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How to Help Military Members, Vets, and Their Families Thrive

There are approximately [1.3 million](#) active-duty military service members and [19 million](#) veterans in the United States. As a resident of Overland Park, KS, finding ways to support military members, vets, and their families is wise. Not only does it allow you to show your appreciation for their sacrifices, but it also creates opportunities to build a stronger, more capable community. Fortunately, there are plenty of ways that you can make a difference. If you aren't sure where to begin, here are some places to start, presented to you below by [VFW Post 846](#).

Help Them Get a Home of Their Own

Owning a home is a dream of many military members and their families. If you want to make achieving that goal easier, seizing opportunities to get them on the right path is an excellent way to give back.

One way to help them get on the path toward homeownership is to see if they're eligible for a VA loan. Those help military members and veterans [get a property](#) with no money down.

Plus, they won't have to worry about mortgage insurance, a cost that can run from about [0.6 to 1.9 percent](#) of the original loan amount every year.

You could also focus on options that allow injured veterans to modify a home to make it accessible. Just [6 percent](#) of houses and apartments are considered accessible in the United States. By introducing veterans to options like the [Specially Adapted Housing Grant](#), you can help them find ways to update their homes based on their needs. Additionally, you could support charitable organizations like [Homes for Our Troops](#), either through monetary donations or by volunteering.

Ensure They Can Have an Amazing Pet

Owning a pet is incredibly beneficial. It can promote physical health by encouraging a person to get active to keep their pet healthy, such as by taking them on walks or playing with them. Plus, it supports mental and emotional health, particularly for those without children or nearby family members for a source of support.

One way that you can help in this area is by supporting organizations like [Pets for Vets](#). You could also contact local shelters to see if they have options for sponsoring adoptions for military members, veterans, or their families.

Make Medical Care More Accessible

Not all veterans have an easy time accessing medical care. They might have trouble tackling claims forms, getting transportation to appointments, or picking up needed medications. By supporting charities that aim to improve medical care access, you can make a difference. You may want to check out [Disabled American Veterans](#) as a starting point, though they certainly aren't the only organization.

Help Them Launch a New Career

When a military member leaves active duty, transitioning into a new career can be challenging. Luckily, you can make a difference by spreading the word about available programs and services.

For example, Google Jobs for Veterans allows military members to explore career options based on their professional classification while in the military. They can search for roles based on their AFSC, MOS, NEC, or rating, making it easy to get started.

Additionally, the [Office of Veterans Business Development](#) at the Small Business Administration can be a great tool for veterans and their families interested in launching a business. They'll get guidance, support, training, and access to helpful programs, making their journey simpler.