

Hidden Heroes Cities & Counties Connection



MAY 2022

PRESENTED BY:



UPDATES FROM EDF

- The Elizabeth Dole Foundation has announced its 2022 Dole Caregiver Fellows. Dole Caregiver Fellows serve two-year terms and are trained to be an advocate for themselves, their veteran, and the caregivers in their community. These 11 military and veteran caregivers will join the 250+ Dole Caregiver Fellows who represent all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. [Read their stories here!](#)
- The Respite Relief Program has announced new eligibility for individuals in need of respite. In addition to veteran caregivers, veterans who care for civilian family members, caregivers of surviving spouses, and veterans who do not have a caregiver but are in need of additional support will be eligible for the Respite Relief Program in the coming weeks.

WELCOME

Hancock County, OH

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION



On May 10th, Hancock County became the first Hidden Heroes County in Ohio. County leaders hosted a dinner for local caregivers to connect with each other and unveil the proclamation. Ohio Dole Caregiver Fellows Jenny Jeffrey and Ida Carson spoke about their experiences as caregivers and the support available through the Hidden Heroes Campaign, local veteran-serving organizations set up resource tables, and Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn read the Hidden Heroes Proclamation at the ceremony.

"During our event, I witnessed interactions between veterans, caregivers, and local providers. There were hugs, laughter, and even some tears. The positive impact this will have on Hancock County is already evident." - Ed Newton, Resiliency Operations Manager, Hancock County Veterans Services Office.

More than 30 counties have taken the pledge to support hidden heroes. If your county is interested in further helping hidden heroes, review the [Turn Your Pledge into Action](#) guide to get started.

SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENING

On May 18th, EDF hosted its seventh annual National Convening, **Bold Steps for the Future: Action, Policy, and Priorities**. Speakers included Senator Elizabeth Dole, VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy, and Senior Advisor Meg Kabat. Topics covered include changes to the VA Caregiver Program (PCAFC), a new partnership for the caregiver to survivor continuum, and new resources from key partners including Philips and AARP. [Watch the recording of the Convening here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Heroes & History
Makers Gala**



**Month of the
Military
Caregiver**

SAN ANTONIO HOSTS FIRST CAREGIVER BRUNCH

On May 13th, the City of San Antonio's Commission on Veteran Affairs and supporters hosted its first Hidden Heroes Caregivers' Appreciation Brunch, inviting caregivers, Dole Caregiver Fellows, and local organizations to come together, recognize May as Month of the Military Caregiver, and share local support available to caregivers. Special guests included City Councilman Clayton Perry, City Councilwoman Melissa Harvda, Ms. Wheelchair Texas - Kristy Durso, and San Antonio Dole Caregiver Fellows Dr. Roxana Delgado and Sonia Alvarado.

If your community is interested in hosting a Hidden Heroes Event, please reach out to communities@hiddenheroes.org.



hiddenheroes.org

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