
2021 SUMMARY REPORT



CONNECTING VETERANS, MILITARY & THEIR
FAMILIES TO THE SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY



FY2021 SUMMARY

VCC was founded on the belief that community members are looking for ways to go beyond saying ‘thanks for your service’, and find meaningful ways based on their own individual schedules to support our military members, veterans and their families.

This past fiscal year demonstrated that this belief holds true in San Diego County. With a growing network of organizations, businesses and individuals, VCC connected a record number of veterans, military, family members and caregivers with the information and resources they were looking for.

Our work is exemplified in the following recent connection: A VCC resource member, with a long history of giving discounted services to VCC referred veterans and military members, reached out to inform us that his business was temporarily closed and thus he could no longer take VCC referrals. Our Program Manager reminded him that, as a veteran himself, VCC was here to get him the assistance he needed. And that’s what we did. We got him connected to financial support and small business loan programs that will allow him to build his business back. “I’ve personally always tried hard to give back because I’ve been fortunate in the past. But I never expected anyone to help as much as you have during this hard time.”



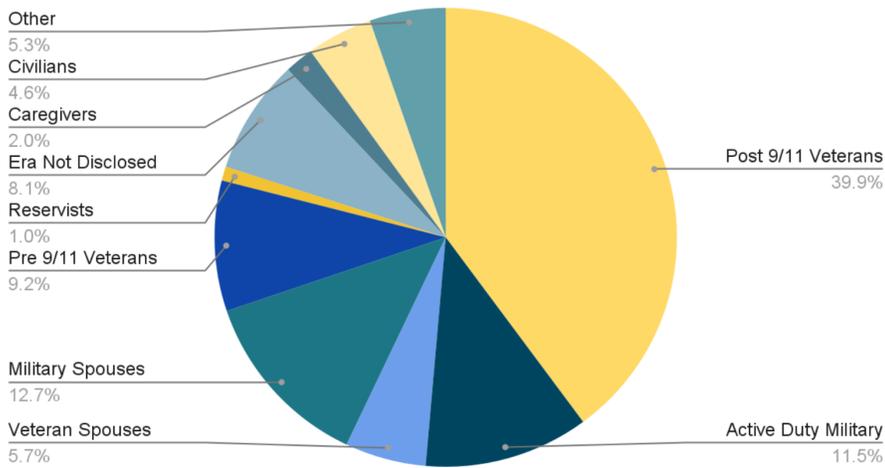
OUR WORK

This year, VCC exceeded our target goals: We connected over 2,000 San Diegans with over 3,000 community connections. Additionally VCC added over 200 new VCC Resource members, expanding our community involvement and adding greater depth to our connection capabilities.

WHO WE SERVE

70% of the clients VCC served this year were Post 9/11 Veterans, active duty, Post 9/11 Veteran spouses, and active duty spouses. Of those, 20% were female Post 9/11 Veterans and active duty, surpassing our goal for increasing female connections.

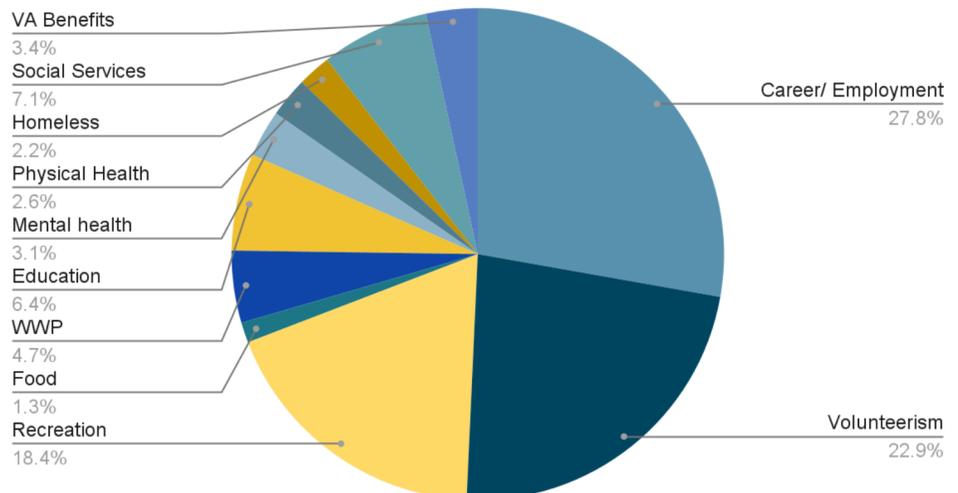
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



OUR CONNECTIONS

Career/employment, volunteerism, and recreation continue to be our top connection areas.

TYPES OF CONNECTIONS



OUR IMPACT

Our goal is to ensure that we connect our veterans, military and their families to resources and expanded networks that make a difference in their lives.

Overwhelmingly veterans, military and their families report:

High satisfaction
with the
connections that
were made.

Feeling more
connected to the
San Diego
community as a
result of their
interaction with
VCC.



CONNECTION STORY SNAPSHOTS

"VCC invested time to understand my background and goals. They provided relevant referrals to people, organizations, and events that are proving to be to be great resources for my future endeavors." -**Retired Naval Officer**

"I was struggling to figure out what career avenues would be available with my military experience. VCC opened so many doors for me to examine my future." -**Post 9/11 Army Veteran.**

"VCC gave me information that helped me to save numerous hours of research, which I would not have found online." -**AD Navy Member**

"As a single parent, I needed help moving. Within two hours of contacting VCC, I was connected to movers that then provided great customer service. Thank you VCC!" -**Naval Officer Spouse**

"In the past week VCC has connected me with over 18 different resources-- from financial, to careers, and recreation. I never would have found these otherwise. Thanks for the continued support" -**Veteran Spouse**

OTHER FY2021 HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SURVEY

With support from the CDC Foundation, VCC launched a survey of San Diego Post 9/11 Veterans, military and spouses, contributing to evidence for upstream veteran suicide prevention approaches. Results from this survey demonstrated that:

- 1) **Veterans, military and their spouses feel supported by the San Diego community, and**
- 2) **Veterans, military and spouses feel they could use additional networking to the community on a wide spectrum of topics.**

Over 80% of respondents indicated a desire for additional career networking opportunities. Following close behind were requests for connections to education/training programs, recreation/arts/youth sports, local business discounts and volunteer opportunities.

CAREERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Careers in the Community is a unique opportunity for San Diego veterans, military and spouses to learn of local career paths, and training/certification programs. This past year VCC featured speakers from FBI San Diego, Biocomm, Embry Riddle Aeronautical, Wounded Warrior Project, Amazon, PsychArmor Institute, Sony, General Atomics, Booz Allen Hamilton, Hewlett Packard and more.

This initiative is a video series that can be accessed at participants own availability. Each registrant is followed up with by our Community Connector to discuss further avenues for career exploration and connections.

VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer in the Community works in partnership with HandsOn San Diego to serve as a hub for connecting San Diegans with volunteer opportunities supporting local veteran and military focused organizations. We are amazed at the incredible spirit our community has for volunteering, as exemplified by the fact that VCC has connected over 500 volunteers during the past year. Our program highlighted multiple volunteer avenues each week, and connected volunteers to events such as: honorary pinning ceremonies for veteran hospice patients, food drives, events supporting families of those deployed at Camp Pendleton, ASYMCA food drives, and STEP warehouse days.





Vets' Community Connections provides a unique opportunity to connect veterans, military, and their families with local community members, businesses, and organizations.

We are looking from San Diegans from all walks of life to answer questions on topics including (but not limited to): Career Paths/Employment Opportunities; Recreation/Wellness; Education/Training Avenues.

Please join our efforts and become a VCC Resource Member. Find out more at vetscommunityconnections.org.

Thank you to our core partners for making our work possible.

