



— HOW YOU CAN HELP —

This level of activity would not be possible without the generous support of many individuals and businesses in the area. Additional volunteers and financial contributions are received with gratitude and a commitment to continue serving the veterans who have served our country.

For additional info please contact:

Jeff Buggee j.buggee@sbcglobal.net or contact the First Congregational Church at 203-488-7201

Checks may be sent to:

TAVF c/o First Congregational Church of Branford
1009 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

Make payable to FCCB/TAVF. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



WITH THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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American Legion Post 180, Lebanon

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Branford Elks

Branford Rotary

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Woman's Seamen's Friend Society

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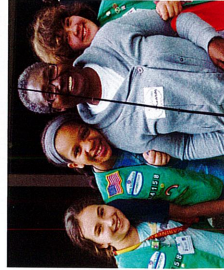
VETERANS OUTREACH

Our mission is simple...to get veterans out of the clinical environment for a relaxing day of fishing. Everything is provided including equipment, food and drink. After that...things take care of themselves. Take A Vet Fishing was established in 2007 and has taken more than 4,000 veterans out fishing.

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TAKE A VET FISHING was started in 2007, seeking ways to engage and provide fellowship to veterans in Connecticut. The program has grown each year by filling an important need and by embracing the goodwill and caring spirit of Connecticut residents.

We've discovered that there are more ways to fill a man or woman's heart with joy and peace than we ever imagined. We are surprised at every turn that what we set out to do has resonated with so many folks in so many communities, and has tapped a wellspring of compassion for our veterans struggling with challenges like blindness, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, alcohol & substance abuse, homelessness and physical limitations. Participants in our events, including the volunteers, have told and written us about what they've experienced using words like healing, peace, comfort, relaxation, excitement, challenge, pride, solitude, camaraderie, confidence building, belonging, freedom, family and discovery. Who knew that "going fishing" would present so many opportunities!



— PROGRAMS & EVENTS —

Take A Vet Fishing is the cornerstone program of the Veterans Outreach mission of the First Congregational Church of Branford, CT. It is self-funded by donor support and is staffed by volunteers from around the state. Based on the shore of Long Island Sound in the New Haven area, about 10 miles from the VA Connecticut Healthcare System West Haven Campus. Serving the Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center, the Next Step program, the Post-Traumatic Stress Residential Rehabilitation Program, the Errera Community Care Center, the Harkness House, CT D.A.V., VA Newington, CT Veterans Home Rocky Hill, South Park Inn Homeless Shelter, Homes for the Brave, Female Soldiers Forgotten Heroes, and others.

Each event is a complete package free of charge. Veterans are provided transportation, equipment, food and beverages, easily accessible waterfront fishing and whatever level of assistance they might require. During the summer months TAVF hosts a series of fishing outings at both salt and freshwater locations in CT. Each event is staffed by volunteers from across the state.

A variety of other activities are held as well, including trips to college football and basketball games, floats in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Branford, ice fishing, picnics, and even fly tying workshops for visually impaired vets during the winter.

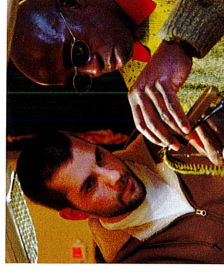
— LONG-TERM GOALS —

One of our long-term goals is to help other organizations around the country to implement a proven model for engaging disabled and recovering Veterans in a relaxed and personal setting which promotes friendship and healing.

A blind person fishing – are you crazy? I had been telling my 13-year old, 'Dad can't do that.' I was wrong. I caught no fish, but I caught a little more of my manhood sitting at the foot of that cross." (Bill Gray)

— NOT JUST FISHING —

There is always more we can do to reach out to veterans, keeping us on the lookout for ways to expand the program. We anticipate another exciting and rewarding year of service to our veterans and hope you can join us.



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