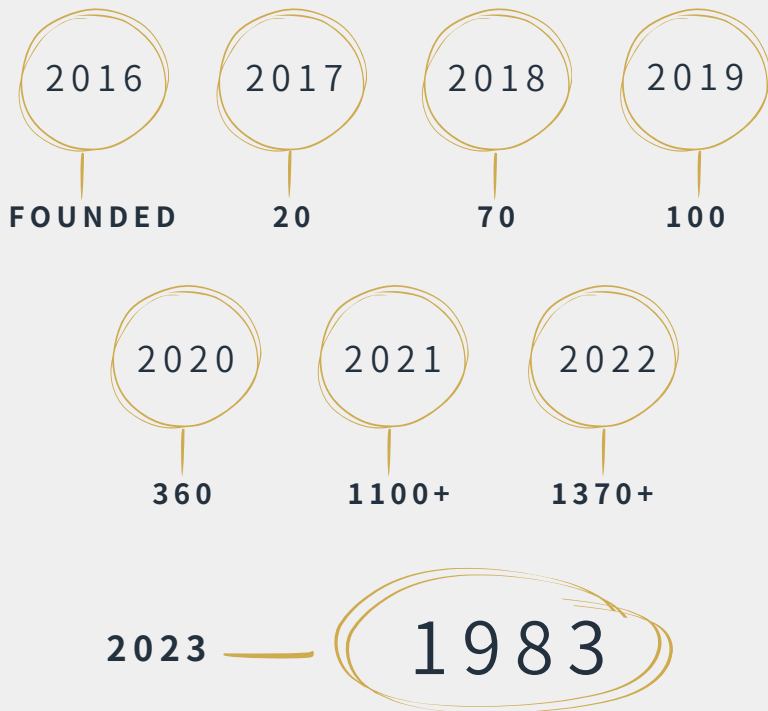
### VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

# THE JOEL FUND

## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

### TOTAL VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED



# \$1.1M

TOTAL RAISED SINCE 2016

### Forever grateful...

I wasn't expecting all of the help I've received since first contacting you but I am forever grateful. You have taken a huge weight off of my back. I'm so thankful!!

US Army Veteran

### OPERATION FURNISH

34 HOUSEHOLDS  
50 INDIVIDUALS  
1696 MILES TRAVELED  
\$15,504 IN-KIND TOTAL OF DONATED HOUSEHOLD GOODS TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

### OPERATION CONNECT

1697 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS  
19 UNIQUE COMMUNITY EVENTS  
318 HYBRID CUPS OF COFFEE SERVED

### OPERATION ART

179 OPERATION ART STUDENTS  
73 SHOWCASED UNIQUE PIECES OF ARTWORK  
1888 HOURS IN THE CLASSROOM

ENGAGE | EDUCATE | ENCOURAGE  
RECONNECTING VETERANS TO LIFE AT HOME.

# SUPPORT THE MISSION OF TJF

WAYS TO GIVE



MONTHLY  
DONOR



ONE-TIME  
GIFT



2024-25  
SPONSOR



OP ART  
WISHLIST



Happy Holidays

FROM THE JOEL FUND  
2023



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