



20

CONNECT. LEAD. ADVOCATE.

24

ANNUAL REPORT



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Be the BRIDGE

Dear Friends & Supporters

As we close another impactful year at Veterans Bridge Home, I am filled with pride for all that we accomplished—together. In 2024, we continued to fulfill our mission to connect, lead, and advocate in communities across the Carolinas, ensuring that service members, veterans, and their families thrive.

Through your support, we connected more than 3,600 individuals to tailored resources, employment opportunities, mental health services, and critical social supports. We provided over 8,600 services, trained employers to better welcome veterans into their workforce, and expanded our wellness efforts to meet veterans where they are—especially in moments of greatest need. Every number represents a story: a veteran finding stability, a family finding hope, a community growing stronger.

This year, we didn't just respond to needs—we led. We empowered veterans to discover new opportunities, trained hundreds of employers to create veteran-ready workplaces, and advocated for systemic changes to better support the well-being of those who served. When disaster struck in Western North Carolina, we were there. When veterans reached out for support, we were ready.

And we're just getting started.

Looking ahead to 2025, Veterans Bridge Home is setting bold goals:

- Expand regional reach to ensure even more veterans—including those in rural areas—have access to support.
- Grow employment programs to align veterans' skills with purposeful careers.
- Deepen wellness initiatives to promote mental health and prevent suicide.
- Strengthen community partnerships to create a true collective impact across every community we serve.

None of this would be possible without you. Your belief in our mission—and in the potential of every veteran—makes all the difference. Thank you for standing with us, for walking alongside those who served, and for helping us build stronger communities, one veteran at a time.

Here's to another year of impact, growth, and connection.

Be The Bridge,

Blake Bourne
President/CEO



Veterans Bridge Home focuses on providing tailored support services, fostering community integration, and building cross-sector partnerships to ensure that every veteran is supported, connected, and respected.

Through a proven process of engagement, care, connection, advocacy, and celebration, Veterans Bridge Home upholds its promise that every veteran matters and is an integral part of our community.

EVERY VETERAN MATTERS.
EVERY VETERAN CONNECTED.

 **3,656**  **8,617**
Clients Served Services Provided



Mission
CONNECT. LEAD. ADVOCATE.

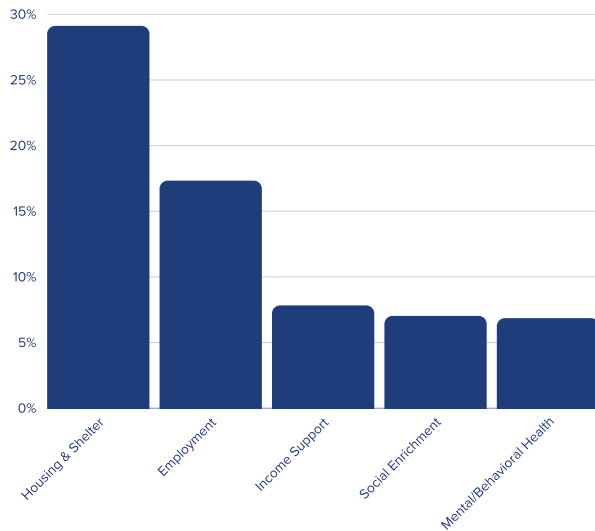


CONNECT

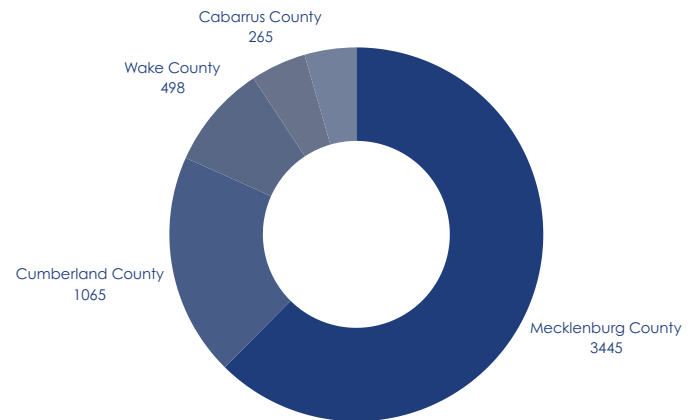
*Bringing veterans together
with tailored support services
and community partnerships
to ensure every veteran feels
valued, supported, and
connected.*



Top 5 Service Requests



Number of Clients by County



*"The housing stability program was a blessing. They helped me find a place to live and also provided resources to help me stay in that place. **It was a great feeling to finally have a stable home.**"*

~VBH Client



151

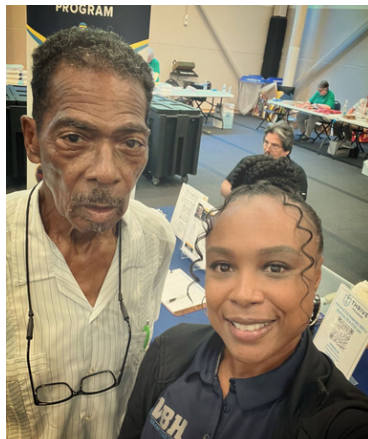
people assisted in
obtaining &
maintaining housing
through ARPA Funding

American Rescue Plan Act



1,109

people screened for
mental health needs





Hope & HEALING



One evening, I sat alone on my couch, accompanied only by my dog, feeling overwhelmed by depression. The weight of unpaid bills, unemployment, and an ongoing custody battle consumed my thoughts. Despite submitting countless job applications, including to fast-food restaurants, I received no responses. I was exhausted—mentally, emotionally, and financially—struggling to stay afloat. That night, I reached out to the VA crisis text line, hoping for some relief. However, the interaction felt impersonal, as if the responder was eager to end the conversation. I went to bed uncertain, just hoping to make it through another day.

The following day, I received a call from a VA social worker, followed by emails and phone calls from the Veterans Bridge Home SSG Fox Suicide Prevention team. At first, I was hesitant and skeptical. I had attempted therapy before, but it hadn't made a difference. However, I found myself connecting with William, my care navigator, in a way I hadn't experienced before. As a fellow veteran, he understood my struggles on a personal level, making our conversations feel less like formal appointments and more like checking in with a trusted friend.

William's unwavering support and encouragement pushed me forward. He celebrated my accomplishments—sometimes even more than I did, reminding me that I wasn't facing these challenges alone. While I still struggle with depression and anxiety daily, I have made meaningful progress. I secured two jobs and have maintained them for the past six months, working six to seven days a week. My financial situation is improving, and I expect to be back on track in the coming months. My divorce is progressing amicably and should be finalized soon.

Recently, I enrolled in college courses to pursue a new career path. Although I'm unsure how I will manage work, school, and life's demands, I've learned that perseverance is in my nature. This journey has reinforced my resilience. If I hit a roadblock, I'll adapt, pivot, and find a way forward—because giving up is not an option. The key is to keep moving and looking ahead. Obstacles are temporary and overcoming them is proof of strength.

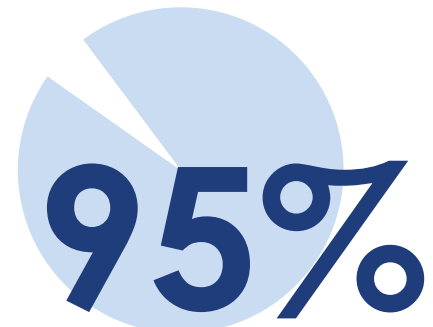


*“Veterans Bridge Home gave me clarity and options
when everything felt confusing.”*

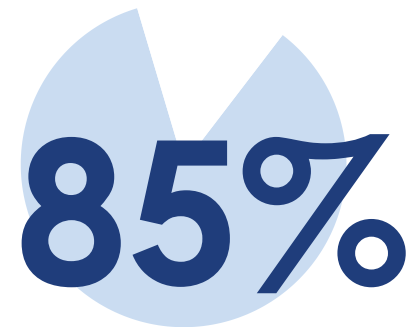
~VBH Client

At Veteran's Bridge Home, we listen closely to those we serve—and they've told us what is making a real impact. From personalized coaching to thoughtful follow-ups, our approach is working because it centers on the whole person. Here's what veterans and their families say is making the biggest difference:

- Our employment services and coaching are top-rated.
- Case coordination and navigation are helping to simplify complex systems.
- Clients value our holistic approach and appreciate focus on wellness and family.
- Follow-up touches—calls, check-ins, and invites—make people feel remembered and supported.
- Events reduce isolation and help veterans reconnect with their community.



of clients surveyed would refer others to VBH, a strong indicator of trust and satisfaction



of clients surveyed reported VBH helped improve their immediate situation, including resolving urgent needs

*“The community service projects they organized
were a great way for me to give back. It also helped
me build a sense of purpose and connection to local
community and I met some really great people along
way.”*

~ VBH Client



LEAD

Bringing leaders together to create employment opportunities for veterans and their families, working closely with employers to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity.



Employment

FUELING STABILITY

↑ **1614**

employer training hours

↑ **1127**

clients

↑ **1521**

employment cases

When veterans seek employment support through Veterans Bridge Home, it often reveals deeper needs essential for long-term stability. Beyond job opportunities, many clients require help with:

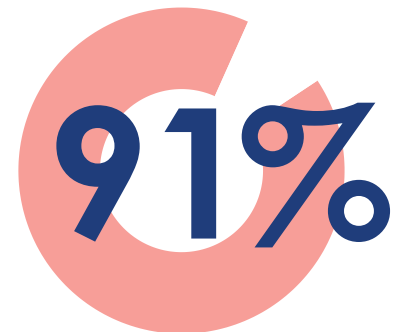
Mental Wellness	31%
Housing & Shelter	18%
Social Enrichment	10%
Income support	7%
Benefits Navigation	6%

“The career exploration seminars were eye - opening. They exposed me to so many different career paths that I had never even considered before. It really broadened my horizons.”

~VBH Client

The quality of career coaching was exceptional. I didn't just find a job—I found a new sense of purpose.”

~VBH Client



of employed clients surveyed said their job aligns with their career goals, indicating VBH's approach is practical and anchored in real world outcomes.

↑ **2,340**

Volunteer hours

↑ **\$78,366**

Value of volunteer service

Disaster Relief

↑ **180**

Volunteers engaged

↑ **1,050**

Meals provided to the Men's Shelter

When **Hurricane Helene** hit **Western North Carolina**, Veterans Bridge Home jumped into action to support veterans and their families in need.

↑ **34**

Volunteer events organized

↑ **100**

Meals provided for Arde Warehouse volunteers

By mobilizing resources and leveraging community partnerships, we provided critical assistance to ensure no veteran was left behind in the aftermath of the storm.



Thank you very, very much for all your support and assistance this year. We have really known and felt your care, compassion, and commitment over these past months. Your help means more than we can put into words. Thank you for your help in making our Christmas dinner possible!

It was a very nice evening with delicious food, carolers singing, and importantly, the opportunity to sit down together and enjoy time as a community over a great meal. The men really enjoyed it. We appreciate these things so much more these days! Thank you for your part in making Christmas special for the veterans of VRQ this year. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year - we pray the blessings you have bestowed on us return to you in greater measure!

Ruth Lolo

VSC Men's Shelter



ADVOCATE

Championing the rights and well-being of veterans and their families, driving systemic change and fostering support through advocacy efforts on the ground, across the state, and in the nation's capital.



Through powerful storytelling, we changed minds. Through policy engagement, we changed systems.

In 2024, advocacy wasn't an initiative—it was integrated into everything we did. From national media to state leadership, Veterans Bridge Home amplified the voices of those who served.

We brought key issues like mental health, suicide prevention, housing instability, and employment access to the forefront of public dialogue. Whether testifying at the state level, serving on North Carolina's Governor's Working Group, or traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with policymakers—our team showed up.

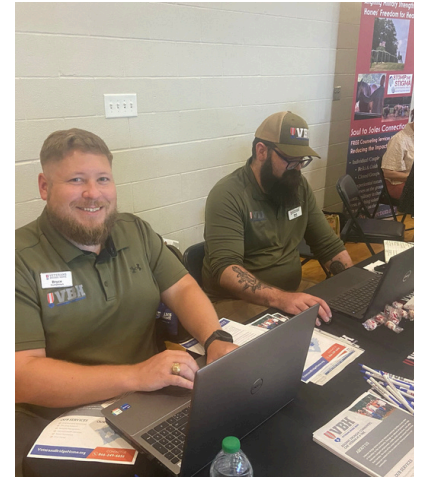
We also hosted and co-led the Mission 85 Conference, a landmark event to build a unified support ecosystem for North Carolina's veterans, bridging gaps between military transition, civilian life, and community collaboration.

National Highlights

VBH remains committed to advocating for veterans at the national level, actively participating in key initiatives and collaborations. Our efforts include engagement with the VA VEO Veterans Resource Community Network and the IVMF National CoP & SSG Fox CoP.

We served on the advisory panel for Dr. Leslie Hausmann's "Evaluating the Impact of PAserves on Receipt of Veteran Benefits, VHA Healthcare Use, and Associated Costs."

Furthermore, VBH proudly co-chaired the VA & SAMHSA Governor's Challenge Innovations Conference representing NC, attended the VA & SAMHSA Governor's Challenge Suicide Mortality Innovations Conference, and participated in the VA VEO VRCN Conference, also representing NC.



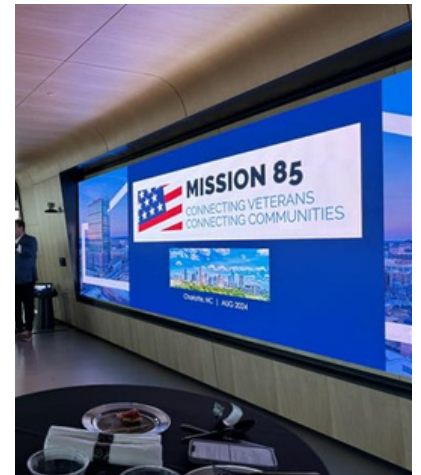


Local Highlights

In addition to our national efforts, VBH actively champions veterans' needs through a variety of local initiatives, fostering direct community support and engagement including co-chairing the NC Governors & Mayors Challenge and the NC Institute of Medicine Veterans Health Task Force. We also serve as a contractor for the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Veteran Healthy Communities Project.

VBH is dedicated to sharing resources, as demonstrated by our presentations on NCServes at both the NC State Association of Veteran Service Officers annual training and the NCWorks annual training conference.

We actively participate in community-focused initiatives such as Wake Vet S.A.F.E. – Lock, Call, Live, and contribute to local planning efforts by serving on the Wake County 2025-2030 Consolidated Housing Plan Committee, the Wake County Community Needs Assessment Committee, and engaging with the Wake County Housing Continuum of Care. Our collaborations extend to the Greater Triangle Veterans Military Families Alliance, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive local support.



↑ **558**

Events across regions

↑ **40,846**

Estimated attendees

↑ **12,838**

People engaged

"The leadership opportunities motivated me to step up and contribute."

~VBH Client





FINANCIALS

Every contribution helps us connect, lead, and advocate in communities to ensure veterans and their families thrive. In 2024, we remained committed to responsible financial stewardship—investing in programs, partnerships, and services that deliver measurable impact where it matters most.



EXPENSES

\$786,673

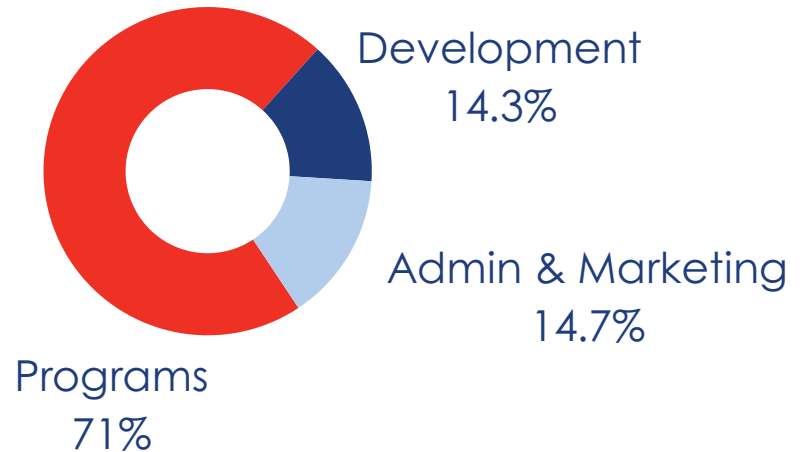
Admin & Marketing

\$765,379

Development

\$3,801,334

Program



INCOME

\$1,171,688

Corporate Funding

\$429,400

Foundation Funding

\$2,642,848

Public Revenue

\$397,972

Gifts from Individuals

\$1,013,681

Event Revenue

\$9,003

Other

\$5,664,594

Total Revenue

“Supporting Veterans Bridge Home is one of the easiest decisions we’ve made—because the impact is real, local, and lasting.”
— VBH Donor



THANK YOU

Because of you, veterans across our region feel valued, supported, and connected.

Through your generosity, partnership, and support we've delivered tailored services, built strong community partnerships, and responded to critical needs—all to ensure that every veteran and their family can thrive.

Together, we are not just meeting needs—we're creating change. Thank you for being the bridge.



Thank you to our generous partners



We are deeply grateful for the generosity of all donors. Thank you for standing with us — and with those who have served.

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\$125, 000+

Mecklenburg County Government
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USAA
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FREEDOM PARTNERS

\$50,000-124,999

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FOUR STAR PARTNERS

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Albemarle Corporation
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Brynn Marr Hospital
Italian Heritage Society
MOD Pizza
S&L Windows and Doors LLC
Covia Holdings Corp
Home Trust Bank
Woodward
704 Shop LLC
Equitable
Ginkgo Residential
Hook Line & Heroes
Symphonix Solutions
Microsoft
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Bass Pro Shops
Belk Inc
Bradford Health
Healthy Charlotte Alliance
Lunne Marketing Group
Mass Mutual Carolinas
Navy Federal Credit Union
Pepsi Beverages
Randolph County
Towne Bank
Centerstone of America

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\$1,000-4,999

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Wastequip
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Baseball Club LLC
Target Corporation
William Blair
Albemarle Corporation
Blue Insurance Agency
Brighthouse Financial
Brynn Marr Hospital
Italian Heritage Society
MOD Pizza
S&L Windows and Doors LLC
Covia Holdings Corp
Home Trust Bank
Woodward
704 Shop LLC
Equitable
Ginkgo Residential
Hook Line & Heroes
Symphonix Solutions
Microsoft
Veronica Beard
Aetna
Bass Pro Shops
Belk Inc
Bradford Health
Healthy Charlotte Alliance
Lunne Marketing Group
Mass Mutual Carolinas
Navy Federal Credit Union
Pepsi Beverages
Randolph County
Towne Bank
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