

★ The Joel Fund ★

Reconnecting Veterans to life at home



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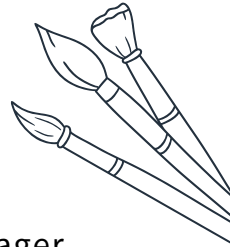


GET CONNECTED

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OPERATION ART



FAMILY STUDIO DAY ON THE ROAD!

This past February, Operation ART Program Manager, Isabella, led a watercolor painting and oil pastel project in partnership with the **National Guard Family Programs**. Families worked with watercolor pencils and oil pastels on watercolor paper, learning how watercolor and oil interact with one another. The families also worked on composition and their final projects were framed so the families could immediately display them at home!

CREATING THROUGH CONNECTION

The **NC Governor's Working Group** hosted an event in Raleigh on March 4, to support Service Members, Veterans, and their Families across North Carolina. The Joel Fund was invited to lead an art activity for 170+ attendees.

The Operation ART team organized an art activity to foster **collaboration and connection through art**. The participants worked to decorate a tree with various materials and inspirational messages that will be displayed at our new space in Rolesville.

This activity tied in nicely with The Joel Fund's 10-year anniversary theme, "Our Roots Run Deep," showing that **the more we work together to support with a strong base, the more we can stand together to be there for one another, blossoming into branches of connection.**

THANK YOU VVA CHAPTER 530!

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 530 graciously supports Operation ART's scholarship fund. **Since 2022, their support has granted over 45 students the opportunity to attend Operation ART classes at no cost.** This year, the VVA continued their support of the scholarship fund ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation in our art classes.





OPERATION CONNECT



RECORD-BREAKING COFFEE CONNECTIONS!

Starting in January, **attendance of the monthly hybrid NC Veterans Coffee Connections has grown to record-breaking numbers!** For over 8 years, the Veterans Coffee Connection has served as a monthly opportunities for veterans to connect and be inspired. **We are thrilled to soon begin hosting the gathering at The Joel Center!**



RECON x OPERATION ART

At the February **RECON** we focused on Employment services and were honored to have Operation ART student/photographer Tina Yawn in attendance to provide **free headshot photos**. This program collaboration created a unique offering for RECON participants who are seeking new employment opportunities or looking to freshen up their headshots!

CASEWORK

In March, The Joel Fund received a referral from a social worker at the Garner VA for a disabled Air Force veteran struggling to support his family. Due to his disability he could no longer return to the only work he had ever done. VRE was assisting him with training for a new job, but because he was not working he had fallen behind on basic necessities.

With assistance from some of our partners, **our team made a delivery of groceries, personal care items, diapers for his baby, as well as a gift card for gas.** We also connected him with a mentor in his career field to guide him in his training and job search. **We will continue to assist him with ongoing needs until he can return to work.**

YTD 2026

9 OPERATION CONNECT CLIENTS

1.89 AVERAGE CASES PER CLIENT

HOUSING

EMPLOYMENT

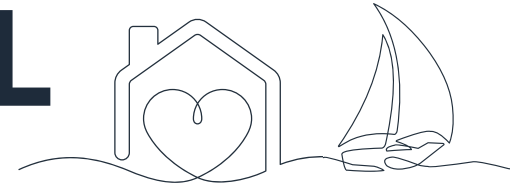
BENEFITS NAVIGATION

SOCIAL ENRICHMENT

HEALTHCARE



OPERATION VESSEL



STABILIZING SUPPORT

We received a referral from the Durham VA for a disabled Navy veteran who was facing eviction. She fell behind on her bills following surgery in October that caused loss of income. She had returned to work, but could not catch up past due bills. She had been able to secure assistance with previous rent, but was facing utility cut off. **We worked with Duke Energy to pay her past due bill so she would not lose power.**

LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT

*“During a time when I was facing significant challenges, the help I received provided not only financial relief but also a renewed sense of hope and stability. **It allowed me to focus on rebuilding and moving forward** rather than feeling overwhelmed by circumstances beyond my control.*

***Because of your generosity, I have been able to take important steps toward improving my situation.** Whether it was covering essential expenses, accessing needed resources, or simply having the reassurance that I was not alone, **your assistance has truly been life-changing.**”*

Navy Veteran, March 2026

YTD 2026

\$3,385.49

SPENT IN DIRECT
ASSISTANCE FOR
CRITICAL NEEDS

6 VETERANS
SERVED

7 PAYMENTS
MADE

TOP NEEDS: RENT,
UTILITIES, AND FOOD

RESTORING HOPE

We received a referral from a VA social worker for a veteran who had been without electricity for 2 months. **Operation VESSEL covered his past due electric bill, as well as a deposit so he could have his power restored.**

UPCOMING EVENTS



APRIL
18

RECON: YOUR SATURDAY MORNING RESOURCE CONNECTION

RECON is a series of resource connection events for service members, veterans, and military families. The next event will be on Saturday, April 18, focusing on Education. Join us for this free event to learn about available resources, enjoy breakfast and coffee, and collaborate with resource providers. Registration and information can be found at <https://www.thejoelfund.org/recon/>

MAY
2

BAGS-N-BBQ: CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Bags-N-BBQ is back for its 13th year! This annual cornhole tournament boasts an afternoon of friendly competition, award-winning BBQ, refreshments and food, entertainment, and other family-friendly activities. All ticket sales support The Joel Fund's mission, and the \$5 tournament entry fee goes toward the winners' prize. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.thejoelfund.org/bags-n-bbq/>

MID
MAY

SPRING STUDENT SHOWCASE

Save the Date! Operation ART's annual Spring Student Showcase will be in Mid-May. This showcase is a gallery of artwork created by Operation ART students, including 2-D and 3-D pieces. The dates and location will be announced soon. For the most up-to-date information, please join the our email list at <https://www.thejoelfund.org/join-our-mailing-list/>

SEPT
2

VOICES OF RESILIENCE: A SUICIDE PREVENTION DIALOGUE

Save the Date! The second annual Voices of Resilience luncheon will be on Wednesday, September 2, from 12-3pm at the Transfer Co. Ballroom. This powerful event is an afternoon lunch dedicated to breaking the stigma around suicide and mental health within the military community.

NOV
14

EVENING OF HONOR

Save the Date! Our annual Evening of Honor Benefit will be on Saturday, November 14. Enjoy a celebratory night with us, featuring dinner, drinks, a live and silent auction, raffle, music, and more! This formal event will be taking place at the incredible Carolina Exotic Car Club in Raleigh, NC.



THE JOEL CENTER

OPENING SOON IN ROLESVILLE, NC!

We are so thankful to all of our volunteers and supporters who have been running alongside us toward the finish line of opening The Joel Center! **Your hours of hard work and dedication to our mission are appreciated more than you will ever know.**

Once The Joel Center is open in Rolesville, we will be ready to welcome veterans and their family members. Our open house dates will be announced soon. We hope you'll stop in for a tour of the property and to **share in our vision for the future of veteran support.**

SITTING DOWN WITH MAYOR CURRIN

In March, TJF Executive Director, Brooke Dickhart had the opportunity to be interviewed by Rolesville Mayor Ronnie Currin for the March edition of **“What’s Happening in Rolesville.”**

The conversation, taking place on the back porch of The Joel Center currently under renovation, was a candid discussion about The Joel Fund’s founding story, how we settled in Rolesville, and how we accomplish our mission through intentional programming.

We are so grateful for the Town of Rolesville’s support of The Joel Fund and the veteran community!

To watch the full interview, please visit Town of Rolesville NC on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/v6Xr4KyccfE?si=ODDiIcr8OBUpW6xS>





“Thank you again for your kindness, compassion, and commitment to making a difference. I am deeply grateful for the support I received from the Joel Fund.”
 - Veteran, March 2026



thejoelfund.org



[@the_joel_fund](https://www.instagram.com/the_joel_fund)



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The Joel Fund



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[@greatertrianglevmfa](https://www.youtube.com/@greatertrianglevmfa)

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