



March 15, 2020

Dear Veterans, families, and friends,

As our country works to respond to the novel corona virus or COVID-19 outbreaks, we decided to suspend our reoccurring, community activities and all scheduled, spring fundraising events to do our part to help lessen the virus's spread. We have not set a timetable to resume these activities and will follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local authorities, before moving forward.

While these activities have stopped, our daily operations will not cease. The disruptions caused by this virus for our county will continue to create challenges for our most vulnerable Veterans. If you or a veteran you are serving are looking for assistance or information, please visit our website, [www.veteransbridgehome.org](http://www.veteransbridgehome.org) or call (855) 425-8838.

Our team recently put into place protocols for remote work capabilities. Our Veterans, our providers, and our supporters can reach us via email, phone, or text. Our office will remain open for those who cannot connect digitally, but with a very limited in-person presence to reduce the amount of physical interaction. As the situation evolves, we will continue to provide weekly updates through our newsletter, on our website, and from our social media channels.

While we continue to support our community, there are ways you can help too.

- 1) Buddy Checks - The cancellation of our routine community engagement activities will be inconvenient to many but potentially isolating for others. Where possible, we will use our newsletter, website, and social media channels to provide weekly updates, remain connected to each other, and offer support. Just like when we were in the military, we must be there to support each other as we navigate this difficult time. Send a text, make a call, stay connected.
- 2) Share Information – We will be sending regular updates as we get them, as well as relevant information from other Veteran-serving organizations. Please share them with the Veterans you know as information is released. Stay informed through trusted sources of information and ensure those around you do as well. For those of you who rely on VA healthcare, we have added a link to their COVID-19 updates on our website's homepage carousel at [www.veteransbridgehome.org](http://www.veteransbridgehome.org).
- 3) Give - Over the next few months, there will be a lot of uncertainty. As a result, other nonprofits will also be forced to cancel fundraising luncheons, golf tournaments, and 5K races. These events are essential to the sustainability of local organizations that provide services to the community, especially those most affected by this outbreak. If you have the capacity, now is a good time to make an extra gift or create a fundraiser to support a nonprofit organization like ours, or another you count on. We rely on generous support from people and companies who wish to make a difference. The Veterans and families we serve are counting on us, and we are counting on you.

We thank you for your understanding, patience, and support in the coming days and weeks. Let's all commit to taking care of ourselves, each other, and this community. Be the Bridge!

Blake Bourne  
Executive Director  
Veterans Bridge Home