

VETERANS

SERVICES OF THE CAROLINAS

A Division of 



BOB WOODRUFF
FOUNDATION

Addressing Veteran Food Insecurity Report 2021

Who We Are

Veterans Services of the Carolinas (VSC) is a division of Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) serving Veterans and their families across North Carolina. VSC manages four major Veteran-facing programs that serve and support over 3,000 Veteran households a year through housing, employment, outreach, and coordination services.

To learn more about VSC please visit www.abccm-vsc.org.

Partnership

In 2019, Veterans Services of the Carolinas and the Bob Woodruff Foundation became partners in the mission of serving, supporting, and advocating for our Veteran communities. Through this partnership, BWF has increased VSC's capacity and bandwidth by generating more opportunities that both create and supplement existing programs. Additionally, the transparency and feedback from the LPSAT Checkpoint has already added value to our team's 2022 vision and strategic plan for how we are committing to a stronger community collaborative across North Carolina.

I hope that you find this small report helpful and insightful, particularly as BWF pursues new and innovative solutions that impact our military connected communities. VSC will continually work to increase capacity, building for not just our organization but for our entire community. It's a privilege for us to work alongside the BWF and their incredible team. I am hopeful for the future, as we remain steadfast in our joint commitment to meet the needs of our Veteran communities.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,



Brandon L. Wilson

Director

Veterans Services of the Carolinas



The Ripple Effect

The partnership between VSC and the Bob Woodruff Foundation, made possible by Craig Newmark Philanthropies, has created second- and third-order effects that have improved our organization's ability to provide better support to our Military-connected community. Through our years of work and providing direct services such as housing and employment, we understand that developing trusting relationships is the foundation of care. This connection often begins with small actions, and by addressing an urgent need such as food, and empowering the Veterans outside of the traditional soup kitchen, our ability to form these relationships in a deliberate and expeditious manner has vastly improved.

Partnering with the Bob Woodruff Foundation has already yielded results, as this connection has generated opportunities for additional services to be provided; we have also enhanced our ability, both as an organization and for our community of partners, to track co-occurring needs, which, in turn, drives training for the collaborative.

Another added benefit is that we are better positioned to establish stronger ties within our collaborative by supporting our partners' missions, as well. For instance, upon discovering they had a program assisting Veterans' widows during the pandemic, we started working with Allen's Creek Baptist Church in Waynesville, NC.

"The funds provided through the Bob Woodruff Foundation were greatly appreciated as they enabled many of our widows to receive a blessing of food. This encouraged their hearts and strengthened our widow's ministry. Thanks again to the Bob Woodruff Foundation and Veterans Services of the Carolinas for their generosity."

Pastor Scotty Patrick
Allen's Creek Baptist Church
Waynesville, NC



Co-Occurring Needs

28%

Veterans who were provided food through this project were then identified as having a co-occurring need that was also addressed through this collaboration.

Below is a breakdown of these co-occurring needs that were identified and addressed through the community collaborative:

- 40%  Housing
- 27%  Employment
- 13%  Financial Assistance
- 11%  VA Benefits
- 9%  Clothing

“As an employment case manager with NCWorks I often encounter Veterans with additional needs. This partnership with Veterans Services of the Carolinas, and the support of the Bob Woodruff Foundation, has enabled us to ensure that the Veterans in our program have one less thing to worry about.”



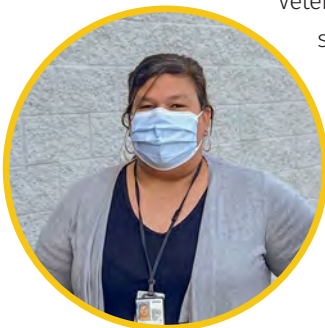
Eduardo Leardo
DVOP Specialist
NCWorks New Hanover County

Building Communities



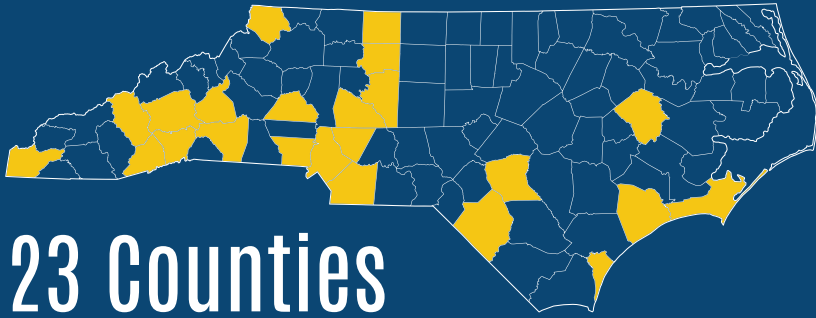
Veterans Services of the Carolinas, in an effort to build a practical and inclusive collaborative, reached out to the Fayetteville VAMC and the Tribal Veterans Service Office to provide services for the underserved Lumbee Tribe and address food insecurity in their community. As Robeson County is a rural region, the resources there are difficult for many of those Veterans to access regularly. This partnership has paved the way for the first Department of Labor–funded Veterans Stand Down on Tribal land, which will take place in 2022. This event will bring together multiple service providers from all corners of Robeson County to an underserved population in a community that has historically lacked collaboration.

“This opportunity allowed the Veterans to utilize this service for groceries and was able to lift a burden to allow them to obtain other needed household items, gas, and/or medications. Looking forward to continued collaboration with Veterans Services of the Carolinas to assist and serve our Veterans within the Robeson County community as well as the Tribal community.”



Carla Clark-McRae MSW, LCSW
Tribal HUD-VASH Social Worker
Lumbee Tribe Veterans Service Office

Who Received Assistance



23 Counties



213 Households

 199 Veterans

65% Males

35% Females



56 Family Members



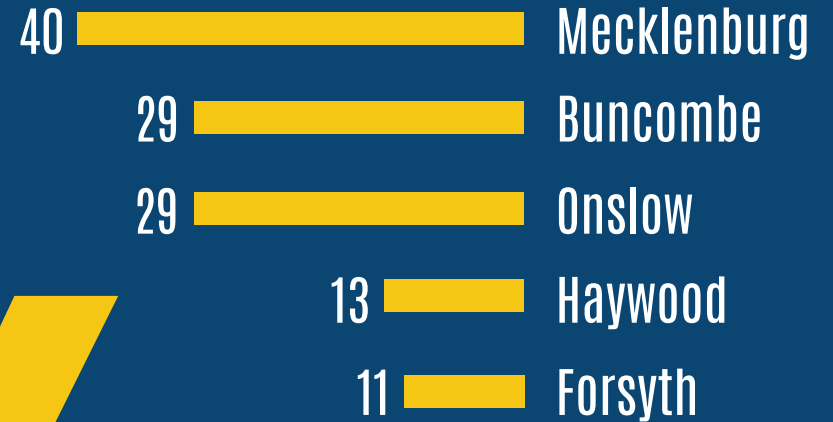
14 Widows



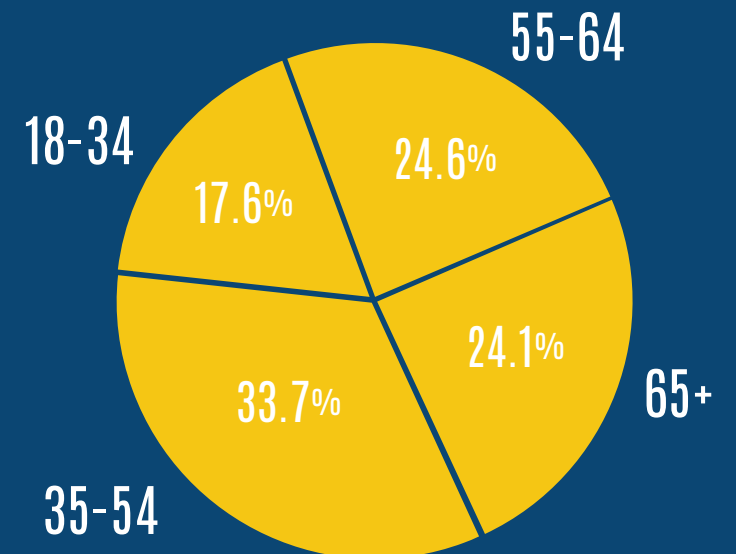
42 Children

58% Urban vs. 42% Rural

Top 5 Counties Served



Age Breakdown



Meet Our Veterans



Alquan, 54, Mecklenburg County

United States Army Veteran

Scott, 59, Buncombe County

United States Navy Veteran



Betty, 88, Haywood County

United States Army Widow

Ernest, 66, Onslow County

United States Marine Corps Veteran



Jessica, 34, Henderson County

United States Navy Veteran

Navy Veteran Jessica Case



Navy Veteran Jessica Case suddenly found herself homeless with three kids in early August 2020 after leaving an unsafe living situation. She had limited income and resources to resolve her crisis on her own, so she reached out to VSC and connected with

fellow Veteran and NCServes' Senior Care Coordinator, Brandon Davis. He was committed to helping her and her children and connected her with programs made possible by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, assisting her with housing, employment, and food assistance.

After taking advantage of the various programs that VSC offers, in conjunction with the supports of our community collaborative, Jessica is now back on her feet in her new home and is enjoying her new job at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC. Because of her success, she has been featured in several VSC social media stories and informational videos. ABCCM has also highlighted her achievements so that other Veterans like Jessica may be able to find and access our resources more easily, as well.

In November of 2021, Ms. Case was profiled in a special report about the Bob Woodruff Foundation broadcast on ABC World News Tonight with David Muir. We were happy to help get footage and content together for the story and, of course, share the moment with Jessica and her family in our Asheville office.



Stand Up For Heroes



In November the VSC team and Director Brandon Wilson nominated Senior Care Coordinator, Brandon Davis, in the Stand Up For Heroes celebration. We were proud to share Brandon's story of sacrifice and achievement, both on and off the battlefield, as he has become an inspiration in our community. Mr. Davis was shocked to hear that we had nominated him for this contest and even more surprised to have won. This opportunity and recognition put a cherry on the top of a successful year between VSC and BWF, especially because Mr. Davis managed all activities that BWF supported.

An excerpt from his nomination:

“Brandon Davis is a Veteran who served 10 years in the US Army as an Infantryman at the height of combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After separating from the service, he experienced some difficulty transitioning back to civilian life. From his own experiences, he draws motivation to further help his Veteran brothers and sisters as the Senior Care Coordinator at VSC's NCServes Call Center. His team fields over 800 calls a month and coordinates services for over 3,000 Veterans and families a year.”



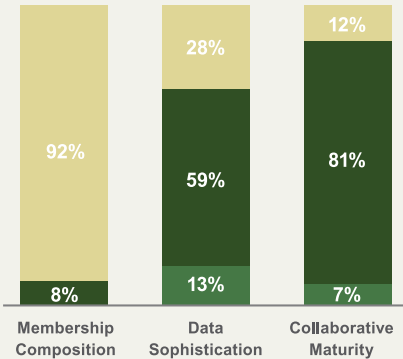
Brandon Davis (Left) and Brandon Wilson (Right) attended the 15th Annual Stand Up For Heroes Benefit in NYC on November 8, 2021.

LPSAT Checkpoint

THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

*Local Partners' Accomplishment
of Key Aspects of Collective Impact*

● Exploring ● Evolving ● Stable



Where We Stand

Membership Composition
Stable and Well-Established

Data Sophistication
Stable and Well-Established

Collaborative Maturity
Evolving and In Refinement

The Strategy

As a BWF local partner who participated in the Local Partner Self-Assessment Toll (LPSAT) in 2021, we are grateful for this tool that will help improve our organization, particularly as VSC continues to build an enhanced collaborative. This tool, along with our other external audits, have provided for us a solid foundation for reflection and growth. We hope to evolve our Collaborative Maturity through active engagement and developing strategies with our partners. The recommended resources were excellent starting points, and we are confident and excited about what we will accomplish in 2022 at Veterans Services of the Carolinas through our lasting partnership with the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

GOT YOUR 6

A Bob Woodruff Foundation Initiative



855-962-8387 | www.abccm-vsc.org