



STORIES of HOPE

 **Volunteers of America**[®]
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NORTHERN NEVADA

Brighter futures, thanks to you
Summer 2022

“YOU HELPED ME FIND THE LIFE I ALWAYS WANTED”

For most of his life, Richard (pictured above) felt like a “loner.” You might know the feeling—those thoughts that go through your head that no one cares. Richard felt that often, and the lack of support and the weight of his depression led him to getting arrested.

While he was incarcerated, Richard was forced to confront the direction his life was going in. He realized that he wanted more and started taking steps toward a new life. He received his high school diploma, took college classes, and learned a few trades. He taught English as a second language and tried to help as much as he could. Richard was determined to live differently, **but things didn't turn out the way he thought.**

When his sentence was over, Richard was dropped off outside a charity shop with \$25 in his pocket and nowhere to go. **Once again, he was alone and afraid.**

Faced with homelessness, he did not want to go back to his old ways. He found a job that he enjoyed, but the uncertainty of his situation left him more vulnerable than ever before...

[Flip to the next page to read the rest of Richard's story.](#)



You can help more men in Richard's situation find a home with a gift of \$150

Thankfully, because you care about individuals like Richard, we were able to come alongside him. He only needed a bit of kindness and you gave him a home he could afford. **You gave him the freedom to really live.** Now, Richard no longer considers himself a loner. He is in his own home, was able to save enough money to purchase a truck, and has been promoted to a supervisory position at work.

Because you showed him love and dignity, Richard is thriving in his new life. He says, **"At 47 years old, I thought my life was over. But now, at 61, I feel like I am finally living."** Thank you for believing in second chances!

THANK YOU FOR ENCOURAGING MY FAMILY

With a squirmy 2-year-old on her lap, Kayde couldn't help but smile when she thought about all you have done for her. A single mother of 5 children, Kayde has a lot on her plate. There's a never ending list of things to do with limited time and money to do them.

Back to school season can be very stressful for single parents. **But thanks to you, Kayde doesn't have to worry about that.**

Every year, you step in to support families like Kayde's by providing more than just a backpack filled with supplies. You provide peace of mind during a very difficult time.



It may seem like a small thing, but for those with already stretched budgets, it makes all the difference. You give mothers like Kayde confidence to keep working hard toward becoming self-sufficient. Thank you for helping families like Kayde's by supporting Operation Backpack.

Give \$50 to provide children like Kayde's with the supplies they need this year.



“
Thank you
for giving me
a safe place
to start over.
”

THANKS TO YOU, VETERANS LIKE EDDIE ARE SMILING AGAIN

Can you imagine entering the war at 16 years old?

Vietnam Veteran Eddie knows exactly what that feels like. After returning from deployment at 17, Eddie struggled with the reality of what he had seen. Society still looked at him as though he was a child, but he had already experienced indescribable things. He felt misunderstood everywhere he went.

Eddie was able to make a life for himself, but it has never been easy. Now at 75-years-old, he found himself in an unhealthy living situation and knew he had to get out. He says, “I didn’t know where I was going to go or what I was going to do.” **That’s when you saved his life.**

You took Eddie in when he had nowhere else to go. You brought him to safety and gave him the love and support he deserves. You looked him in the eye and reminded him that he is still deserving of the life he always wanted. Thanks to you, Eddie is excited about the next chapter of his life. He spends his days writing poetry and thinking about the blessings he has received.

And when he thinks of you, he smiles.

Thank you for showing veterans like Eddie that they are loved.

A gift of \$500 will keep a veteran like Eddie warm and safe for a week.

THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING CAREER



Where can I even begin, except to say thank you.

For the last 44 years of my life, you have been a constant source of hope, inspiration, and love. When I was just a young man, you showed me what it means to live a life of service to your neighbor. You have supported me through the highs and lows of life, and it has been an honor to serve this community as President and CEO of Volunteers of America.

It is bittersweet to tell you that I will be retiring from my position effective December 31, 2022. Looking back on my career, it has been people like you who have made it special. Your generosity and support has grown Volunteers of America from a little grassroots organization to an organization that serves over 17,000 individuals every year. Your kindness makes stories like Kayde's possible every single day.

As I look forward to my new role as full-time grandpa, I know that we will remain connected through the hundreds of lives we have changed together. You have been an essential part of my story. Thank you for all you do.

With gratitude,

Honor Leo's life-long passion of serving those in need by making a gift to VOA's endowment.

Your caring heart shines through each and every day for people like Michelle, Darryl, and Wendy. Thank you for loving your neighbor and sharing hope for a brighter future.

I will make an impact in 2022!

- \$64 will help a veteran like Darryl take one more step towards independence
- \$130 will keep another family like Michelle's warm and fed
- \$225 provides mental health and case management services for 17 women like Wendy
- \$___ will change the life of a man, woman or family facing homelessness
- I want to give a gift of a stock or a QCD. Please contact me!

I prefer to charge my gift to:



CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CVV _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____