



**WHERE EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY**  
**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS USA**

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June 12, 2025

Office of the County Administrator

601 SE 25th Avenue

Ocala, Florida 34471

✓ Attn: Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, P. E.

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MARION CO ADMIN.

Dear Administrator Bouyounes,

There is a new day at Veterans Helping Veterans USA. While being grateful for the cornerstone laid by the founder of our organization, we are excited to announce a multi-layered expansion of services to better serve more Veterans and their families throughout Marion County and beyond. We will do so while working in close concert with the Marion County Director of Veterans Services, Ms. Daisy Diaz, and her staff.

To accommodate working Veterans, we have expanded our hours and days of operation. This includes being open Wednesdays until 7 pm and on Saturdays 9 am– 1 pm. As you are aware, our services include, but are not limited to, a case management corps offering financial assistance with rent, utilities and more; a supermarket-style food pantry to include non-perishable boxed foods and canned goods as well as frozen meats, poultry and fish; a computer lab to assist with employment searches; clothing items such as new t-shirts, socks, and underwear; personal and/or family counseling with licensed professionals with the Ocala Vet Center; budget and credit counseling; substance abuse counseling; free showers, free haircuts and hygiene products; a team of military chaplains offering spiritual guidance; referrals to the Veterans Administration; housing referrals to help avoid homelessness; home ownership through mortgage loan originators; legal assistance via the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court; Medicare/Medicaid assistance; end-of-life planning, to include services provided by the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

**PASS THROUGH FUNDING REQUEST**

**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS USA**

A more recent expansion of services includes having the Vet Resource Center, the Marion County Veterans Council and Ocala Vet Center on deck, as well as a Veterans Administration -licensed massage therapist.

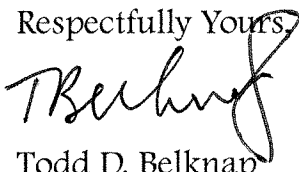
We have also hired our first full-time employee, Mr. Myles McConico, who enjoys a healthy rapport with contacts throughout the city of Ocala and Marion County. He is an Army Vet serving as our Director of Outreach who is already “connecting the dots” while making a difference as we pursue a Homeless Shelter & Day Center for our at risk Warriors.

Later this month, we will be finalizing plans of our Strategic Marketing Campaign, which will be launched throughout Marion County beginning July 2025 in an effort to raise \$400,000 in discretionary funds.

Based on the aforementioned, it is respectfully requested that the \$24,000 pass through funding granted last year by Marion County be continued for the 2025-26 budget year. In expectation of reduced CDBG funding this coming year, the pass through funding will be a great source of relief for many Veterans in Marion County.

Thank you, in advance, for any consideration given this request. If additional information is either desired or required, please do not hesitate to contact me and I shall furnish it without delay. In closing, please permit this letter to also serve as an open invitation to visit and tour Veterans Helping Veterans USA. We’re proud, in a humble way, of what we offer here and enjoy showing others. Our Name is our Mission.

Respectfully Yours,



Todd D. Belknap

Veterans Helping Veterans USA

Executive Director

352-342-1775 (cell phone)

cc: Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Director, Marion County Veterans Services

Chairman, Veterans Helping Veterans Board of Directors