

A Fund, Still Waiting

By Regina LeValley, MSJ/VJ Sr. Director of Development & Donor Relations



There is a kind of giving that begins quietly, long before an appeal ever arrives. A donor sets money aside in a donor-advised fund with every intention of putting it to work. Then life intervenes. The fund remains where it is, doing exactly what it was created to do: *waiting*.

We think about those funds often because every day, we speak with military families who are waiting, too, though for something else entirely. A veteran, only months removed from service, is still translating twenty years of leadership into language a hiring manager will recognize. A military spouse completes another application after another move, hoping this employer will understand the shape of her résumé. Grocery money that once lasted a week now runs out in five days. A rent renewal arrives higher than last year's raise, if there was one.

For more than two decades, VetJobs has worked alongside veterans and military families while returning to the same question: What does this family need to make ends meet? The question has not changed. The distance between a paycheck and a stable household has.

What a Paycheck Has to Carry

The answer is rarely more effort. It is work that pays enough to close the gap rather than merely narrow it. Across the first half of 2026, the average starting salary for a VetJobs placement was nearly \$90,000.

Employment, by itself, is not always the measure of success. A job may count as a placement and still leave a family short by the middle of the month. VetJobs does not simply match candidates with open positions. We connect them with work that recognizes their experience, reflects their capabilities, and gives their families a firmer financial footing.

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That work has helped connect more than 120,000 veterans, transitioning service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses with employment. Most remain in those roles a year later. The durability of those placements is not incidental; it reflects the difference between filling a vacancy and finding the right fit.

Where the Waiting Ends

A charitable fund waits for the right place to make a difference. A military family waits for a paycheck capable of keeping pace with the cost of living. The two stories are closer than they appear.

Money placed in a donor-advised fund has already been set aside for the public good. What remains is the decision that gives that intention form. At VetJobs, it can take the form of a veteran whose experience is finally understood, a military spouse whose career no longer resets with every move, or a household no longer deciding which bill can wait.

A grant cannot remove every uncertainty that follows military service, but it can change what comes next. Direct your next donor-advised fund grant to Military Spouse Jobs using EIN 20-2071552 or, to VetJobs using EIN 20-1130252, and help bring one more period of waiting to an end.



Written by Regina LeValley

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