

Corte Bella Vets Military-Oriented Charities Information Sheet

Military-Oriented Charities Recommended by our Charities Committee

Charities are ordered alphabetically. The number in parenthesis is the percentage of contributions that go to Veterans. The next set of numbers is type of organization according to IRS code.

America's Mighty Warriors

(90+) 501(c) (3) <http://americasmightywarriors.org/> a/

Mission: Our mission is to honor the sacrifices of our troops, the fallen and their families by providing programs that improve quality of life, resiliency and recovery. America's Mighty Warriors an Arizona 501c3 was founded in 2008 by Debbie Lee in response to her son Marc Lee's last letter home, he was the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq. He challenged his family and friends to "pass on the kindness, the love, the precious gift of human life." (Marc was one of the main characters in the movie American Sniper.) AMW hosts retreats for Gold Star and wounded warriors, provides Hyperbaric Oxygen treatments and other therapies to help with TBI and PTS, provides random acts of kindness, educates and advocates for our troops, hosts families of our fallen at the Heroes Hope Home in Surprise AZ. AMW has supported, honored and helped thousands of our veterans and families of our fallen heroes in AZ.

Arizona Stand Down

(95) 501(c) (3) <http://arizonastanddown.org/>

Mission: The Arizona Stand Down is an alliance of community-based organizations that come together to provide annual, one to three day events that bring together the State's homeless and at-risk military veterans, connecting them with services ranging from: VA HealthCare, Mental Health Services, Clothing, Meals, Emergency Shelter, Transitional and Permanent Housing, ID/ Drivers License's, Court Services and Legal Aide, Showers and Haircuts and myriad other services and resources. Arizona Stand Downs are held at various locations throughout the State with the largest, serving approximately 1,500 veterans, at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in Maricopa County.

Boots for Our Troops Foundation

(98) 501(c) (3) <http://www.bfotaz.org/>

Mission: "Providing a Firm Footing For a Brighter Future" We will be all volunteer with no salaries, office or other unnecessary expenses. We will do our utmost to see that no AZ veteran, military member who has honorably served our country and member of their immediate family, suffer due to lack of alternative means of resolving emergency short term needs caused by circumstances beyond their control. That they have the means to seek employment and transportation to work. That none of them face the potential of homelessness or the discomfort of loss of utility services and that they do not go hungry so long as we are able to help when one else can or will. Funds will go to the need not the individual. We will get well over 98% of every dollar out the door to assist our AZ veterans and their families, utilizing all resources available to us so far as is humanly possible.

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Arizona

(100) 501(c) (19) <http://www.azdav.org/>

Purpose: The purpose of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Arizona, shall be to uphold and maintain the Constitution and the laws of the United States; to realize the true American ideals and aims for which those eligible to membership fought; to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans, to cooperate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and all other public and private agencies devoted to the cause of improving and advancing the condition, health, and interest of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to stimulate a feeling of mutual devotion, helpfulness and comradeship among all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to serve our comrades, our communities, and our country; and to encourage in all people that spirit of understanding which will guard against future wars.

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Fisher House

(96) 501(c) (3) <http://www.fisherhouse.org/>

Mission: The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$235 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other military charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

Honor Flight Arizona

(95) 501(c) (3) <http://honorflightaz.org/>

Mission: The mission of Honor Flight Arizona is to pay homage to our WWII veterans by providing the support needed for them to complete a three-day journey of honor and remembrance to their memorial in Washington, D.C. at **no cost to them**. To accomplish this, we plan to raise adequate funding to send 250 veterans on eight trips in 2014. Our secondary mission is to educate our youth about the impact of WWII and our WWII veterans on the freedom of our nation.

They are 100% all volunteers. Another thing that we even like is let's say you have a WWII veteran that has not travelled. Corte Bella could sponsor the vet. You could raise \$900 in whatever manner you would like. He or she would likely be pushed up on the waiting list because your group provided the funding. The \$900 would cover the veteran's round trip airfare, 2 night's hotel stay, food for the 3 days and the seat on the nice coach bus we use to get around the Baltimore/DC area. That \$900 could go directly to sponsoring that veteran's travel. We could provide a vets name to sponsor from our list if you did not have one also.

Madison Street Veterans Association (or MSVA): M.A.N.A House

(90) 501(c) (3) <http://madisonstreetveterans.org>

Mission: Madison Street Veterans Association is a peer support organization of homeless and formerly homeless veterans. At our Outreach Center veterans are able to access transportation to Veterans Administration and employment facilities, obtain copies of military service documents, use computers for job search, email, and benefits applications, local and long distance telephone service, and check out bicycles. Veterans are also encouraged to participate in volunteer and community action events and activities, and collaborate with other partner veterans' organizations such American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America. As of May 2010, MSVA operates the MANA House (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force), a transitional housing facility for 50 veterans located on the top floor of the YWCA in central Phoenix, conveniently located just 1.5 miles from the VA Hospital.

Madison Street Veterans Association is a program of *Lodestar Day Resource Center* which is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are made to LDRC but can be designated for MSVA only.

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United for Change

(95+) 502 (c) (3) <http://unitedforchange.org/>

Mission: We are community partners with Project H3: Vets, a program aimed at getting medically vulnerable veterans off the street. United for Change administers the VASH Bridge Program, a partnership with the Arizona Department of Veteran Services, the Phoenix Veterans and Military Foundation and HUD/VASH.

We operate the Veterans for Veterans furniture bank, which provides furnishings to veterans (at no cost to them) as they transition from homelessness into housing. We also sponsor, provide and serve home cooked dinners for local veterans living in a transitional facility.

Many members of our group have volunteered at the Arizona Standdown for several years in a row and in addition to supporting this organization with \$5,000 donations in 2011 and 2012, we have furnished hygiene kits for the veterans, 1,200 kits for 2012! We partnered with KUPD radio station and the great Fitz Madrid who in 2009 sponsored a blanket drive. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, it was towels.

United for Change also helps veterans on an individual basis. We have provided funding for rent, utilities, and food to a number of veterans in need.

No one in our organization is paid for what he or she does. We give our time, our money, our sweat and our tears to make the lives of our struggling veterans a little better. After all, that same veteran was willing to put his/her life on the line to preserve our freedom.

Veterans for Veterans in Arizona

(100) 501(c) (3) <http://vetsforvetsaz.org/index.html>

Mission: The mission of Veterans For Veterans is to supply donated household items and other needed items to formerly homeless veterans to help start in furnishing their homes as they reenter society.

The objectives of Veterans For Veterans are to: a. Collect household items and other needed items from donors and offer donors a tax deduction to the extent allowed by law for their donations, b. Provide donated household items and other needed items to veterans who have been referred to Veterans For Veterans by a veteran social worker, veteran counselor, veteran assistance agency or any other military organization. The referred veteran must provide proof of a residential lease signed within thirty (30) days prior to receipt of donated furnishings, and c. Provide formerly homeless veterans household items and other needed items at no cost.

WHAM Art Association

(95) 501 (c) (3) <http://www.wham-art.org/>

Mission: The organization was created primarily to support the Northwest Valley of Phoenix Metro including but not limited to: Surprise, Sun City West, Sun City, El Mirage, North Peoria, West Glendale, Youngstown, Buckeye, and Wickenburg areas. In addition to helping to promote local artists through exhibits throughout the West Valley, WHAM is also involved in numerous projects such as: public art murals, art festivals, art walks, and community art classes.

WHAM is offering a new program called Art: A Path to Healing aimed at helping Veterans with PTSD. The Over thirty years of scientific investigation have demonstrated that creative expression can alter not just moods, attitudes and emotions, but helps individuals acquire a sense of purpose and accomplishment. This program is not designed to heal an individual with PTSD but to help them in their path to cope with everyday life. WHAM's professional artists will be offering instruction in drawing, oil painting & acrylics, woodworking, pottery, digital photography, gourd making and metal art.

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Note: This new program is open to all Veterans, not just those with PTSD. If we choose to donate to WHAM, we can specify our donation is only for this particular program.

Military-Oriented and other Charities researched but not meeting Corte Bella Vets criteria:

Central Arizona Shelter Services (C.A.S.S.) (<http://www.cassaz.org/>)

This one does not appear to meet criteria #1 and #3 although some Veterans are helped. I could not find any "guarantee" that we would be helping Veterans and not some other needy person or persons. Additionally, while I did find that donations might for the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit, I could not find how it was organized or if the donations would also qualify for Federal tax deductions. While the financials are available, I could not determine if it met criteria #2.

Donations for Water (Art Sloan's June 14th article)

"Water is needed by many veterans' organizations for the summer and Lt. Col Ron Green has made it his calling to provide it especially for the homeless veterans. He has enlisted veteran organizations, his church and friends but he still needs more funds for his work. This is not a charity but is a charitable undertaking that you can help. If you would please send Ron a check to 6303 E. Mesquite Rd. Cave Creek, AZ 85331-8541. He gives many volunteer hours to this undertaking and other worthwhile endeavors. He has been admitted to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame for all his volunteer work. He gets water from Fry's at 1 cent over their cost."

From an email from Lt. Col Green. "4 years ago my wife and I became involved by volunteering for the local Stand Down. As I was a Director of the AZ Chapter, MOAA I briefed this at a BOD meeting and got several to volunteer. Then the next year I read Art's column for water and this voice in my head said: "Get involved." I did this by starting with water. The members of MOAA started to volunteer other items and started to take them to the Outreach Center (Madison Street Vets Assoc) where I take the water. This rapidly expanded into unused Bathroom supplies from hotels and clothes to the MANA House.

Then 2 MOAA members donated several towels. I took these to the Outreach Center and one Homeless grabbed a towel and said: "Oh great. Now I can quit using the Paper Hand Towels from toilet facilities to dry off with after my shower." The towels have expanded to where I have taken down over 5000. Many are in storage for future Stand Downs.

Back Packs are the current priority items for either Stand Down or the Outreach Center. Got 6 donated in 1 day and just started last Wed.

Depending on what I have and what they need I take things to the MANA, the Outreach Center, the Vets Furniture Center for Stand Down use or the US Vets Motel at 3400 Grand. The US Vets is the only thing not 501(3) c.

Basically I can use anything. Even Linens and Pot & Pans can be used at the UAS Vets Motel (131 rooms)."

All the water to the Outreach center is for Charity. Art mentioned that US Vets can use water as they have several points they take water to. I'll have to try expanding into non-charity donations of water funds.

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Folds of Honor

(87) 501(c) (3) <http://www.foldsofhonor.org/>

Mission: The Folds of Honor Foundation is rallying a nation to ensure no family is left behind in the fight to preserve American freedom. Through scholarships and other assistance, we give back to the spouses and children of soldiers killed or disabled in service to our country. We provide healing, hope and an opportunity for dreams to be realized...with the support of people like you. We feel this is our duty as citizens of the greatest country in the world.

United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.Vets)

(<http://www.usvetsinc.org/>) U.S.Vets does not meet criteria #2 (85%) and I could not find where we could ensure any donation we might give would only be used in Arizona (criteria #3).

Vietnam Veterans of America

() 501(c) (19) <http://www.vva.org/index.html>

Goal: Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans' organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

Wounded Warrior Project

(80) 501(c) (3) <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

Vision: To foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history.

Purpose: To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members; To help injured service members aid and assist each other; To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) takes a holistic approach when serving warriors and their families to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment and engagement. Through a high-touch and interactive approach, WWP hopes to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history.

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General IRS Information

501(c) (3)

[http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Exemption-Requirements-Section-501\(c\)\(3\)-Organizations](http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Exemption-Requirements-Section-501(c)(3)-Organizations)

Organizations described in section 501(c) (3) are commonly referred to as *charitable organizations*. Organizations described in section 501(c) (3), other than testing for public safety organizations, **are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions** in accordance with Code section 170.

<http://www.azdor.gov/About/FAQs/CharitableTaxCredit.aspx>

You may claim a tax credit for voluntary cash contributions you make during any taxable year to a Qualifying Charitable Organization. A Qualifying Charitable Organization is a charity that is a 501(c) (3) ...

501(c) (4)

[http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Other-Non-Profits/Donations-to-Section-501\(c\)\(4\)-Organizations](http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Other-Non-Profits/Donations-to-Section-501(c)(4)-Organizations)

Contributions to civic leagues or other section 501(c) (4) organizations generally are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

<http://www.azdav.org/az-tax-credit>

Due to a change in Arizona Revised Statutes, Disabled American Veterans and all other 501-C4 organizations no longer qualify for the Arizona Tax Credit,

501(c) (19)

http://www.irs.gov/irm/part7/irm_07-025-019.html#d0e230

IRC 170(c) (3) provides an income tax deduction for contributions to a post of "war veterans" if it is organized in the United States or any of its possessions, and no part of its net earnings inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. To qualify for deductibility of contributions, a veterans' organization may be exempt under IRC 501(c) (19) or any other appropriate section of the Code, but must also satisfy both a membership requirement and a purpose requirement.

Arizona Tax Credit Information

What is the charitable tax credit for charitable organizations?

You may claim a tax credit for voluntary cash contributions you make during any taxable year to a Qualifying Charitable Organization. A Qualifying Charitable Organization is a charity that is a 501(c)(3) or a community action agency that receives community services block grant program monies that spends at least 50% of its budget on services to Arizona residents who either receive temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) benefits, are low income residents whose household income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level, or are chronically ill or physically disabled children and shows that the charity plans to continue spending at least 50% of its budget on services to those described above. A charity has to apply for and meet all requirements of the law to be considered as a Qualifying Charitable Organization. Approved charities' names are listed on the Department of Revenue's website.

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Do I claim my charitable contribution as a tax credit or a deduction?

You may only claim a tax credit for your charitable contribution on your Arizona state return if the organization you donated to is considered a Qualifying Charitable Organization. A complete listing of Qualifying Charitable Organizations is published on the Department of Revenue's website. Donations made to organizations not listed on the department's published website are typically allowable as deductions. You cannot claim both a deduction and a credit for the same charitable contribution on your Arizona return.

For a list of Qualifying Charitable Organizations

<http://www.azdor.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=V6hWbHqzqfw%3d&tabid=121>

Disclaimer:

Neither The Corte Bella Vets nor Larry Leighton are not offering legal or tax advice. Always consult with a qualified, licensed professional regarding all legal or tax-related issues.