



COMMUNITY PARTNER
Spotlight



VETERANS COUNCIL OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

The Veterans Council of Indian River County's mission is to support all Indian River County veterans and their families while raising awareness of veteran needs and their contributions to society.

Veterans Helping Veterans is one of the cornerstone programs of the Veterans Council. The Veterans Helping Veterans program was started in 2018 with the help of an Impact 100 grant and other donations. The program helps honorably discharged veterans and their families in Indian River County with home improvements and repairs, where the homeowner cannot afford to have the work done and/or are unable to do the work themselves.

In 2021 the Veterans Council expanded the program to include family members of deceased veterans, who, without such assistance may not have been able to remain in the home. Impact 100 funded this expanded program. Home projects range from minor repairs to painting, plumbing, electrical or more major renovations with special emphasis on handicap accessibility, increased energy efficiency and improved safety.

Charles McGriff is a Vietnam veteran who lives with his wife in Gifford, Indian River County, Florida. Their home had old windows that leaked when it rained leaving them vulnerable to potential mold. Some windows required repair and others replacement. Since Charles is blind, he was unable to do this work. And he couldn't afford to pay someone to do it for him.

Impact 100's grant funds helped give Charles and his wife a home that doesn't leak and that now has high-impact hurricane-rated windows. Charles said "Our safety, health, comfort, and pride have improved significantly. The contractors were very good, very professional. The VHV program is very helpful to veterans and I wish I'd known about it sooner."

Veteran requests for program assistance are evaluated according to a set of criteria and the size and scope of the project is determined with site visits by the Veterans Helping Veterans Project Coordinator, who is himself a veteran. All home improvements are done free of charge, with no repayment required.

Since the program inception, \$330,000 has been spent on 100 varied projects in Indian River County. The need is great in Indian River County and it is a pleasure to be able to give back to Veterans, who have given so much to us.