



GodCares

HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES

www.god-cares-ministry.org

God Cares ministry was incorporated in 2010 in an effort to assist homeless veterans, as well as non-veterans, find employment.

The **God Cares** Board of Directors consists of thirteen individuals who are dedicated to helping our veterans and others in need transition into the mainstream society, and to attain their self-described level of success and personal happiness.

We are an all-volunteer Board; the only routine overhead we have are the cell phones we use to answer and screen calls from clients. All monies donated go directly toward helping these deserving individuals. All our funding comes from private/individual donations.

We will assist these individuals/families find temporary shelter, food and clothing so they can best present themselves to prospective employers. Charles, and St. Peters who assist with job searches, resume writing and matching employers with potential employees. We will also assist deserving veterans from outside the state of Missouri as funds allow.

We take a holistic approach to those we serve, which often means working with them for an undetermined period of time, in order to get them to a better place so they can be self-sufficient.

Our motto is: ***“Helping others help themselves!”***

Please Note: *God Cares* has a new look. One of our wonderful volunteers totally redid our website and we are excited and very pleased. We are still working on it, but would like you to go there and check it out for yourself. We are also on Facebook with pictures from our 2014 Golf Tournament.

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<i>God Cares at Work:</i>	<i>The Golf Tournament</i>
<p><u><i>Many Lives Have Been Touched. . .</i></u> During 2014, we invested time and money in an average of 2.7 situations per week (individuals and families alike). We are helping people with their most urgent needs, directing them to other sources for specialized assistance, mentoring, and encouraging them to take an active part in changing their lives for the better. As always, our main goal is to find them employment so they can provide for themselves, where the most dignity lies.</p> <p>As usual, this help has included gasoline for job interviews and doctor appointments, motel stays, car repairs, utility bills, rent and house payments, to name a few.</p> <p>It is sobering to realize how many of our veterans and other deserving neighbors continue to fall through the cracks of life and into situations sometimes very difficult to overcome. God has blessed us with your support and prayers, and we never take that for granted. Without your help, we could not even begin to touch the lives we are touching today.</p> <p><i>Thank you so very, very much!!</i> The <i>God Cares</i> Board</p>	<p><u><i>God blessed us in many ways. . .</i></u> We had a beautiful day on September 5th . . .</p> <p>We had 110 golfers, 104 hole sponsors, and 5 tournament sponsors. We had many wonderful and helpful volunteers.</p> <p>One of our sponsors provided lunch for everyone, and <i>God Cares</i> provided dinner, as well as all the cold beverages they wanted. Our silent auction also was a success!</p> <p>Many favorable comments were received regarding organization and hospitality (our goal is to keep our golfers happy) and everybody said they had a great time.</p> <p>This is our only fund-raiser and each year it seems to get better and better. The 2014 tournament was by far the most successful one we have held to date.</p> <p>A <i>big</i> "Thank You" to everyone who played, sponsored, and helped in any way. We couldn't do this without you!</p>

A brief summary of some of the situations this year. . .

We worked with some very special individuals and families in 2014. Below are a few examples of the situations we encounter. We averaged helping 2.7 situations per week.

January 2014

In this situation, *God Cares* helped a veteran who is also a grandmother. She has a job but fell behind on car payments and insurance. She also has custody of a 5-year-old grandson. *God Cares* paid the car and insurance payments for the month.

February 2014

God Cares helped a young veteran family with a number of bills. They have 6 children and both parents are working, and he is battling PTSD. Despite their difficulties, they are a thankful Christian family!

March 2014

A young veteran whose wife divorced him immediately after he returned from Afghanistan needed our assistance. The ex-wife and her brother (who had just been released from prison on a heroin abuse charge) beat up the veteran's truck and destroyed his home. This veteran has custody of his 3 children. *God Cares* helped him find an apartment and paid for the deposit and first month's rent. He now has a job and is going to college majoring in Journalism. A great young American.

April 2014

This veteran needed to move and relocate close to his young daughter in order to maintain joint custody. After he found where he wanted to move, *God Cares* paid for his move and his first month's rent. He is now close to his daughter, working in his new location and attending college. He feels *God Cares* helped prepare him for his new life.

May 2014 – REFERRAL FROM VA ST. LOUIS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM COUNSELOR:

"The veteran you assisted me with earlier this month is in need of some rent assistance to get caught up and get current before she gets her first paycheck from her new job. She has made a partial payment for this month and needs more to be current. She begins working at the VA on Monday 5/19! And is so relieved! But just needs a little more help so she does not get too far behind before her first paycheck. Let me know if you are able to assist. I also asked her to leave a message on the helpline to make a request." *God Cares* submitted a check to the landlord to ensure they did not evict the veteran.

June 2014 – REFERRAL FROM ST. LOUIS VA VOCATIONAL REHAB OFFICE:

“I am working with a Veteran who was just offered a carpenter/handyman position but is in need of some basic tools. He is one of our Homeless programs and recently completed our program and obtained a job offer and a housing offer. I have sent the tool list to WIN for pricing and should have a quote back in the next few days. Once I get the quote, can I share it with you so that *God Cares* can decide if they are able to assist in this? If you need any more information about the Veteran or the position, don’t hesitate to ask.” *God Cares* paid for the tools needed so the veteran could start his job the following Monday. (As a side note, the tools were purchased at a discount from a veteran-owned business.

July 2014

God Cares helped a veteran who needed his water and other utility bills caught up. He was distraught because the VA was not helping with the medical help he needs due to his service related injuries. He has been working through that with the VA, and now has a job and looking forward to better things in his life.

August 2014

A lady was referred to us by the Missouri Career Center in Warrenton. She is 62-years-old and has spent her life doing contract IT work for large companies across the country. Shortly after her last contract ended, she became ill, needed surgery, and used all her savings to pay medical bills. She is also a part-time caretaker of a 13-year-old grandson. She was actively pursuing employment and on the verge of being evicted from her apartment. *God Cares* paid her rent up to date, bought food, and filled her car with gasoline. She was persistent in getting work and is now employed again.

September 2014 – REFERRAL FROM FOCUS MARINES

This very deserving young veteran was involved in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. He was 6’1” when he entered the service. Due to his injuries and subsequent surgeries, he is now 5’9”. He has had a total of 22 surgeries on his legs, removing parts of his damaged bones. The VA and SS are 2 months behind on the help promised to him. Meanwhile, his wife divorced him during one of his surgeries and took most of their belongings. When asked what he wanted most, he said to be near his children. His ex-wife had moved to her hometown. He has joint custody but must move closer to the children. He found an apartment and *God Cares* paid his first month’s rent and the security deposit in his new location near his children. He said *God Cares* gave him a new start in life.

We have maintained close ties with him as we do the other veterans we help. Because the government is still behind on his disability payments, *God Cares* helped him with another month’s rent and gave him a gift card so he could have Christmas for his children. He became

choked up. He is such a deserving veteran and Christian man and is a “winner” no matter what his height ends up being.

October 2014

This female veteran has custody of 4 grandchildren. She recently found out she has cancer. She is a fighter and won't give up because she knows these children need her. In addition to working, she is taking college courses to try to better herself. *God Cares* helped her with her rent so she could avoid eviction, as well as a gift card she could use for Christmas presents or food for her grandchildren.

November 2014 – REFERRAL FROM ST. LOUIS VA VOCATIONAL REHAB OFFICE:

“I am working with a Veteran who recently finished a certification course for IT and is in the interview process with BJC (Barnes Hospital in St. Louis). He is a very intelligent, hard-working Veteran. He was homeless for a little bit and recently obtained an apartment. However, the furnace in his apartment does not work. Both he and the VA have been insisting the landlord fix this issue but it has been slow going. He has a very small space heater for his bedroom but the rest of his apartment is currently 55 degrees. He has 2 young children whom he has joint custody of, but they have not been able to visit because of the temperature. I was wondering if *God Cares* would be able to help with buying a slightly bigger heater so the rest of his apartment would be bearable until his furnace is fixed.” *God Cares* made arrangements with the local Home Depot and purchased another portable heater so this veteran could spend more time with his young kids.

December 2014

In a rather unusual case, *God Cares* gave assistance to a 94-year-old veteran of World War II and his autistic son. They have been living together for 70 years. Unfortunately, the veteran now has dementia and is in need of knee surgery. We helped them with rent for their apartment. They are looking into a VA care facility for the older gentleman.

Keep in mind that in all of these cases, as well as the ones we have not mentioned, there is always more than one phone call or visit needed. These situations take time to get to the top priority of the need. In keeping with our holistic approach, there is a lot of listening and mentoring, as well as sorting through the issues in order to determine the best way to be of help. For that reason, we are sincerely grateful to the Vocational Rehab Center of the VA, the Career Centers, Focus Marines, and other organizations we work with for doing a lot of the initial groundwork for us. And, as ever, we thank all of you, our supporters, for your financial help so that we can do this most rewarding work. We can't thank you enough!