

★ The Joel Fund ★

Reconnecting Veterans to life at home



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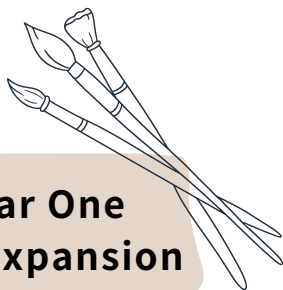


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OPERATION ART



Deploy Operation ART Wraps Year One and Looks Ahead to Statewide Expansion

At the end of June, we wrapped up our first year of Deploy Operation ART. We are grateful to our partners: Wake County Veteran Services at the South Wilmington Street Center, Granville County Veteran Services and Granville County Arts, Durham VA Whole Health, and the Raleigh Vet Center for their continued support. This program created a sense of community for veterans across the Greater Triangle area.

This year, The Joel Fund is collaborating with the North Carolina Arts Council to expand military and veteran arts programming across North Carolina. To support this expansion, we are including two additional partners, TROSA and Sawtooth School of Visual Arts, as well as building relationships with partners across the state in order to make arts programming more accessible to our veteran community.

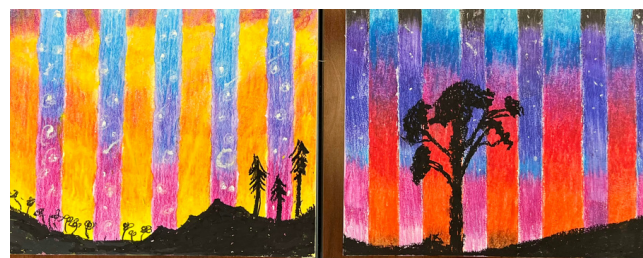
Showcasing Strength and Artistry

During The Joel Center open house in mid-June, we featured students from our Women Only Fiber Arts and Clay classes in a mini showcase. **Based on direct feedback, TJF began offering women only art classes to give women a dedicated space to connect and create together in a supportive environment.** Over the past few months, students have learned to sew, knit, needle felt, and create ceramic mugs, bowls and sculptures. Thank you to our partners, Klaystation, The Makery and United Arts Wake County for the support and helping make these classes possible!

ART IN ACTION

"In addition to it being great for my mental health, I also enjoyed learning new art techniques. I took a knitting class where we learned to knit beanies. I enjoyed it so much that I continued learning on my own after the class ended."

- Operation ART Student



Midweek Masterpieces at Helping Horse

Midweek Masterpieces is a workshop series facilitated by Operation ART in partnership with the Durham VA Rec Therapy Department. **In April, Midweek Masterpiece students visited Helping Horse Therapeutic Programs Farm in Wendell, NC.** An Operation ART instructor led students through a smartphone photography workshop, using the farm and its horses as their subjects. Thank you to the Durham VA and Helping Horse for this partnership. We are looking forward to going back soon!



OPERATION CONNECT



Rolesville Memorial Mile



This Memorial Day, The Joel Fund teamed up with the Town of Rolesville and the Rolesville Garden Club to host the annual **Rolesville Memorial Mile**, honoring the legacies of our fallen heroes. Following a beautiful ceremony, dozens of veterans and military family members took a reflective mile-long stroll, then reconvened to break bread with a grilled lunch prepared by TJF volunteers.



Welcome Home: Veterans Coffee Connection

In June, we celebrated a major milestone: hosting our very **first Veterans Coffee Connection at The Joel Center!** Nearly 20 friends and community members filled our new space to catch up and enjoy a breakfast provided by Jeff's Bagel Run.

To mark the special occasion, long-time participant Al Pasquale stepped up as our guest speaker. Al, who is looking forward to celebrating his 90th birthday this fall, shared stories from his time in the Marine Corps, including the moment he enlisted on his 18th birthday in 1954.

Whether you pull up a chair in our new home or log on to join us virtually each month, thank you to all our participants for making this community so vibrant and welcoming!

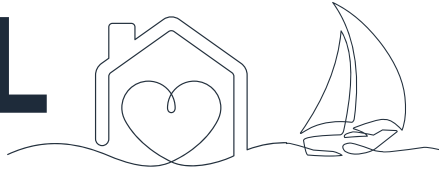


Good Food, Better Company

There is something uniquely powerful about sharing a morning meal. It breaks down walls, invites comfort, and opens the door to the kind of genuine connection that can be hard to find elsewhere. That is exactly the magic we are seeing take shape at the Veterans Breakfasts in Oxford and Durham.

Through incredible partnerships with Granville County Veteran Services and Durham VFW Post 2740, these gatherings have become some of our favorites. **Veterans from different eras and backgrounds swap stories, share laughs, and find common ground to remind them that they are never alone in their journey after service.**

OPERATION VESSEL



The Power of Partnership

A caseworker from the Durham VA reached out to us in May for a disconnected electric bill. The veteran had been homeless for 20 years and recently moved into housing. As he was learning how to budget and manage finances, he fell behind on his utility bill. **Our VESSEL team stepped in and covered the amount needed to get his lights turned back on.**

The best part of this story is knowing that the veteran has a team of case managers assisting him moving forward to make sure he doesn't fall behind again. **This is the power of our community partners!**



Q2 2026

\$7,660

SPENT IN DIRECT
ASSISTANCE FOR
CRITICAL NEEDS

34 VETERANS
SERVED

11 PAYMENTS
MADE

TOP NEEDS: FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR
UTILITIES AND RENT.

***"We are truly grateful for the Operation
VESSEL program."***

- Durham VA Caseworker, May 2026

A Message from Victoria Knott

"During the last quarter, The Joel Fund has assisted dozens of individuals and families with essential support. As I begin my 6th month with this program, I am so thankful to have the chance to contribute to the well-being of these veterans and their families, whether through navigating resources, providing career support, or simply offering a listening ear. Each interaction reminds me of the resilience, sacrifices, and unique challenges faced by our service members. I am inspired daily by the strength of these veterans we serve."

I look forward to continuing to work together with the dedicated team at The Joel Fund to ensure veterans receive the honor, care, and support they deserve. We will not settle for anything less!"

- Victoria Knott, Care Coordinator



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG
15

RECON: Resources for Military-Connected Kids & Teens

RECON is a series of resource connection events for service members, veterans, and military families. The next event will be on Saturday, August 15, focusing on resources for military-connected kids and teens. Join us for this free event to learn about available resources, enjoy free breakfast and coffee, and collaborate with resource providers.

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.



OCT
3

Family Game Night

Join us for the next Family Game Night on Saturday, October 3! Bring the whole family for a free evening of board games, yard games, art activities, free dinner, and more at The Joel Center in Rolesville, NC.

OCT
2-16

5th Annual North Carolina Veteran Art Show

Please join us for the 5th Annual North Carolina Veteran Art Show from October 2-16, at the Durham Art Guild Golden Belt Gallery. The Joel Fund and Heart2Hand Veteran artist Lt. Colonel (retired) Bernardine Donato are excited to host the two-week art exhibit in partnership with Durham Art Guild.



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

Now Open in Rolesville, NC

We are ecstatic to share that The Joel Center is now open in Rolesville, NC! Our normal hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Stop in to say “hi,” get connected, or utilize any of our amenities!

We want to share our gratitude for everyone that joined us for the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 11th. Thank you to Representative Mike Schietzelt, Wake County Commissioner Don Mial, and Rolesville Mayor Pro Tem Dan T. Alston for your remarks and ongoing support.



VETERAN CO-OP

Opening this October in Durham

The Joel Fund has partnered with Durham VFW Post 2740, Women Veterans Support Services, and the Bragtown Community Association to establish the Veteran Co-Op. This space will serve Durham veterans with numerous amenities, workshops, events, and casework services.



Military Appreciation Month

We were so proud to stand before the Wake County Board of Commissioners in May to receive a proclamation honoring the work we do at The Joel Fund and recognizing Military Appreciation Month.

A huge thank you to Commissioner Shinica Thomas and to the entire Board for your dedication to supporting our veteran and military family community.



*"I had a [client] come in needing a resource.
I didn't have the answer, **but I knew if I
called you, you would know.**"*

- Community Partner



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