



Volunteer of the Month

February 2018

Chris Wilson



Chris Wilson is the Buddy-to-Buddy February 2018 Volunteer of the Month! Chris's journey to becoming a volunteer with Buddy-to-Buddy is powerful: After going through a difficult divorce and custody battle, being homeless for two years, and struggling to secure his disability rating from the VA, once he got back onto solid footing, Chris says he "wanted to do something productive and meaningful to help other people who were in a similar situation." He first turned to Buddy-to-Buddy as a way to meet other veterans, and he was quickly convinced to train into the program by volunteer [Richie Roberts](#). We are very glad that he did, as he's done a wonderful job helping the veterans he's been assigned.

Chris served four years in the Marine Corps Infantry, which included 2 non-combat tours in Okinawa, Japan. He studied computer science at James Madison University in Virginia and has worked as a telephone technician, warehouse manager, and framing carpenter. He has also served as a volunteer firefighter, and provided consultation on a volunteer basis to Hopewell Ranch, an equine therapy ranch near Mt. Pleasant.

A particularly notable instance of Chris selflessly giving back to a veteran in need occurred around the holidays. Temperatures had dropped and a veteran with no heating or insulation in his home, nor gas in his car, contacted the program looking for assistance. Chris says he empathized with the veteran's situation immediately, having been in similar situations himself. He brought the veteran a propane cylinder to help heat the home, temporary home insulation supplies that he installed for him, and a donated gas card. Chris also provided warm-handoffs between the veteran and various resources to help him further. Since then, Chris has been in contact with the veteran and he's now living more comfortably and benefiting from those resources.

Chris enjoys all things outdoors, including overlanding (self-reliant adventure travel to remote destinations) with his trusty emotional support dog, Denali. Chris has recently moved out of state to live near his two sons, 5 and 7 years old. The Buddy-to-Buddy team will miss him and his valuable contributions.

Thank you for making a such a big impact in a short time, Chris!