

# ANNUAL REPORT



## **VOLUNTEERS REMAIN THE HEART OF VET TO VET MAINE**

**A message from Vet to Vet Maine's President of the Board, Lynn White**

The Vet to Vet program completed its sixth year this past May, and Vet to Vet Maine completed our second year in June as an incorporated nonprofit... and what a challenging year it has been! Like so many other programs and businesses we have had to adapt to the pandemic. Through the hard work and creativity of our volunteers we are now conducting monthly case reviews on Zoom and we held our first virtual training class via Zoom.

With the addition of this year's veteran volunteer classes, we are now 124 volunteers strong and we will be holding our next training class in October. Since their transfer from SMAA in October 2018, our volunteers have logged well over 10,000 hours visiting our veteran friends and supporting our program. This is especially impressive given the difficulties we have faced this year.

Our veteran volunteer visitors are the heart of Vet to Vet Maine and I cannot thank all of you enough for serving our fellow veterans. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers, our donors and benefactors, and our board members for all that you do to support our program. And a very special thank you to Susan Gold for her vision in creating Vet to Vet and for her tireless work in promoting and supporting Vet to Vet Maine... thanks Susan! Finally, it has been an honor to serve as your president over the past several years, and here's looking forward to sustaining and growing Vet to Vet to reach more of our fellow veterans across Maine and, some day, to reach veterans in states across the U.S.

Warmest regards,  
Lynn



## Reasons to Celebrate

*A year that began with cheers and celebrations ended with finding ways to cope with the challenge of preserving connections and protecting lives during a global pandemic that made social isolation part of everyone's daily existence.*

Vet to Vet Maine's second year in existence marked many firsts for our organization.

- Eighty-eight isolated Maine veterans were matched to 67 V2VME veteran companions in FY20.
- We held our first three training sessions since incorporating as our own nonprofit and welcomed 28 new V2VME volunteers.
- The hiring of our first paid staff member—financed by a generous Community Development block grant from Cumberland County. Program director Judie O'Malley oversees our volunteer work in Cumberland County. In October 2020, outreach director and York County volunteer coordinator Kate Spanier joined Judie to support the volunteers in York County.
- In collaboration with the University of New England's Center for Excellence in Aging and Health, we undertook our first organized effort to measure the success of the Vet to Vet Maine program. A pilot project completed in August 2020 determined that the "Vet to Vet Maine companion program works!"
- We surpassed volunteer goals with the enrollment of our 100th volunteer. Since then 24 new volunteers have joined our ranks, with more to come as we conduct additional volunteer visitor training in the coming year.
- A special V2VME Women's Fund has been established in honor of volunteer and board member Shirl Weaver, thanks to a \$1,200 donation by the Maine Health Access Foundation. The fund will be used to develop programs to honor women's contributions to the military.

Coping with the Pandemic caused by COVID-19 brought challenges—our volunteer companions could no longer visit their veterans in person in their homes—but also inspired new ways of solving problems.

- We offered our first-ever Zoom training class in March after the venue was closed in accordance to CDC guidelines. The online session has served as a model for more online sessions in the future, which will make volunteer trainings accessible to volunteers living in a wider region.
- We are holding monthly online case reviews and board meetings, further strengthening bonds among volunteers as we work through this time of social isolation that has affected us all.
- We established a Vet to Vet Maine emergency fund to help veterans bridge the gap in services during emergencies, thanks to generous gifts from United Way of York County, the New England Grassroots Environment Foundation, the Construction Golf League Tournament, and the Biddeford & Saco Rotary Club.

# Vet to Vet Maine's veteran volunteers offer assistance and friendships that can last a lifetime.



V2VME volunteers have helped their veterans:

## Pre-COVID

- Go out for coffee/lunch
- Provide respite for spouse/family during visits
- Move to better housing
- Enroll in Adult Day Centers
- Get to medical appointments
- Mow lawn and do other yard work
- Get a VA pension
- Repair fuel tank

## Post-COVID

- Enroll in VA system
- Obtain VA benefits/services (VA home health serv., counseling, etc.)
- Access other services (e.g., Meals on Wheels, housing info, etc.)
- Fix minor repairs on house
- Get better health care
- Compile & archive their stories
- Have puzzles, books, videos delivered

## Our Mission

**VET TO VET MAINE** is committed to alleviating social isolation and loneliness among Maine's veterans and linking them to needed services. We accomplish this by connecting trained veteran volunteers with fellow veterans who need a friend. The volunteers provide companionship, offer assistance with benefits, support independent living, and foster friendships and mentoring with other veterans.

- Have baked goods, soup delivered
- Stay in touch (via phone, email, mail, window visits)
- Get phone & sign up for phone service
- Receive emergency money for groceries & needed supplies
- Get groceries delivered
- Find a friend and be a friend

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Throughout the pandemic, our volunteer visitors have found ways to remain connected to their veterans via phone, emails, letters, and window and outdoor visits. Volunteers have given their veterans care packs with puzzles, books, videos, and goodies (whoopie pies donated by Amato's in Gorham). Gorham Central Fire Station has served as a repository for books, puzzles, and videos for all who wish to donate or obtain those items to help while away the time.

Veteran volunteers remain at the heart of Vet to Vet Maine, and we are committed to strengthening this organization to allow them to continue to do their good work. Thank you for joining us in that effort!

**Stay safe, take care, and keep positive!**

**Best regards, Susan Dudley Gold, Executive Director**



# Veteran volunteers learn about benefits & services at Vet to Vet Maine’s 9-hour training course.

Vet to Vet Maine welcomed our first three veteran teams since becoming an independent nonprofit! The new veteran companions attended our first three trainings conducted during the past fiscal year: Team 8 at the Maine Veterans’ Home in Scarborough in July 2019, Team 9 at the Sanford Vet Center in Springvale in September 2019, and Team 10 at Martin’s Point Healthcare facility in Scarborough in March 2020.

The March team had the distinction and challenge of becoming the first to complete its third session online via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All trainings in the near future—including our latest scheduled for Oct. 19, 20, and 21—will be conducted completely online, until it is safe to reconvene as a group. Though challenging, this has opened new doors—with online training, we have been able to expand the geographic reach of Vet to Vet Maine and welcome volunteers who don’t live within easy distance of the training site. With the success of the online training, we may adapt sessions to enable us to expand more quickly than we had imagined. Stay tuned next year . . .

These new teams bring 28 volunteer companions to the Vet to Vet Maine family. Our staff is busy matching them to veterans who have requested a visitor and preparing for yet another training in October 2020.

## TEAM EIGHT



Front row from left: Robert Bond, Mary Ann Green, Pamela Small, Martin Ollinger, David Barber, George Niedhammer, Donald Barker (in circle). Back row from left: Brenda Pennels, Donald Chretien, Douglas Gilpatrick, Roger Lavigne, Susan Sebestyen, Warren Houlette. Photo: Sharon Roberts

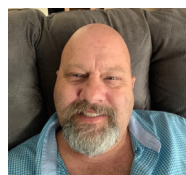
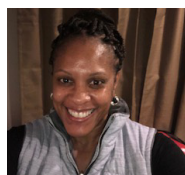
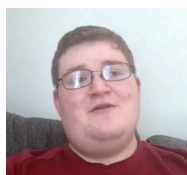
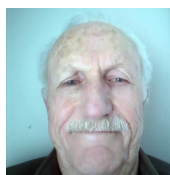
## TEAM NINE



Front row from left: Peter Wirth, Robert Toustaint, David Walker, James Arcaro. Back row from left: Michael Garrity, Kathryn Garrity, Suzanne Manly, Brian Libby. Photo: Sharon Roberts

## TEAM TEN

Photos missing:  
Mike Chason,  
Dan Tracy



From left: Jack Savage, Bailey Sawyer, Vicki Dowdell, Randall Poore, Bob Small

Thank you to our meeting space donors, providers of delicious meals, instructors, and volunteers



**With deep gratitude** for the delicious food, gift cards, and wonderful venues:

**VENUES:** Maine Veterans' Home, Scarborough  
Martin's Point Health Care, Scarborough  
Sanford Vet Center, Springvale

**FOOD:** Al's of Scarborough  
Amato's, Gorham & Scarborough  
V2VME volunteer Jim Arcaro  
Gina Sawtelle of Above and Beyond Catering, Sanford

Maine Veterans' Home, Scarborough  
Moe's BBQ, South Portland  
Romeo's Sports Bar & Grill, Scarborough  
Subway—Payne Road, Scarborough  
Wendy Fawcett, Third Alarm Diner, Sanford

**GIFT CARDS:**  
Aroma Joe's  
Hannaford Supermarket, Saco  
100+ Women Who Care: Southern Maine  
Sam's Club, Scarborough

**Thanks, too, to our instructors** who give of their time and share their expertise to equip our volunteers for their role as companions, advocates, and referral assistants: Jeannin Thibodeau and Kelly Perry of the Sanford Vet Center; Becki McGhee, Maine Bureau of Veteran Services; Dr. Marilyn Gugliucci and Dr. Shirl Weaver (also a V2VME board member), UNE; Sharon Prosser, retired elementary teacher; retired social worker Al Casad; Doug Wilson, Southern Maine Agency on Aging; Joe Reagan Easterseals Maine; Ann O'Sullivan, OTRL, LSW, FAOTA; Joseph Armstrong, Vietnam Veterans of America; Tracy Charette, VA's Suicide Prevention Program; Staff from Maine's U.S. Delegation Prentiss Kurtz (Sen. Collins) and Teague Morris (Sen. King); Richard O'Leary, Veteran Mentors of Maine; AnneMarie Catanzano, Maine Alzheimer's Association; and to Vet to Vet Maine volunteer companions, Charlene Vaughn, Dave Chute, Tom DiPasqua, Dave Backman, Debbie Wright, Joe Howes, John Butler.

**To our other volunteers** Lynn White, President of the V2VME Board; Susan Gold, V2VME executive director; photographer Sharon Roberts; and volunteer Cindy DiBiase.

**And to all of our new V2VME volunteers.** Without our dedicated volunteers, we could not operate this program. **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of Maine veterans.

From July 2019 to June 2020, 67 Vet to Vet ME Volunteer Companions devoted more than 2,900 hours to 88 Veterans who needed a friend.

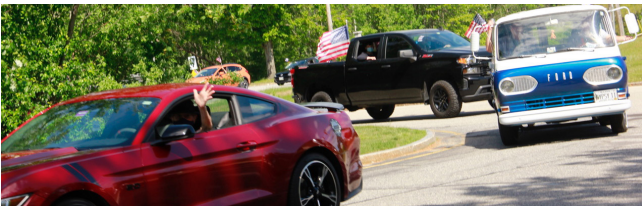
**VET<sup>2</sup>VET**  
**MAINE**



**FLAG DAY PARADE**

# Hats off to our volu

*We pay homage to the veterans and the staff at Maine Veterans' Home in Scarborough with a Flag Day Parade.*



# Volunteers & veterans!



Above, executive director Susan Gold, right, presents a V2VME hat to Sharon Prosser, volunteer instructor for new veteran volunteers. Sue and her husband, John, covered approximately 600 miles in the Cow-mobile to deliver the hats to 100 volunteers. Volunteers Brent Rolfe and Joe Howes also made deliveries. Since the Pandemic closed down V2VME's plans to hold our annual Honors Ceremony to thank our volunteers, we decided to show our gratitude with hats for all the 100 volunteers registered in May 2020. The hats were a gift to V2VME from benefactors Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home. Borealis Press donated 100 cards to accompany the hats.



Thank you, Jones, Rich & Barnes  
Funeral Home and Borealis Press.  
**WE LOVE OUR HATS AND CARDS!**

VET2VET MAINE Case Review, 7/1/2020



# Thank You to Our Supporters!

## Our Benefactors & Sponsors

Volk Packaging Corporation  
Verrill Dana Law Firm  
Jones, Rich, & Barnes Funeral Home  
Custom Communications

### GRANTS

Bangor Savings Bank Fdn.  
Cumberland County Block Grant  
N.E. Grassroots Environment Fund  
United Way of York County  
University of New England's Center for  
Excellence in Aging & Health

### MUNICIPALITIES

Town of Cumberland, Maine

### MATCH SPONSORS: \$1,000

*\$1,000 funds one match of veteran volunteer to a  
veteran who needs a friend for an entire year*

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SPONSOR

Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING SPONSORS

Maine Veterans' Homes, Scarborough  
Sanford Vet Center, Springvale  
Martin's Point Health Care, Scarborough

## Our In-kind Donors

### FOOD DONORS:

100+ Women Who Care: Southern Maine  
Above and Beyond Catering, Sanford  
Al's of Scarborough  
Amato's, Gorham & Scarborough

Aroma Joe's  
Hannaford, Saco  
Moe's BBQ, South Portland  
Sam's Club, Scarborough  
Third Alarm Diner, Sanford  
Romeo's Sports Bar & Grill, Scarborough  
Subway—Payne Road, Scarborough

### OTHER IN-KIND DONORS

Borealis Press  
Smart Source, John Bouchard  
Smitty's Cinema, Biddeford

## Our Donors

### \$1,000 to \$1,500

*\$1,488 funds background checks for 25 volunteers—  
partners for 25 isolated veterans*  
Construction Golf League Tournament  
Power-Flo Technologies  
Shirl Weaver

### \$500 to \$999

*\$500 funds the Honors Ceremony lunch for up to 75  
volunteers and veterans*  
Maj. Gen. John Bill Libby  
Wendy Mason  
Jeffrey Reinold  
Rotary Club of Biddeford & Saco  
Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth

### \$300 to \$499

*\$360 pays for training materials for 15 volunteers*  
Antiques USA

### \$150 to \$299

*\$200 covers the cost of one case review for up to 30  
volunteers*  
Susan Gold  
Valerie & Steven Hansen  
Hannaford Bros. Co.  
Laura Kelley



Robert Sam Kelley  
Kris-Way Truck Leasing  
Robert Ouellette  
Karl Smith  
Truck Buyers Guide

### Up to \$149

\$100 funds interviews for three veterans  
who need a friend

Paula Agopian  
Peter Allen  
Amazon Smile  
Janet Brennan & Donald Wessels Jr.  
Joseph & Joanne Burke  
Sandra Cartwright  
Mary & Arthur Cerullo  
John Clark  
Brooke Collins  
Maureen Connolly  
Adam & Paula Cote  
Betsy Crone  
John & Elaine Curran  
Anne and Conrad Cyr  
Thomas Daley  
Dee Dean  
Arthur and Barbara DeVaney  
Diamond Truck & Trailer Repair Inc.  
Thomas DiPasqua  
Elder Planning Advisors of Maine Inc.  
Marcia Farr  
Robert Ferrante  
John Forbes  
Chip Foye  
Ron and Pamela Gilbert  
James M. Goad  
Jacqueline Goulet  
Cynthia Grovo  
Thomas Gruber  
Marilyn Gugliucci  
Jane & Robert Hamblen  
Robert & Trudy Harris  
Jerry Harkavy  
Jean Horton  
Susan Hubley  
Marlene Kane  
Steve and Pam LaRiviere  
Lawrence and Donna Lathrop  
Rick and Linda Lund  
Ernest Merritt III and Gail Merritt  
Priscilla Miller  
Suzan & Ken Nelson



Alice Peters  
Sharon & Russell Prosser  
Carol S. Rancourt  
Karen Regan  
Elizabeth Rennie  
Jennifer and Marshall Robinson  
Arthur Roy  
Karen & Stephen Saylor  
Mary Alice Schatzle & Gwendolyn Howard  
Mike & Sharon Schwindt  
Robert Small  
Michelle & Lowell Smith  
Dorinne & Carl Spirito  
David & Beth Strassler  
George and Elizabeth Tarbox  
Andrea Tolbert  
Thomas & Katherine Tolliver  
Town & Country Federal Credit Union  
Ronald Walters  
Paul Watkins  
Lynn White

## We remember . . . our veteran friends who have died

### Veteran Friend

Edmund Burke  
Norman Chaput  
Karl Webster  
Paul Potvin  
Wendell Whitten  
Kenneth J. Wakefield  
Betsy (Elvira) Walters  
Paul Blow  
Ruth (Dr.) Endicott Freeman  
Harold A. Grover  
Roger Young  
Edward Cullen  
James Swarthout

### Volunteer Companion

Bob Marlowe  
Jerry Paradis  
Roger Lavigne  
Sam Kelley  
Rich Litwin  
Jeff Reinold  
Shirl Weaver  
Lynn White  
Kathryn Garrity  
Warren Houlette  
Tom Gruber  
Tom DiPasqua  
Richard Flanagan



## REVENUES

# Financial Statement

Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statement

Year Ending June 30, 2020

Complete nonprofit financial report is available upon request.

## Thank You, Volunteers & Donors!

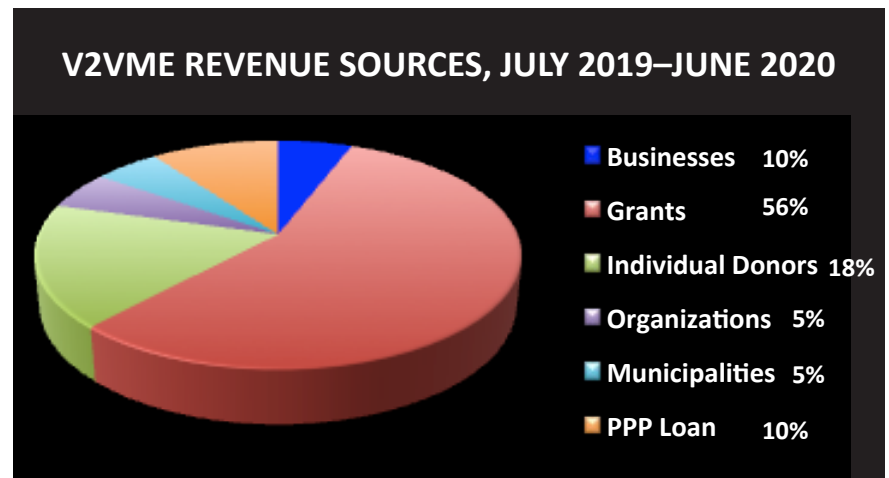
### Where Our Funds Come From

REVENUES	Budgeted 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	<b>\$38,778</b>
Donors	11,000	13,131
Businesses \$2,270		
Individual Donors \$6,761		
Municipalities \$2,000		
Organizations \$2,100		
Forgivable Loan (CARES ACT)	0	3,900
Fundraisers	4,000	0
Grants	20,000	21,747
Bangor Savings Bank Fdn \$5,000		
Cumb. County Comm Dev \$10,621		
N.E. Grassroots Envir Fund \$1,000		
United Way of York County \$2,000		
University of New England \$3,126		

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Office space, copying, wifi, landline, (Volk Packaging); food and venues for trainings, case reviews

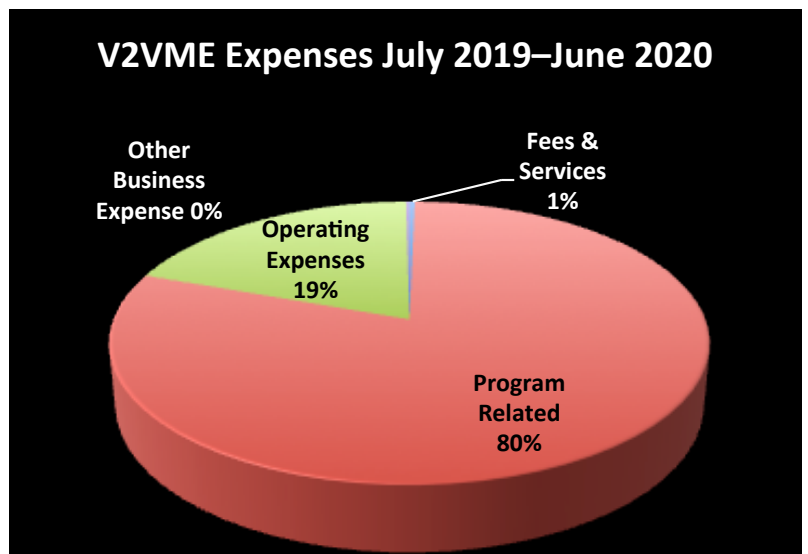
**TOTAL VALUE \$4,810**



### VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS VALUE: PRICELESS

Hours contributed July 2019-  
June 2020: 5,708 hours

Our volunteers spend countless hours connecting with veterans who need a friend and doing many needed tasks: photography, setup and cleanup, data entry, food delivery, e-newsletters, phoning veterans, bookkeeping, fundraising, administration, and serving on the board.



# Financial Statement

continued



## How We Spend Our Funds

EXPENSES	Budgeted	Actual Expenditure
Administration	In-Kind	In-Kind
Fees and Services	200	107
Bank fees (PayPal)	0	47
Taxes & Licences	200	60
Fundraising	1540	0
Program Related	33377	25139
Case Reviews/Training	4335	1990
Conferences & Classes	150	25
IT/Software	528	763
Labor Costs (Program Director)	25854	18265
Printing & Marketing (Recruitment)	1310	648
Travel	1200	724
Veteran Aid	0	2724
Volunteer Appreciation (ceremony cancelled)/ Jones, Rich & Barnes provided hats)	1000	In-Kind
Occupancy	In-Kind	In-Kind
Volk Packaging Corp. office space/conf. room	0	0
Other Business Expense	0	70
Board meetings, honorarium	0	70
Operating Expenses	5606	6056
Insurance	3426	3685
Membership	200	200
Office equipment & supplies	1500	1886
Utilities (Cell phone service)	480	285
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>41723</b>	<b>31372</b>
INCOME	Budgeted	Actual
Donations	11000	13131
Fundraisers	20000	0
Grants	20000	21747
Federal Forgivable Loan (PPP)	0	(3900)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>51000</b>	<b>38778</b>
<b>YEAR-END BALANCE</b>	<b>9277</b>	<b>7406</b>

# Vet to Vet Maine Leadership 2020-2021

## Board Members & Officers



Lynn White  
President  
10 Plymouth Dr.  
Saco, ME 04072  
207-205-9978  
ljwhite26@icloud.com



Thomas Gruber  
Vice President  
88 Foreside Road  
Cumberland Foreside,  
ME 04110  
207-653-0561  
tgruber@maine.rr.com



Marshall Archer  
Treasurer  
1 Waycott Way  
Saco, ME 04072  
207-653-2173  
marcher@une.edu



Marianne Russell  
Secretary  
642 Sanford Road, Unit #1  
Wells, Maine 04090  
207-841-1229  
Durhamems215@yahoo.com



Adam Cote  
Director  
14 Windy Ridge Lane  
Springvale, ME 04083  
(207) 233-2174  
adam@adamcote.com



Robert Sam Kelley  
Director  
11 Flintlock Drive  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
207-883-5763/650-1814  
mbitrailersmaine@gmail.com



Major Gen. John Bill Libby, Ret.  
Director  
5 La Costa Road,  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064  
207 620-6431  
bill.cindy.libby@gmail.com



Andrea Tolbert  
Director  
405 Western Ave., #301,  
South Portland, ME 04106,  
207-951-5838  
andrea.tolbert80@yahoo.com



Shirley Weaver  
Director  
110 Port Road,  
Kennebunk, ME 04043  
207-967-0363  
sweaver@une.edu@gmail.com



Vicki Dowdell  
Director  
15 Whaleboat Rd  
Portland, ME 04103  
(434) 227-9285  
dowdellv@gmail.com



**Staff**  
Susan Dudley Gold  
Executive Director  
7 Pilgrim Lane  
Saco, ME 04072  
sgold@vet2vetmaine.org  
207-579-9204 (c)



Judie O'Malley  
Program Director, Cumberland Cty.  
11 Morin St., PO Box 1205  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
director@vet2vetmaine.org  
207-579-4024 (c)



Kate Spanier  
Outreach Director, York County  
11 Morin St., PO Box 1205  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
director@vet2vetmaine.org  
207-579-4017 (c)

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