



OPERATION HOME FOR HEROES

A campaign for Alpha Omega
Veterans Services





OUR FOOTPRINT

**Transitional Supportive Housing
Madison Avenue**

**Transitional Supportive Housing
Vinton Avenue**

**Permanent Supportive Housing
Court Avenue**

**Permanent Supportive Housing
Depot Facility SRO**

**Permanent Supportive Housing
Depot Facility Townhouses**

**Coming soon
Jackson Avenue!**

WHO WE ARE:

Alpha Omega Veterans Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Memphis that helps military veterans reintegrate into society, often after achieving recovery and rehabilitation from debilitating mental and physical conditions. Founded in 1987, it is one of the first independent organizations in the United States specializing in providing supportive services to military veterans.

We currently have the capacity to house over 120 veterans (male and female) and to provide counseling services to many more. We provide each veteran with a 30-day to two-year

program with a goal of having he or she successfully rejoin society, engage in healthy independent living, and secure placement into permanent housing. Each program has an integrated system of services including food, clothing, housing, transportation, and assistance with rehabilitation.

Each veteran receives intensive individual and group counseling in order to address combat/service-related conditions such as anger management, substance abuse, combat stress, PTSD, and other mental health disorders.

OVER THE LAST 35 YEARS, WE HAVE SERVED NEARLY 15,000 VETERANS.



We provide transitional housing for veterans who are in the greatest risk of crisis, those who are chronically homeless and resistant to contact with most services. The program serves as a path into longer-term housing and supportive services, with the goal of permanent housing.



We provide permanent supportive housing to vulnerable veterans who have had severe issues maintaining stable housing. Permanent housing provides affordable, secure, and stable housing to homeless veterans and provides case management support to create a sound and viable personal lifestyle.



We provide our clients a range of support services from benefits and application assistance, employment assistance and food acquisition to life skills training, financial management, mental health and medical referrals, and transportation assistance.



The Urban Farm improves the quality of life for our veterans with therapeutic gardening, farm-to-table cooking courses, nutrition education classes, and volunteer and employment opportunities. In 2021 we harvested approximately 14,000 pounds of vegetables—half of the crops were distributed to our veterans with the remainder being sold locally.

DEAR FRIEND,



Alpha Omega began its life because a mother couldn't find help for her two sons, both Vietnam veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

What began as a cobbled together housing program for eight veterans has grown into a comprehensive array of programs that has served more than 15,000 homeless and disabled veterans over the last 35 years.

On behalf of the staff, board, and our clients I want to express our sincere thanks—we couldn't have done any of it without supporters like you.

I became the first executive director in 1988, eight months after Alpha Omega's inception. I took this job because I felt called. Somehow, we persevered and today we provide supportive services, permanent and transitional housing, and a variety of integrated services individualized for each client. We give veterans the tools and meet them halfway.

We've never reached a point where we thought, "NOW we know what we're doing." There's been continuous review, analysis and striving to be better and do more. And today when we ask ourselves, "What more can we do?" there's an exciting answer.

After a competitive bid process, we have acquired the former Marine Corps Reserve Center on Jackson Avenue with a goal of building a permanent headquarters. This property will allow us to do so many things we never dreamed would be possible—a full gymnasium, art and music rooms, storage, streamlined operations, additional urban farm capacity, and triple the transitional housing.

This dream-come-true is not without a price—\$8M. A generous lead donor has graciously committed \$5 million so we're well on our way. But we need additional support from supporters like you to help us complete the mission.

When we as Americans celebrate Independence Day and Memorial Day, or any of the other occasions where we gather to celebrate life, it's because of our veterans who have gone into the military to preserve our rights and freedoms. None of us should take that lightly.

We certainly don't take it lightly here at Alpha Omega. And it is my sincere hope that you will see the value in helping us make a central headquarters for Alpha Omega a reality. Please join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Cordell Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cordell Walker
Executive Director

“This dream-come-true for our veterans is not without a price—\$8 million. A generous lead donor has graciously committed \$5 million so we're well on our way. But we need additional support from supporters like you to help us complete the mission.”

—Cordell Walker, Executive Director



WILL YOU HELP US BUILD A HOME FOR HEROES?

There are 431,274 veterans living in the state of Tennessee that means 8.4% of Tennessee's adult population are veterans of the U.S. military.

- 7.4% of Tennessee's veterans live in poverty
- 26.4% of Tennessee's veterans have a service-connected disability rating (113,711 Veterans)
- HUD estimates that approximately 570 Tennessee veterans are homeless
- Alpha Omega serves nearly one fifth of that population.

These numbers may not seem staggering but when we think about those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, any negative percentage statistic is unacceptable. Alpha Omega works daily to reduce the challenges our heroes experience.

Why is this urgent?

- Time is running out!
- Marine Corp Reserve Center granted to Alpha Omega has a limited window for completion
- COVID- 19 requirements force Alpha Omega to house veterans in a local hotel
- The makeshift location makes supportive services costly and inefficient
- Alpha Omega is spending more than \$250,000+ annually to house these transitional veterans



**KEVIN FERRELL
U.S. ARMY VETERAN,
CERTIFIED PEER
SUPPORT SPECIALIST**



"I DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT ALPHA OMEGA WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE MY LIFE."

In the recovery world, they say that if you don't remember the worst time in your life, you haven't had it. Mine was 15 years ago when I wound up at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Memphis after years of trying to fight depression with drugs and alcohol. I didn't know it yet, but Alpha Omega was about to change my life.

I grew up in Chicago and had served as an enlisted man in the Army in the early 1980s, in Germany and in various posts stateside. I came to Memphis to help my baby sister care for our father, a chronic alcoholic. I wasn't close to my dad—I came because my sister needed my help. But once he died, it soon became clear that I needed help, as well.

The turning point for me was at the VA, where I encountered peer support specialists from Alpha Omega. One of the first things they asked me was, "What can we do?" I told them I wanted a chance to stand on my own two feet, support myself and function like a normal human being. One specialist took me under his wing—he was a veteran, and he was from Chicago. He had walked in my shoes.

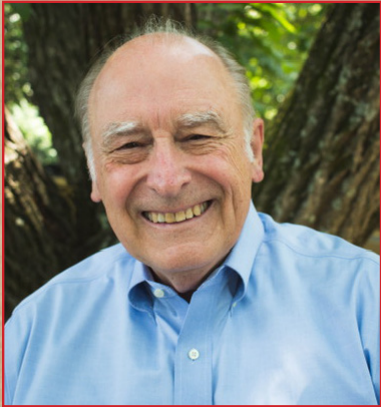
I asked for help, and I got it. I knew I was in the right place when my mom told me, "There's something about Alpha Omega that is working in your life. That's where you belong." I heeded her words, and it wasn't long before I found myself becoming a peer support specialist myself.

Alpha Omega's project to transform the MCRC on Jackson could not be more worthy of donor support.

A gift to Alpha Omega is not just a gift to help veterans. I look at it as fuel. It's giving back to the essence of what it is to be an American.

Veterans don't want to be taken care of. We want to be of service. To be honest, we could have three or four Alpha Omegas and only be scratching the surface. When you give to Alpha Omega, you're giving to the infrastructure of society. Please help Alpha Omega in its quest to help veterans help themselves.

DEAR FRIEND,



Did you know there are thousands of displaced veterans in Memphis—men and women who sacrificed so that we can all live in freedom and prosperity? Alpha Omega is on a mission to help these veterans help themselves. That requires treating the whole person.

Treating the whole person is why our success rate is so high—over 90%. And it's why our executive director, Cordell

Walker, likes to say, "It's hard to fail at Alpha Omega."

I served on active duty in the Air Force for about four years as a young man and I served as an officer in the Air National Guard for many years after that. Not long after I retired from my civilian career, I found Alpha Omega. As a veteran and an officer, I felt a strong tie right away. I started as a volunteer before I joined the board, and today I'm board chairman.

Cordell and I have developed a strong working relationship and we're both proud of what the organization has become over the years and how many service men and women we have been able to help—all thanks to the support of donors like you. When the chance to acquire the former Marine Corps Reserve Center came along, we saw it as an incredible opportunity for veterans.

"Most importantly it (new facility) will reflect what Alpha Omega stands for—providing hope and dignity for the men and women who sacrifice so that we can all live in freedom and prosperity."

—PZ Horton, Chairman of the Board

Here's just one example. We currently house 10 veterans in a hotel near our offices on Madison Ave. because rules developed during the COVID-19 pandemic say that special needs veterans must have their own bedroom and bathroom—the group home would no longer work. This new facility will feature 20+ individual residences and will erase that expense.

Beyond that it will allow us to consolidate our staff operations and provide much space to serve and grow. We spend thousands of dollars a year on storage—for donated items, for backup appliances for our housing units and to store the furniture we keep on hand to help clients when they move from transitional housing to their own home.

This new facility will open so many new possibilities for us—it will simply take us to a whole new level. Like our Ball Road facility at the former Defense Depot, it is a wise use of former military property that will allow us to do more and do it better.

Most importantly it will reflect what Alpha Omega stands for—providing hope and dignity for the men and women who sacrifice so that we can all live in freedom and prosperity. I ask that you consider the magnitude of that sacrifice and make an investment in the future of Alpha Omega.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.Z. Horton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

PZ Horton
Chairman of the Board



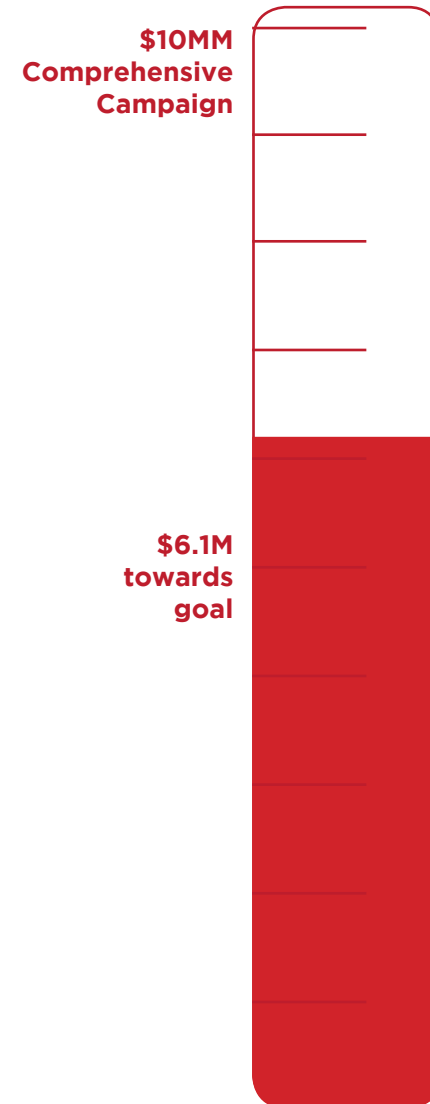
YOUR DONATION WILL HELP BUILD AND SECURE A PLACE FOR HEROES

Now is the time for transformational philanthropy. We have made it this far thanks to hard work and caring friends like you.

A generous donor has made a lead gift to launch the construction, but we must raise the additional funds in 2023 to complete the facility and residences.

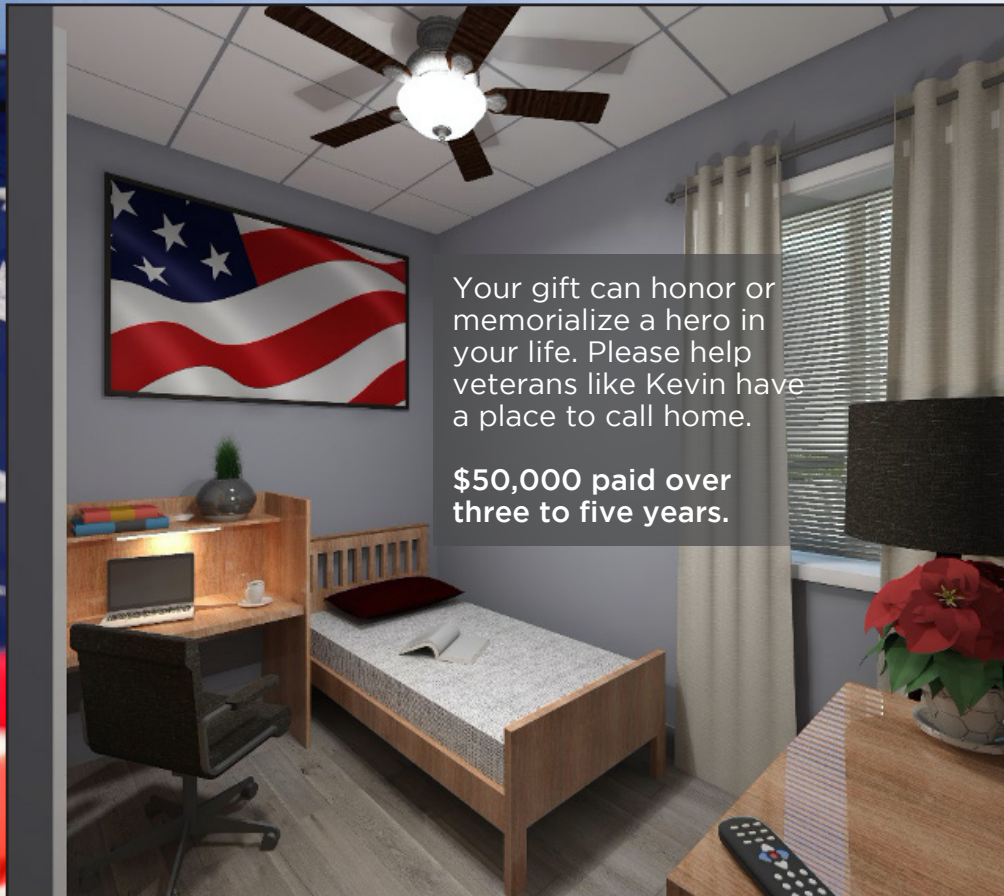
The campaign when fully funded will do this and so much more.

\$10MM	COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN
\$8MM	total capital cost
\$1MM	to expand and secure supportive services
\$1MM	to build a safety net for operations



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY!

Limited time. Limited spaces. Name a Residence.



NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

VETERANS CAMPUS



HEROES CORRIDOR
STAR & STRIPES URBAN GARDENS
VETERANS RESIDENCE (Wing One)
VETERANS RESIDENCE (Wing Two)

FREEDOM WALKING TRAIL
(WALKING PATHS)
PATRIOTS GYMNASIUM



KITCHEN & DINING
WELCOMING ENTRY WAY
RECREATION ROOM
VOLUNTEER CENTER



DEDICATION WALL
DONATION STATION
MUSIC ROOM
LIBRARY
HOBBY ROOM
COMPUTER LAB

DIRECTORS OFFICE



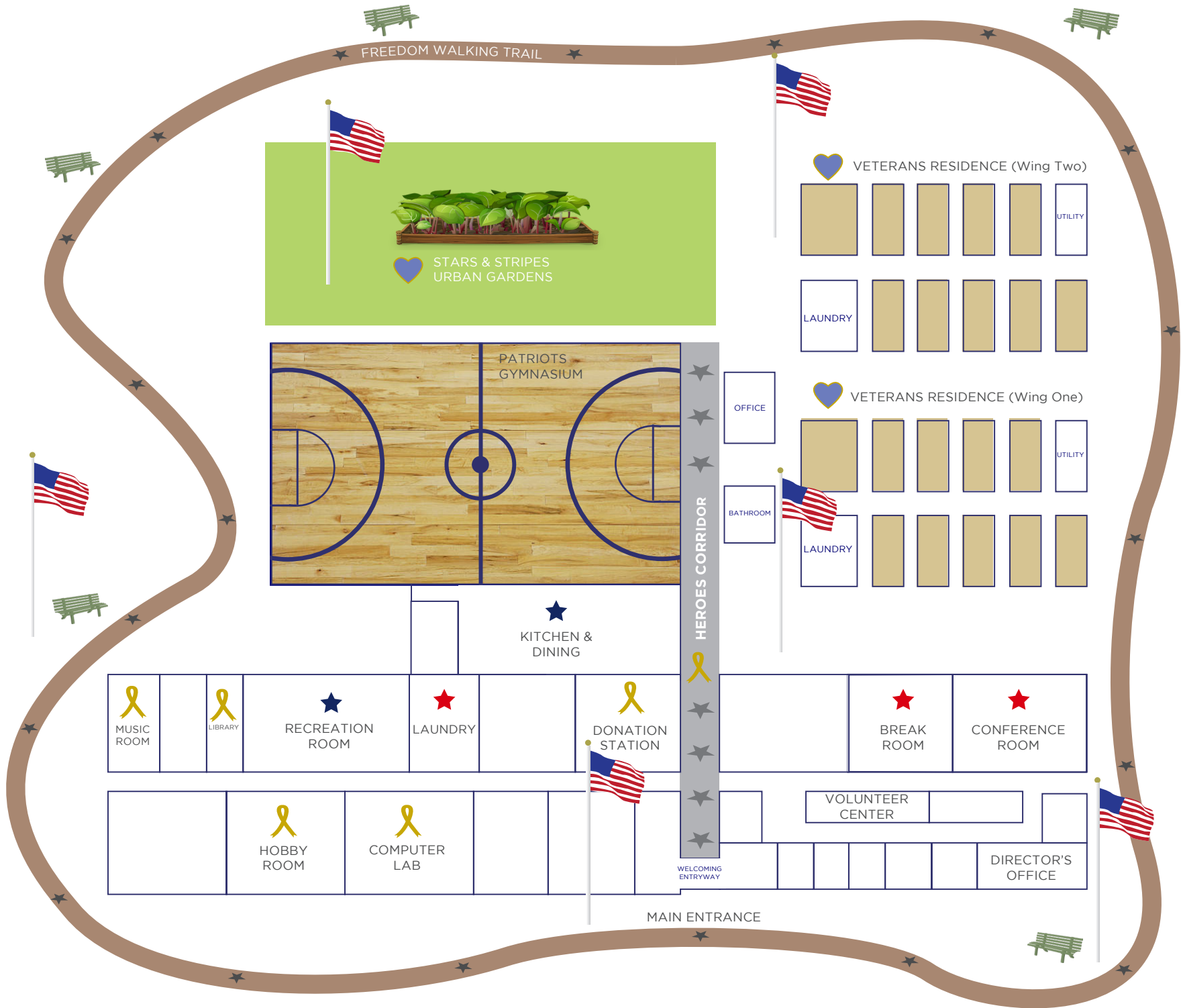
LAUNDRY
CONFERENCE ROOM
BREAK ROOM

RESIDENCE (20)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (8)
FLAG POLES (6)



OUTDOOR BENCHES (5)
STARS ON HEROES CORRIDOR(20)



SELFLESS SERVICE. ONCE PERFORMED. NEVER FORGOTTEN.

Will you give today?



To learn more contact:
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