



OPERATION STAND DOWN RHODE ISLAND

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.OSDRI.ORG

Serving Veterans Since 1993

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEAR FRIEND & SUPPORTER LETTER

Page #3

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND SERVICES

Page #4

VOLUNTEER INTEREST

Page #5

OSDRI 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Page #6

PEER TO PEER FUNDRAISING

Pages #7-10

FOOD/HYGIENE PANTRY & CLOTHING SHED

Pages #11-14

MISC. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Page #15

SIGN UP TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Page #16

DEAR FRIEND & SUPPORTER,

Never has a year been more anticipated than 2021. Despite a desire to see 2020 in the books and not look back, there are some notable accomplishments to recognize. As OSDRI's Executive Director, I have the privilege of leading an unbelievably talented and dedicated staff of professionals. Team OSDRI's resourcefulness and commitment to mission has never been more evident than in how they responded to the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19.

From the onset of the pandemic our staff stood firm in their resolve to continue to deliver top notch and in-person assistance to Rhode Island's in need veterans. Rotating between home and office, housing, employment and legal staff continued to house veterans, find them jobs and assist them in disability claims and other legal matters. Our food and hygiene pantry remained functioning and the initial weeks of the pandemic OSDRI committed resources to move highly vulnerable veterans from state shelters and house them in local hotels. OSDRI also outreached to the Rhode Island National Guard, helping many soldiers and airman who were placed on orders navigate the economic hardship of transitioning to and from active duty service.

In May, when it became evident the Governor's restrictions on events and gatherings would derail our Annual Boots on the Ground for Heroes Memorial, we committed to conduct a virtual display of the Rhode Island 29 with the help of our longtime supporters at Cardi's Furniture and Mattresses and the talented videography of Ben DeCastro.

Despite seemingly impossible odds, OSDRI pulled off the 29th Annual Stand Down Weekend. The most critical services were offered at a modified two day event. It was the first time our Stand Down Weekend was held at the 1010 Hartford Avenue, Johnston Headquarters. The Johnston Sun Rise front page read "Refusing to stand down, Pandemic no match for OSDRI's Stand Down Weekend...".

Finally, we closed the year with a successful coat and clothing giveaway held at the Providence VA Medical Center and provided hundreds of meals, toys, and gift cards over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We want to take a moment and express our sincere gratitude to you. Whether you are a client, donor, friend, sponsor, volunteer, fellow veteran, or a future supporter we appreciate you.

We are always looking to improve and would love to hear any feedback or suggestions. Please e-mail osdri@osdri.org with any comments you might have for us.

Sincerely,



Erik B. Wallin, Esquire
Executive Director

Our Mission

OSDRI's mission is to strengthen the veteran community by providing crucial wrap-around services.

Our Vision

Our vision is to empower the most successful generation of transitioning service members through outreach, advocacy and dignity.

Our Services

Employment & Training: Eliminate barriers by providing veterans and their families the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the workforce.

Housing: Facilitate a combination of permanent supportive, transitional and recovery housing offers to low-income and disabled veterans to meet their needs.

Basic Human Needs: Manage a community supported food pantry and Personal Hygiene program for use by in-need veterans stocked with non-perishables.

Legal Services: Our Legal Assistance for Warriors (LAW) program provides pro-bono representation to eligible Rhode Island veterans.

Volunteer Interest

Thank you for choosing to spend your time volunteering with OSDRI. We understand how valuable your time is and that there are a lot of worthy organizations out there, and we genuinely are appreciative that you chose OSDRI.

SKILL SET AND INTERESTS

Before volunteering, take a minute to identify your skill sets and interests in the box below. This will help us match you up with volunteer activities.

Operation Stand Down RI 2020

OSDRI 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



88

Veteran Families Housed in
OSDRI owned units

WHO

we've served this year in numbers



2,000+

Veterans Households
Served



\$1,000,000+

Retroactive VA Disability
Benefits Recovered for Veterans



300

Over \$600,000 in Temporary
Rental Assistance/300
Veteran Households



460

Veterans served by
OSDRI's Legal
Program



150+

Veterans participated
in OSDRI's Pandemic
Response Stand Down
Weekend



200+

Veteran and Veteran spouses
received Employment and
Training Assistance



1,000+

Visits by Veterans to the
OSDRI Food Pantry



For more info on Operation Stand Down RI [click here.](#)

Last year, with your help, we were able to continue working and helping veterans and their families in need.

Take a look at the infographic to the left for a visual picture of our impact in 2020.

While these numbers are great and we are proud of them, we are always trying to do better than previous years and help as many veterans as possible.

Your donations, referrals, social media interactions, attending our events, and spreading the word about Operation Stand Down RI is what makes all that we do possible. Keep talking and having conversations about OSDRI to make sure our impact is lasting and reaches as many people as possible.

Peer to Peer Fundraising

A Peer to Peer (P2P) Fundraiser is someone who supports an organization and fundraises on behalf of the organization. That might look like you sharing your page on your social media accounts, sending out e-mails to your friends and family, word of mouth, etc. We have many opportunities for P2P fundraising.

Our first P2P fundraising opportunity is taking part in 401Gives on April 1st, 2021 and/or Giving Tuesday on November 30, 2021. 401Gives is a statewide day of giving in Rhode Island and Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving for all nonprofits.

We can also set up a personal fundraising page P2P campaign at anytime throughout the year. You would be able to share the link with a unique URL to fundraise on behalf of Operation Stand Down. For example, should you want to set up a birthday fundraiser on behalf of OSDRI you would set up your own page and share it with family and friends. They would then be able to donate right to OSDRI through your campaign page.

To sign up to be a P2P fundraiser contact Amanda at adriscoll@osdri.org.

TELLING YOUR STORY FOR PEER TO PEER FUNDRAISING

Why do you personally donate or support Operation Stand Down RI?

What do you think is the most important thing OSDRI does for veterans? Has OSDRI ever helped you out?

Why should other people donate to OSDRI?

NOTES:

PROSPECTIVE PEER TO PEER DONORS

Make a list of people who you think would support to your P2P campaign (ex. friends, family, neighbors, business owners you know, co-workers, members of organizations, successful people you know)

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Who else in your network could you reach out to?

NOTES:

PEER TO PEER FUNDRAISING GOAL SETTING

Use this sheet to brainstorm goals and strategies and how to attain them.

P2P FUNDRAISING GOAL BREAKDOWN

Goal

☐

MONETARY GOAL?

Strategies

Goal

☐

NUMBER OF DONORS DESIRED?

Strategies

Goal

☐

HOW MANY PEOPLE TO REACH OUT TO
AND THROUGH WHAT PLATFORMS?

Strategies

Goal

☐

LENGTH OF TIME CAMPAIGN WILL GO ON FOR?

Strategies

Food/Hygiene Pantry & Clothing Shed

We have a food pantry and a clothing shed at our Johnston location. We get donations for both every week and are constantly needing to sort and organize everything. Our staff simply can't keep up with it everyday so that is where our greatest volunteer need comes into play.

We need volunteers to sort through the clothing shed bags/boxes to organize the items by size and category. This will ideally be a spring project or when we have nicer weather so we can empty out the clothing shed and lay everything out to really see what we have available. We will then need volunteers every month or so to maintain the clothing shed organization.

Inside our food pantry we have a room for hygiene products. We ask volunteers to sort all hygiene items onto shelves and make pre-made hygiene bags for veterans and their families in need. We try and put in one of everything for a good assortment of products.

We need help sorting food from bags and boxes to the shelves. We also need help keeping our shelves neat and organized. We ask volunteers to help prepare pre-made food bags for veterans and social workers to come pick up. We try and put a variety of food in each bag and also balance them out to make each bag as nutritious as possible.

Another thing we ask volunteers for help with is rotating our food, making sure items that will be expiring within the next few months are toward the front and items that will be good for a while are toward the back. If a volunteer comes across any expired food we ask that they throw it away in our dumpster.

Lastly, we ask volunteers to help lightly clean up (ex. sweeping, mopping, sanitizing, throwing away trash and recycling boxes) when they are done.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS

- CEREAL
- JUICE
- CANNED MEAT
- SOUP (DRY/CANNED)
- CANNED FRUIT
- OATMEAL
- RICE
- APPLESAUCE
- RAISINS
- JELLY / JAM
- CANNED OR INSTANT POTATOES
- MACARONI AND CHEESE
- SNACK ITEMS
- INSTANT NOODLES (RAMEN)
- TOMATO SAUCE
- PASTA
- PASTA SAUCE
- PEANUT BUTTER
- GRAVY
- STUFFING
- BREAD MIXES
- BISCUIT MIXES
- CRANBERRY SAUCE
- PICKLES
- OLIVES
- BOX DINNERS

**DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF MONDAY-
FRIDAY, 9AM-4PM OR MAILED TO:**

**OPERATION STAND DOWN RI
1010 HARTFORD AVENUE
JOHNSTON, RI 02919**



HYGIENE PRODUCTS NEEDED:

Shampoo
Conditioner
Body Wash
Shaving Gel
Razors
Soap
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Floss
Q-Tips
Deodorant
Sunscreen
Bug Spray
Mouthwash
Band-Aids
Tissues
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Personal Care Items

**Give a helping hand to
a veteran in need!**

**Donations can be
dropped off Monday-
Friday, 9AM-4PM or
mailed to:**

**Operation Stand Down
RI
1010 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919**



Serving Veterans Since 1993

Gift Cards are always needed and accepted at Operation Stand Down RI. See below for a list of accepted gift card donations.

GIFT CARD DONATIONS

DONATIONS TO BENEFIT LOCAL VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED



Accepted Gift Cards:

- *Walmart
- *Target
- *Job Lot
- *Gas Stations
- *Stop & Shop
- *Price Rite
- *Visa / MasterCard Cards
- *Kohl's / Old Navy / Burlington
- *CVS / Rite Aid

Donations can be dropped off from Monday-Friday, 9AM-4PM or delivered to:

Operation Stand Down RI
1010 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919

Please call Jessica Miller with any questions at
401-383-4730



Misc. Volunteer Opportunities



OSDRI has several other volunteer opportunities that come up throughout the year.

Some of these opportunities include:

- Spring clean-up
- Power washing veteran housing
- Painting
- Raking
- Misc. building projects
- Event set-up/breakdown
- File organization in the main office
- and more!

To be alerted of any potential volunteer opportunities please sign up to become an official OSDRI volunteer by filling out the form under the volunteer section of our website: www.osdri.org

SIGN UP TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL VOLUNTEER TODAY

Please go to:

<https://osdri.charityproud.org/WebForm/Index/941?formCode=fe612399-f508-446a-94b4-86ca6ec259d9> to apply to become an Operation Stand Down RI volunteer.

You can also visit our website www.osdri.org and click on the volunteer section and fill out the form on there.

If you have any questions call Amanda Driscoll at 401-383-4730 or e-mail at adriscoll@osdri.org

COUNT ME IN