



MVP | **MERGING
VETS &
PLAYERS**

Annual Report

2020

CONTENTS



MISSION	03
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	04
MEMBER QUOTES	05-06
BETWEEN THE HUDDLE	07-09
OUR IMPACT	10
WHO WE ARE	11
DEMOGRAPHICS	12-13
CHAPTER LOCATIONS	14
WHAT WE DO	15
OUR PEOPLE	16-18
PIVOT FROM COVID	19-20
MEMBER STORY	21-22
EXPANSION: NEW YORK CITY	23-24
FINANCIAL REPORT	25-26
WAYS TO GIVE	27-28

OUR MISSION



MVP empowers combat veterans and former professional athletes by connecting them after the uniform comes off; providing them with a new team to assist with transition, promote personal development, and show them they are never alone.





A LETTER FROM

Jacob Toups

Executive Director

Our mission is simple: MVP empowers combat veterans and former professional athletes by connecting them after the uniform comes off; providing them with a new team to assist with the transition, promote personal development, and show them they are never alone.

As Executive Director of Merging Vets And Players, I'm proud to present the following report, highlighting our key achievements during the 2020–21 year.

It's impossible to discuss the 2020-21 year without discussing the coronavirus pandemic. In the past year, COVID-19 has challenged our communities and us in unprecedented ways. Many of our members, athletes and veterans, who were already vulnerable were greatly impacted by the pandemic and its effects.

Despite these challenges, our community of heroes rose to support each other. In less than 72 hours, our MVP Staff pivoted all our services, virtually expanding access to our program from serving 1,000 veterans and athletes a year to 1,000 monthly. To understand the pandemic's impact on our community, we launched a survey to assess our members' challenges and how we could be a better resource. Many lost jobs, struggled with childcare and needed a place to ground themselves to weather the storm. MVP provided that safe refuge ensuring our warriors could have a support network to strengthen bonds during an extremely difficult time.

As the pandemic surged, MVP looked for ways to continue supporting our community. With newly invested support, we launched our 6th chapter MVP New York. Over the year, we continued to expand, reaching 1500+ members with 10,000+ hours of programming. MVP's promise is never to leave anyone behind and always have their backs. Our organization showed up to fulfill this promise during the pandemic.

We recognize it will take time for communities across the US to rebuild, and our community is committed to being here to help every step of the way. Stronger than ever, our veterans and players will rise to the occasion to support each other and become the leaders our communities greatly need. By committing time for themselves and each other each week our members are poised to come out of post-pandemic with the skills to help heal our communities. We will continue to be that place that empowers them to do so.

It continues to be an honor to serve our veterans and athletes, empowering them each week and watching them thrive. Thank you so much for being so supportive and look forward to even more great things from us in the future.

In Service,

Jacob Toups

**“MVP is a camaraderie, you
come in and it’s like you’re back
with the team.”**

**Jarrold Bunch
NFL Alumni**





Members, Jennifer & Brittney (and her service dog Bucky) during pre-huddle workout.

Operation Gratitude



Members Sarge Perez and Jamal Ali pack boxes for Operation Gratitude. (They packed over 300+ boxes and beat CHP.)

Members from our Las Vegas chapter at First Creek Trailhead



Operation Lego



With the help of Lego, MVP staff hand delivered legos sets to members for the holidays

Impact & Efficacy of MVP Program



MERGING
VETS &
PLAYERS

81%

Have gained more positive relationships because of the MVP program.

80%

Are more likely to use behavioral health resources because of the MVP program.

64%

Have improved in having people in their lives they can open up to.

500%

Increase in the number of MVP participants attending at least 4 sessions of programming in 2020 compared with 2019

64%

Improved in talking openly with other people about personal things since joining the MVP program.

53%

Have increased awareness of alternative behavioral health wellness practices.

48%

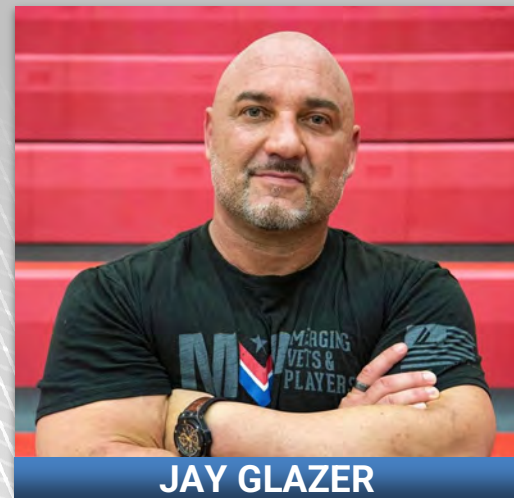
Increased willingness and use of alternative behavioral health services outside of the VA.

90.2%

Retention of 2020 MVP participants in 2019.

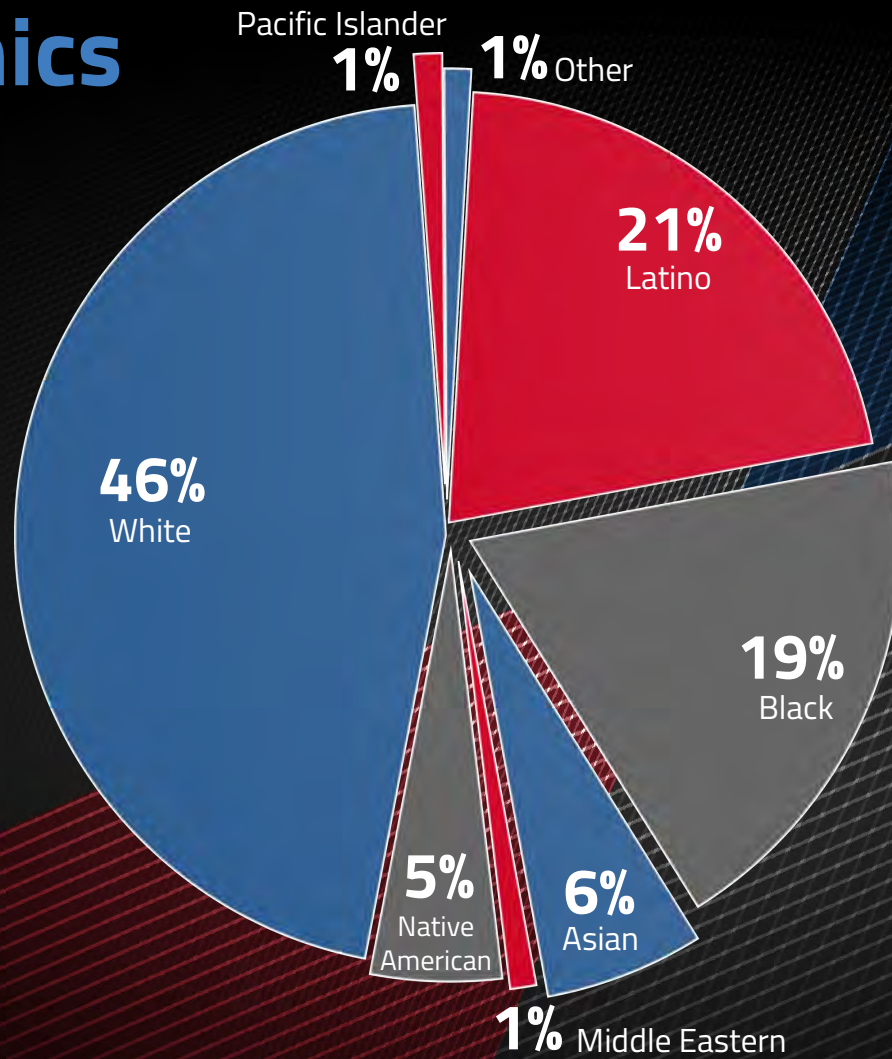
Who We Are

Merging Vets and Players (MVP) was created in 2015 by NFL insider Jay Glazer and former Green Beret and NFL Player Nate Boyer to address the unique challenges faced by both combat veterans and retired athletes. These men and women can benefit from each other's strengths, experience and abilities to unlock their full potential and lead their families, communities and country toward a better future. Our unique program model allows our membership to become part of the solution we are striving to solve. The model seeks to address combat veterans and former pro athlete mental health challenges and their lack of support in getting the necessary resources to address them. By anticipating outcomes members build stronger peer relationships and help make progress in developing a new sense of purpose. Creating a new team of amazing human beings who share the same experiences good, bad, and indifferent is what we strive to solve.



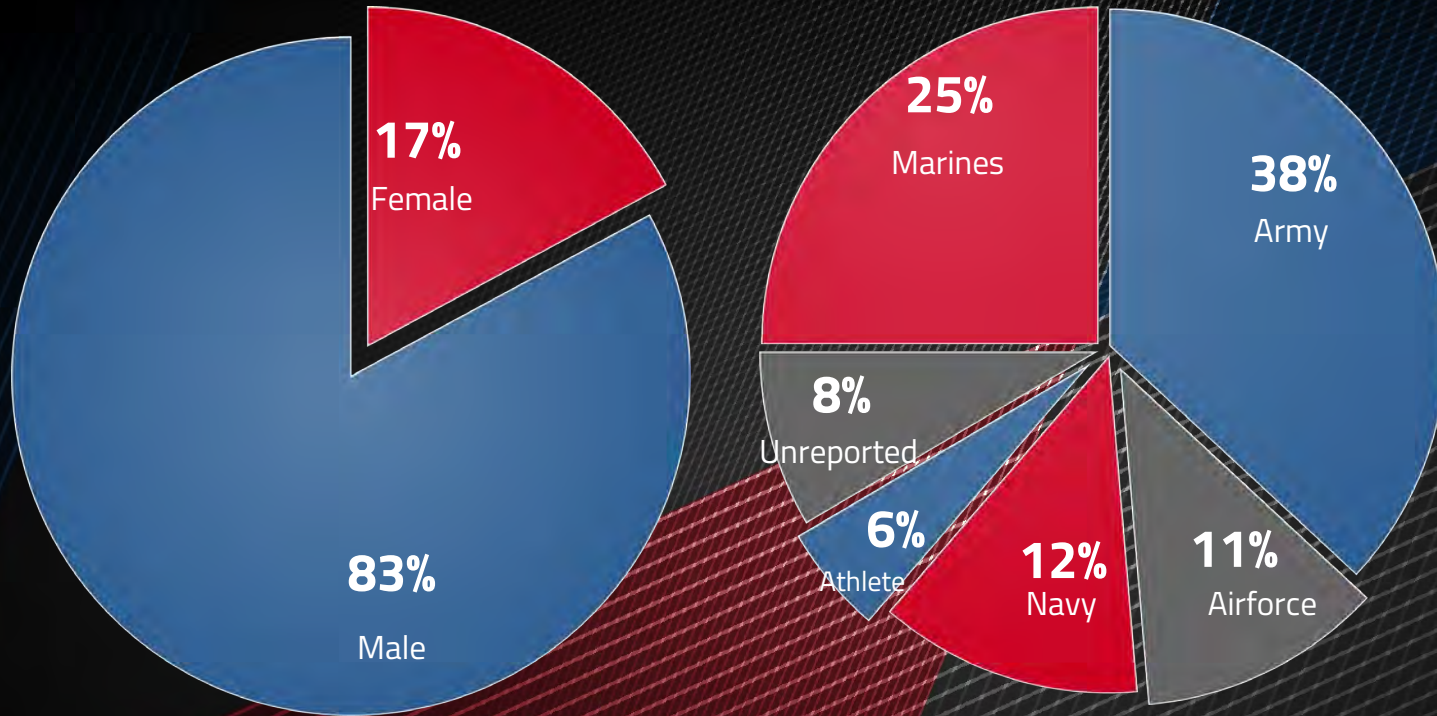
Demographics

RACE

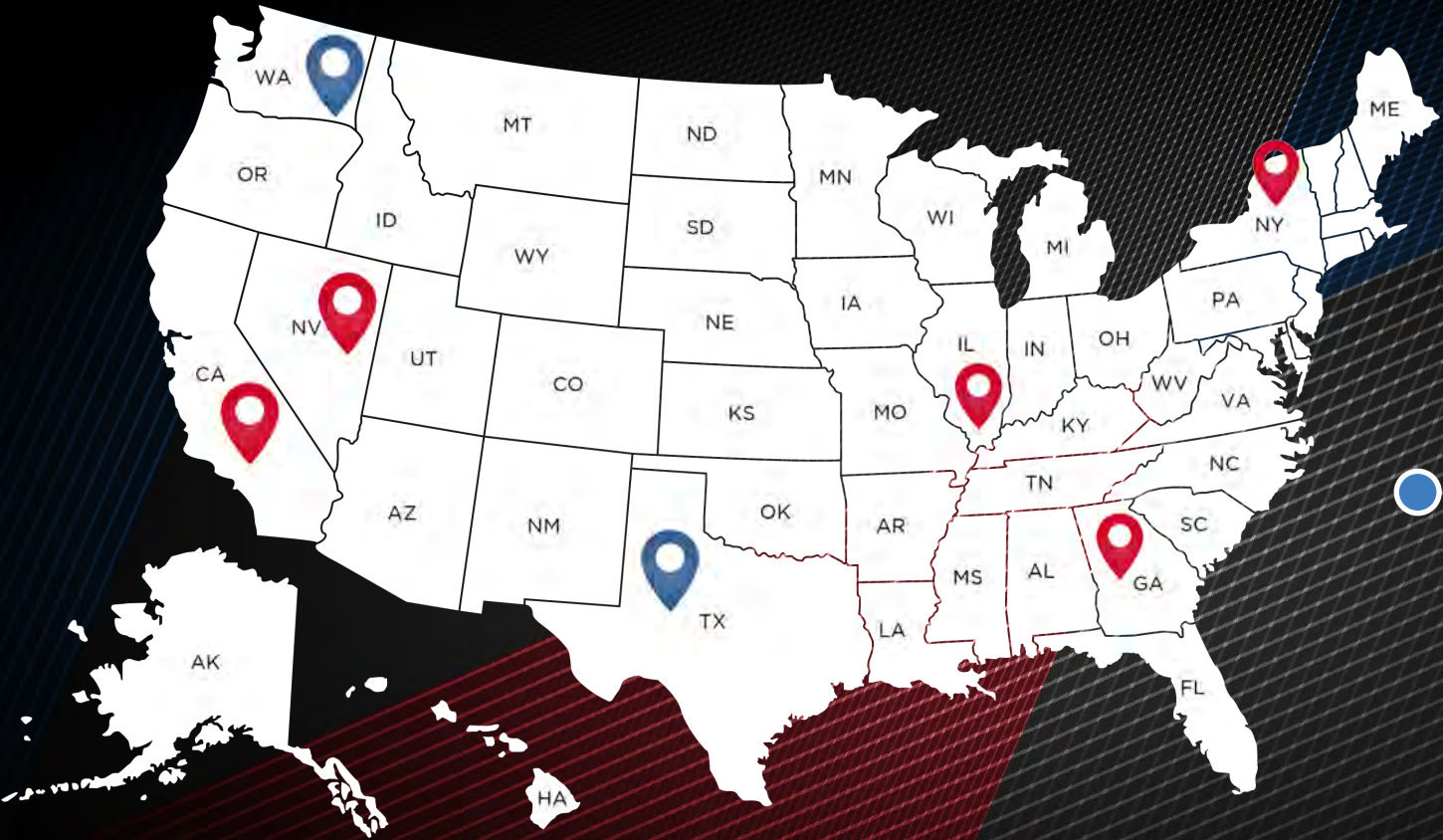


Demographics

GENDER & BRANCH OF SERVICE OR ATHLETE STATUS



● Chapter Locations



Los Angeles, CA
Las Vegas, NV
Chicago, IL
Atlanta, GA
New York, NY

● Coming Soon

Dallas, TX
Seattle, WA

What We Do



Our program combines a physical workout with peer-to-peer mentoring. Once a week our members come together for a workout facilitated by expert trainers in an elite gym. The gym provides a setting where veterans/players feel comfortable and confident. Participation in the workout is good for the body & brain.

Following the workout, they participate in the "huddle", an opportunity for them to come together, recognizing their earned scars. The huddle, facilitated by specially trained facilitators, offers support and shared experience in the hope of helping others choose strategies that will also help them be successful.

This peer-to-peer mentorship is supported by professional staff who also provide connections as appropriate to necessary services. MVP recognizes that whether injured on the field or in the field of battle, athletes and vets often share physical challenges. They also share mental challenges. It has many names, but PTSD is not confined to wartime combat. It is a diagnosable mental condition that accompanies multiple kinds of trauma. As a result, both vets and players face transitions that are often accompanied by a loss of purpose and identity. Events are inclusive of their peers, family, and friends and strengthen the foundation for the transition.



Our People



Program staff are combat veterans trained in intervention models for the treatment of trauma. They leverage their network, understanding of veteran services and culture, and their own challenges of transition to build relationships with veteran members. The interactive MVP training provides staff with the tools to amplify the impact of their peer support and physical activity program. Our training and program models were developed by recognized experts in the field of mentoring and trauma-informed techniques.



Noel Huerta

Development Director



AJ Perez

Marketing Manager



Denver Morris

Los Angeles Program Manager



Andi Ward

Training & Resource Coordinator



Tonya Oxendine

Atlanta Program Manager



Oscar Kush

Chicago Program Manager



Issac Saldivar

Las Vegas Program Manager

STAFF





Jay Glazer
Founder/ President



Nate Boyer
Co-Founder



Randy Couture
UFC Hall of Famer/ Veteran



Kirstie Ennis
Paralympian/ Veteran



Tom Wasserman
HPS Investment Partners



Mike Morini
CEO Workforce Software



Chris Stewart
White & Case LLP



Criag Ley
Entrepreneur



Maury Gostfrand
Partner /The Montag Group



David and Dana Pump
Double Pump, Inc



Catherine Pack
*Asst. VP of Video Operations
AT&T*



Scott Coker
CEO Bellator MMA



Constance Schwartz
Co Founder SMAC Ent.



John C Langbein
Founder Ticket Exchange Inc.



Chris Hannan
Chief Marketing Officer/ Hemp Hydrate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Finding Our Way Through Coronavirus Pandemic

Who better to have on your team than combat veterans and former professional athletes who have overcome obstacles in the face of adversity? From on-the-fly adjustments to audibles that require quick thinking, we utilized our experience to pivot the entire program to a virtual platform via Zoom. A further step into impacting our populations, we realized that there were no limits physically on who we could reach by existing virtually. The pivot to virtual was handled well by our talented team; we began accepting members from all over the country and assigning them to their nearest MVP Chapter geographically. Within a month, we went from reaching 1,000 members in-person in a year to 1,000 members virtually nationwide. Living on Zoom, we spread to all corners of the country and grew our membership across all chapters!





MVP | MERGING
VETS &
PLAYERS
www.mvp.org

Veteran Testimonial

My name is Bert Lightle; I served in the Army/National Guard from 2001 to 2009. I also trained amateur and professional Mixed Martial Artists from 2006 to 2013.

MVP has helped me by having a group of peers that understand the team mentality and post-deployment/post-service life struggles. It has helped my confidence and has helped me realize my individuality and identity as a person. I have spent over a decade outside of the service trying to figure out who I am and where I fit into "normal" society. I know I have a family that understands my struggles and can relate and offers advice and support applicable to my life. That's something that I've never had outside of the military. MVP has filled a large hole in my life.

MVP has been nothing short of life-saving. The past year has been the most challenging chapter of my life. After what felt like a year of setbacks and beatdowns, I struggled with severe depression and thoughts of suicide. MVP helped me verbalize my struggles, seek refuge in my peers, and reestablish my confidence and sense of self-worth.



Aldon Smith's Journey Back to the NFL

Redemption

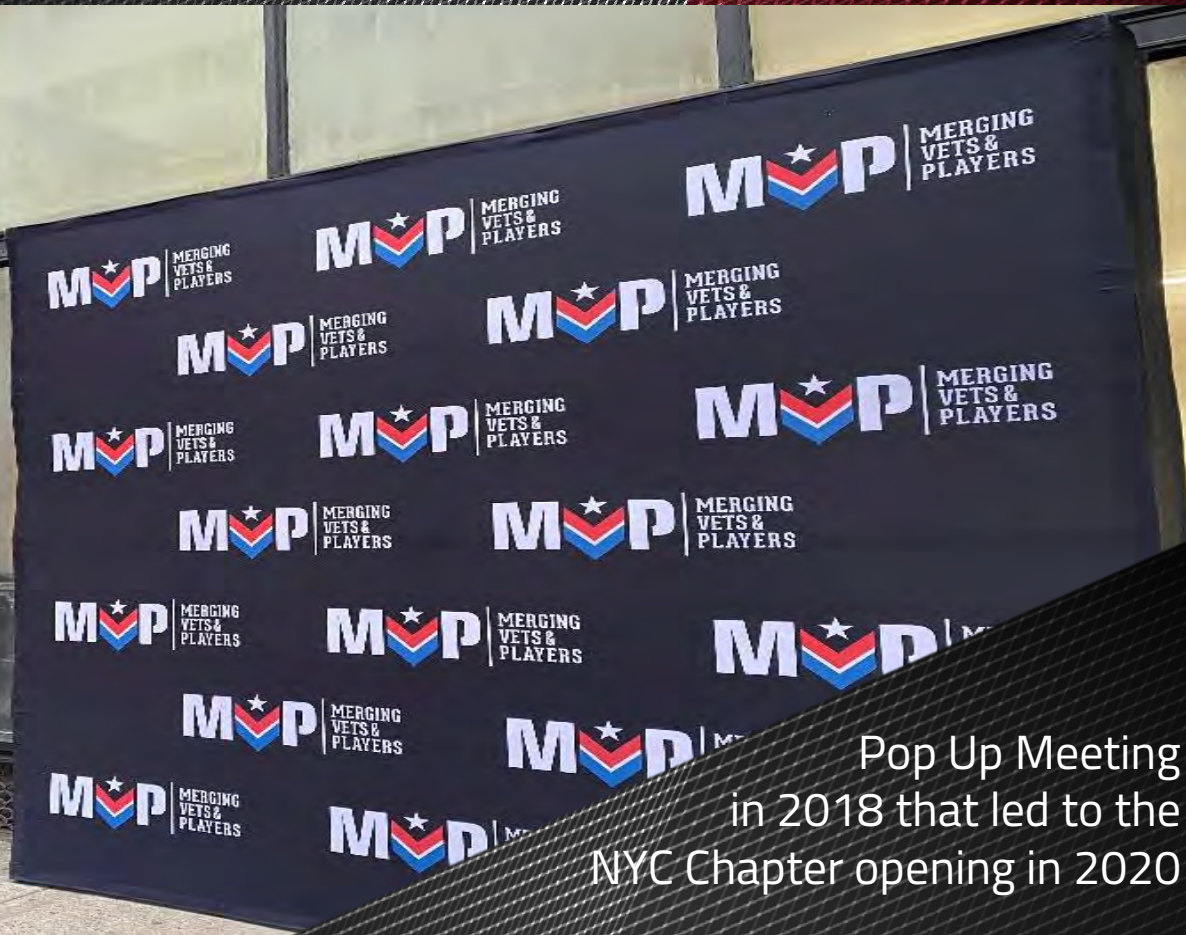
Everyone loves a great redemption story, but to be part of one is truly special. We have been part of some fantastic stories these last several years with your help and this year was no different. Enter Aldon Smith, a wrecking ball in the league; however, also in his personal life, Smith eventually found himself on a destructive path. Upon what he calls "rock bottom," he realized there has to be another way. Brought into MVP by our friend Jerry Steinberg, Aldon began attending LA sessions and working on himself in all aspects of life. He continued the upswing working with Jay and the Unbreakable team to get back into the NFL caliber needed. Relationships with members were born, and bonds forged, creating a deep connection to the program so much that he even lent a hand during the opening of MVP NYC. In sharing his story and embracing the strength of vulnerability, Aldon accomplished the very goal that once seemed unattainable. Smith was not only reinstated into the NFL but also received a contract from the Dallas Cowboys. His story is a testament to even in your hardest times, when your surrounded by a supportive team of peers you can achieve anything.



New York City



224



Pop Up Meeting
in 2018 that led to the
NYC Chapter opening in 2020

New York City



In March, with the help from all of you and partners, we expanded our reach to one of the largest markets in the country, MVP New York City! With many in attendance for the grand opening, we delivered our team's message and culture, thus allowing the potential to reach out to the 200k+ combat veterans and former professional athletes in the city. Even with the challenges of COVID-19, our New York city remains one of the most exciting and strongest chapters we have launched yet!

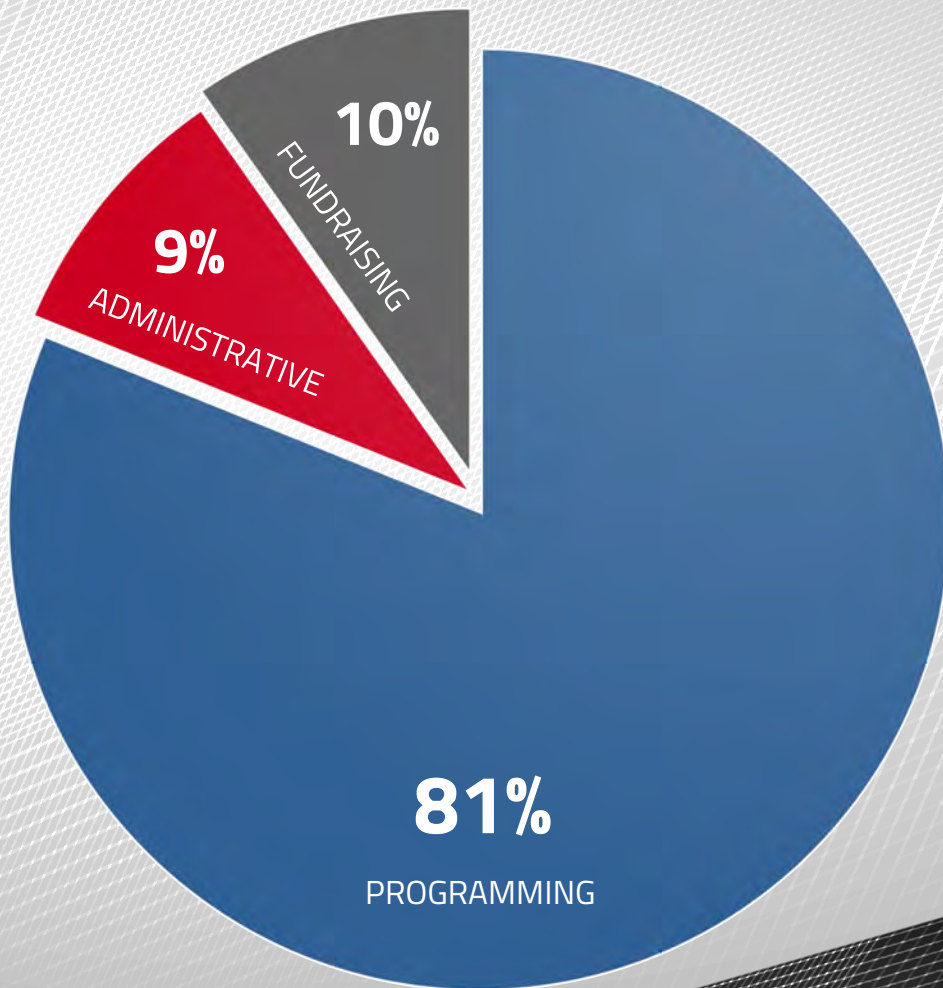
Income Statement

For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020

Operating Activities	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
Support and Revenue			
Contributions and grant income	\$784,726	\$225,000	\$1,009,726
Interest income	\$ 21		\$21
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 278,125	(\$278,125)	
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,062,872	(\$53,125)	\$1,009,747
Expenses			
Empowerment programs	\$750,821		\$750,821
Management and general	\$82,705		\$82,705
Fundraising and development	\$86,429		\$86,429
Total Expenses	\$919,955		\$919,955
Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$142,917	(\$53,125)	\$89,792
Change in Net Assets	\$142,917	(\$53,125)	\$89,792
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$134,747	\$281,875	\$416,622
Net Assets at End of Year	\$277,664	\$228,750	\$506,414

Expenses

2020



Ways to Give



Annual Giving

Annual gifts to Merging Vets And Players provide much-needed, unrestricted support to sustain daily operations and fund our program that gives a weekly supportive team of peers to combat veterans and former professional athletes. Plan your annual donation to Merging Vets And Players and know that your contribution will ensure MVP can continue to offer life changing programming to the nation's combat veterans and former professional athletes.



Corporate Social Responsibility

By investing in MVP you are making a tangible impact on the lives of combat veterans and former professional athletes. We offer a multitude of corporate partnership opportunities., from sponsorship of high-profile events, to experiences that enhance our members' success. Through partnerships your company will invest in providing a better future to combat veterans and former professional athletes while gaining valuable recognition and exposure.



Endowment

Endowing Merging Vets And Players with sizable gifts and bequests is ensuring peer support for present and future combat veterans and former athletes in transition. Your donation will have a lasting impact over time, providing resources to help our members transition with life skills and support they need to transition successfully.

Ways to Give



Planned Giving

A planned gift will ensure our members will have a positive and supportive environment each week to thrive, leading to more successful and productive futures. Create your legacy and ensure our valuable, life-changing program continues to serve future members.



Stock Donations

Donating your stock is an easy way to provide sustainable support for our organization. Through our partnership with Neuberger Berman, we can offer the opportunity for you to transfer ownership of your stock in a form of a donation. You'll receive a tax write off and the feeling of giving to a lifesaving program in return.



Other Ways To Give

We also have unique opportunities for you to respond to the needs of our combat veterans and former professional athletes. Please visit vetsandplayers.org for more information.