



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 of 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. We work closely with the Missouri Career Centers in Warrenton, St. Charles, and St. Peters who assist with job searches, resume writing and matching employers with potential employees. In addition, we work with other Veteran organizations like the VA and Focus Marines, as examples. We are also helping with The Gold Star Kids Project for children who have lost a parent in Service. They provide tutoring assistance in school as needed. 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* is always working on keeping our website up-to-date. We would like you to go there and check it out for yourself. We are also on Facebook with pictures from our 2015 Golf Tournament.

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God Cares at Work:

Many Lives Have Been Touched. . .

During 2015, we invested time and money in an average of 2.73 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.

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.

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.

Thank you so very, very much!!

The ***God Cares*** Board

The Golf Tournament

God blessed us in many ways. . .

We had another beautiful day for our tournament on September 11th. . .

We had 84 golfers, 80 hole sponsors, and 5 tournament sponsors, as well as many wonderful and helpful volunteers.

The O'Fallon VFW cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch for everyone, and *God Cares* provided dinner, as well as all the cold beverages they wanted. Our silent auction also was a success!

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.

This is our only fund-raiser and each year it seems to get better and better. Our date next year is Monday, September 19th. . . Mark your calendars and come out and join us.

A ***big*** "Thank You" to everyone who played, sponsored, and helped in any way. We couldn't do this without you!

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

We worked with some very special individuals and families in 2015. Below are a few examples of the situations we encounter. We averaged helping 2.73 situations per week. Since 2010, we have helped hundreds of veterans and their families, as well as others in need.

January 2015

In this situation, both husband and wife are veterans. He worked 21 years for the State of MO before being laid off. He suffers from PTSD and is waiting for disability check which should come in March. They are behind on their electric bill. *God Cares* paid their bill to bring them up to date.

February 2015

God Cares made a \$200 donation to Marine Parents for a couple who lost everything in a fire shortly after discharge from the Marines. They have an 18-month-old daughter.

March 2015

This is a referral from the Missouri Career Center. This 20-year-old male is homeless, working at WalMart, going to college, and trying to get an apartment. *God Cares* put him up at a motel in Warrenton for one week till his apartment was available so he could continue his efforts to become self-sufficient.

April 2015

This young single Mom was also referred to us by the Missouri Career Center. She has a 2-year-old son, has completed her dental assistant schooling, and has employment with a St. Charles dentist. The Career Center has been helping with Child Care expenses; however, she is in arrears with the child care facility and has to be current before they will allow her child to continue. The Career Center cannot pay arrearage. *God Cares* paid to get her current so she can keep her child there.

May 2015

We have helped this veteran in the past when he was starting his own business. That did not work out for him; however, he has now found employment but needs a place to stay until he can get his own apartment. *God Cares* put him up for a week at the Value Inn. He is hopeful that will get him through.

June 2015

This young mother of two (12 and 11-months) suddenly found herself in a very abusive relationship. She left with her daughters and has been working on her Nursing Degree. She

applied for employment at SSM and then her car broke down. The mechanic agreed to install a new engine for free, but she needed \$900 to cover the cost of the engine. Her dad and brother are veterans. She found a friend who could give her \$400 to help with the expense, but couldn't come up with the rest. *God Cares* agreed to cover the balance. On the same day we agreed to help her out, SSM called and offered her the job out of 150 applicants. God is good!

July 2015

We have assisted this Veteran grandmother in the past and will continue to help her as needed. She is taking care of her grandchildren in the total absence of their mother and father. She is nearly blind and has developed uterine cancer. She is trying her best to make ends meet with her pension and disability payments but needs help this month with her rent. *God Cares* covered her rent payment.

August 2015

This Veteran client is a Medal of Valor recipient as well as Bronze Star. He suffered brain damage when a roadside bomb exploded very near to him. He has had many surgeries and has recovered to the point that he is in his Junior year of college to become a Mechanical Engineer. He needs a place to live while finishing his degree; he is going to school on the GI Bill and received disability payments to cover his expenses but needs the first month's rent and deposit to secure his apartment. *God Cares* filled this need for him. He is a Christian and was extremely grateful.

October 2015

This young (28) father of one is employed at Geisemar, LA. There was an explosion at the plant and he suffered burns over 90% of his body. He is fighting for his life; he and his wife cannot afford all the medical bills he will build up while recovering from this accident. They need over \$25,000. His parents were both veterans. *God Cares* made a donation to the fund set up for him.

November 2015

God Cares donated \$1,000 to the Gold Star Kids Project. This organization is dedicated to helping children who have lost a parent in combat. God Star Kids lays the foundation for academic goals and success. They will work with students and their families to identify academic needs and address them. They can assist with counseling, tutoring and mentoring, if needed. They also work to get the community involved for the students and provide a modest allowance for their education. They stay in touch with the family and the school the student attends to monitor their progress. Because of our donation, we were able to provide four students with the tutoring needed to help them become confident of their abilities and give

them the peace of mind to know that someone is there for them and cares about their future. Thank you donors!

December 2015

We helped this Marine Veteran a year ago get to a place where he could share custody of his two children (boy 7, girl 5). He dedicates his time after his children are in bed to helping other veterans who are suffering from PTSD or TBI in order to prevent further suicides. He also is an advocate for them to the government to make the system better in the way of helping them recover and return to society after returning from combat. He is getting disability, but is still catching up on past bills. He doesn't want to ask for help, but he needs help with rent. God Cares paid his rent bill and gave him a WalMart gift card for clothes, food, etc.

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!