



The Bobby Henline Foundation
dba
Forging Forward
ATTN: Jamie Henline
875 Deacon Road
Greensburg, KY 42743

OVERVIEW

THE BOBBY HENLINE FOUNDATION

Doing business as

FORGING FORWARD

MISSION

Healing through finding what is strong with you. #whatsSTRONGwithYOU

VISION

To create an everyday life filled with quality, friendship, motivation, flexibility, and individual pride for active duty and veteran military and first responders and their families.

POPULATIONS SERVED

Active Duty and Veteran Military and First Responders, their families, and Gold Star Families

CHARITY STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined the following for The Bobby Henline Foundation, doing business as Forging Forward:

EIN: 83-4615262

Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Exemption: IRS Code 501(c)(3)

Classification: Public Charity

Contributions from Donors: Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522.

OVERVIEW

The Bobby Henline Foundation, Inc. doing business as [Forging Forward](#), is an IRS registered and approved public charity organization.

The Foundation consists of a group of people who believe it is in everyone's best interest to honor and empower the target populations we serve: Active Duty and Veteran Military and First Responders (Law Enforcement, Firefighters, 911 Operators, Search and Rescue), their families and Gold Star Families. By joining like-minded individuals and organizations, together, we can fulfill the vision of creating everyday lives filled with quality, friendship, motivation, flexibility, and individual pride. We do this through sharing to inspire learning, advance knowledge and strengthen our local and global communities through understanding and compassion.

Within this duty is the underlying social responsibility of assisting the target populations to re-secure their humanity through the provision of and funding for opportunities to increase social connectivity, to gain new skills, increase knowledge and treatment of physical and mental health conditions related to trauma, and provide supports that allow an individual and collective fulfilling and dignified life.

HISTORY

In April 2007, Bobby Henline came home from his 4th deployment to a war zone barely holding on to life in a medically induced coma. Doctors said there was no medical explanation why he was alive. Once Bobby regained his thought process, he strongly believed he should have died alongside the other four troops in the Humvee.

Bobby has learned over the years how to battle the demons of post-traumatic stress, anxiety, hypervigilance, survivor's guilt, emptiness, and self-isolation. He knows the darkness and deep hole of feeling lost and detached from friends and family. Many nights during his recovery he prayed to God to let him die in his sleep.

During his three-year recovery, he was worried about his family and children. He wanted to make sure they knew he was the same person after seeing him with his head burned to the skull, burns on almost 40% of his body, and the disfigurement that the burns caused. He made jokes with his family and made them laugh. He made jokes with other injured warriors and healthcare workers while in the hospital, using a dark humor only they understand. After getting through his first tumultuous year and with support from his family and healthcare providers, Bobby began to see hope. Encouraged by his occupational therapist to try out his jokes at a comedy club open mic night, he thought his set was a flop, but he began talking to the other comics and they offered some suggestions. So began Bobby's mission and purpose to share his trauma, connectivity, compassion, and kindness with the world through laughter. His trauma began to turn into light.

For almost 16 years, Bobby has traveled the world sharing his story inspiring others and being inspired by others. With supportive friends, The Bobby Henline Foundation doing business as "Forging Forward" was created to help others through their trauma and to focus on living today using the strengths they have to overcome weaknesses. Forging Forward's goal is to help each individual find an outlet, show them how to use the tools and knowledge Bobby has been using for years to battle and live with his "new" normal to help them find their "new" normal, to help them look deep inside and ask not "What's wrong with me?" but "What's Strong

with Me?” and understand what it means to build on their strengths. In building strengths, the willingness to want to help others is created and each person can use their strengths to pay it forward.

MAJOR GOALS for PERSONS SERVED

- Connectivity with each other and their communities through varied forms of art such as speaking, photography, forging, welding, comedy, acting, music, poetry, book writing, songwriting, storytelling, hiking, walking, kayaking, fishing, axe throwing, running, outdoor water activities, and more.
- Positive, collaborative social interaction through the varied forms of art and activities.
- Access to existing organizations offering activities to promote physical and mental health and socialization.
- Forging Forward encourages active duty and Veteran Military and First Responders to reach out to a buddy, administrator, professional, or family when the load feels too heavy to carry alone, with a **focus on getting professional assistance** to work through stress related to war wounds, profession, job, relationships, substance use, physical health, money, legal, or housing stress.
- Forging Forward's ultimate goal is the **elimination of suicide** among Military and First Responder populations.

SERVICES

FORGING FORWARD RETREATS

COST: *The cost can range from \$5,000-\$10,000 depending on the number of participants, purchase of flights, lodging, food, activities, etc. The organization's goal is to keep the cost at \$5,000 or under, but with prices rising considerably this is a difficult goal to reach. Volunteers provide transportation with their own vehicles, depending on the event location, but occasionally volunteers must take a flight to an event location, in addition to renting a vehicle. The biggest expenses, minus flights and transportation are getting the participants (and volunteers as needed) to the event activity locations, food, activity expense, and lodging. The focus is to locate a company or organization willing to work with Forging Forward to provide free or greatly reduced lodging and/or meals when possible.*

LOCATION: *A Forging Forward Retreat can be scheduled anywhere in the USA. To keep cost at a minimum, the organization seeks to partner with local connections, non-profits, corporate, etc. to assist with lodging, activity, and/or food expense. Forging Forward works to partner up with like-minded organizations (not for profit, small business, or corporate) and people with resources to host the Retreat and/or skills and activities during the Retreat.*

RETREATS: *The goal is to schedule three (3) Retreats per year, minimum, with additional retreats as funding and resources are available.*

Forging Forward brings a mixture of 4-10 active duty and/or veteran Military and/or First Responders individuals to a 2-4 day retreat to enjoy nature and learn or participate in at least one skill. Activities are planned in a variety of locations to rekindle camaraderie in a safe and open environment. The organization teams up with local artists, businesses, and professionals to teach participants a new outlet or tool through art or physical activity to address post-traumatic stress and other trauma-related issues. Activities may include whittling or wood crafts; bowling; storytelling through poetry, songwriting, comedy; welding, forging a knife;

painting; photography; kayaking, fishing and outdoor water activities. Additional activities include hiking, nature walk, camping, bicycling, axe throwing, community service, and more. Participants are not required to have a post-traumatic stress injury.

FORGING FORWARD REMEMBRANCE TAGS

COST: *The military veterans tags are no cost to the receiver.*

NOTE: Forging Forward is currently searching for an organization or public entity willing and able to provide verified names of First Responders who have died by suicide, which are also public knowledge. This has proved to be a difficult task due to family privacy concerns.

Forging Forward creates Remembrance Tags with the names of Military Veterans who have died by suicide due to their battle wounds of post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or other mental health, physical, or personal issues. The Tags are presented primarily to Military and First Responder Veterans in memory of the service member, to never be forgotten.

Each person receiving a Remembrance Tag is asked to take an oath to live their life to the fullest in memory of the service member. The oath focuses on having the strength to ask for help during mental or physical health battles, as well as personal battles. Many of the military and first responders participating in the Remembrance Tags have reached out to the service member families.

[Click](#) to see the Forging Forward Remembrance Tags Spreadsheet.

FORGING FORWARD MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS

COST: *The cost ranges from \$2,000-\$10,000.*

Forging Forward helps cover the cost to get motivational and inspirational Military and First Responder Veterans to schools, ROTC events, faith-based organizations, and non-profit organizations that might not otherwise be able to afford a speaker to inspire their community. Forging Forward will cover part of the expense such as airfare, hotel, food and/or an honorarium for the Speaker, based on funds available.

FORGING FORWARD BODY SHOP for MILITARY VETERANS ONLY

COST: *The cost could be upwards of \$1,000-\$5,000 estimated, depending on flights, lodging, and how long the military veteran must stay near their prosthetic provider to get the work completed.*

This service is designed to serve Military Veterans. In January 2022, through an anonymous donor, Forging Forward started The Body Shop. The Body Shop is designed to assist military veterans who have or need a prosthetic to visit their prosthetic healthcare providers, when a flight and lodging are needed.

A prosthetic may need to be refitted or updated, or the individual may have recently had an amputation from a disease or accident. The individual may have never had a prosthetic and due to life circumstances, feels that having a prosthetic will improve their quality of life. Forging Forward hopes to ease the burden so that the

military veteran and their family can focus on the health of the veteran AND not worry about finances as they try to figure out how to get where they need to go.

Total Veterans assisted: 5

Individual Veterans assisted: 3

FORGING FORWARD ALLIES

Forging Forward teams up with other organizations invested in giving back to the Military, First Responder or Gold Star Family communities.

FORGING FORWARD FUNDRAISERS

Forging Forward teams up with Military and First Responder Veteran and Gold Star Family individuals and organizations, organizations interested in assisting military or first responders, to advance services or programs that globally and mutually benefit the Military and First Responder Veteran and Gold Star Family communities.

FORGING FORWARD VOLUNTEERS

Forging Forward relies on its volunteers to assist at Retreats, Fundraisers, and provide additional opportunities for target populations to participate in activities. Without our volunteers, we could not properly attain our mission and vision. Forging Forward would not grow, have a positive influence on people in our communities, or even function properly. Volunteers help us build a more cohesive, safer, and stronger community across the USA; it unites people in exceptional ways, bringing positive effects on both the volunteer and the group we are assisting or being a part of. The skills volunteers bring to the table are phenomenal and they are a key part of Forging Forward's success.

OPERATIONS

FORGING FORWARD OPERATIONS

Operations are conducted by volunteer Board Members. Large projects must have a majority vote from the Board. The President of the organization runs the day-to-day operations.

Funding for the organization comes in the form of donations from men and women across the world who support the services Forging Forward provides, sales from Forging Forward products, anonymous donations, social media fundraisers, and fundraisers that various organizations and groups across the USA generously activate to support Forging Forward.

Planning and organizing events are mainly done as a day-to-day operation; however, with expansion into other states, the Board relies on assistance from an appointed volunteer in that state to assist the President in planning and execution and being reliable and accountable to the mission and vision of Forging Forward.

A 990 is filed each year that Forging Forward has been operational by an accounting firm.

HASHTAGS

FORGING FORWARD HASHTAGS

The most often used hashtags are #forgingforward, #whatsSTRONGwithYOU (our signature hashtags), #youarebeautiful, #veteran, #military, #firstresponders, #suicideprevention, #suicideawareness.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Jamie Henline, President
- Bobby Henline, Vice-President
- Shawn Ford, Treasurer
- Annie Vest, Secretary

VOLUNTEERS

- Kelly Black
- Sharon Mathis
- Eddie Mathis
- Randy Barton
- Kevin Ziegler
- Tammy Ziegler

All Forging Forward Board Members and Volunteers work and provide support on a voluntary basis.

CONTACT

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Facebook: BobbyHenlineFoundation

Instagram: @bobbyhenlinefoundation

FORGING FORWARD IMPACT

Donations and sales of Forging Forward products have supported the activities below since 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Service dog selection, training, travel for one military veteran with Retrieving Freedom in Missouri – Sanford - 2022
- Vehicle, vehicle insurance, housing purchase for one military veteran with Veterans Advocate LLC, Fayetteville - 2021
- Camping equipment, camping and kayaking fees for two military veterans, Uwharrie National Park - 2021
- Camping meals for 10+ military active duty/family/veterans with Off-Road Outreach (ORO), Uwharrie National Park - 2021
- Burial services and lunch for one military veteran's family and all the supporters with ORO - 2021
- Fundraiser for winter clothing for homeless military veterans in Fayetteville with ORO, Fayetteville - 2021
- Fundraiser for Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gaston with Motivating America
- Provide consultation / meals for the V.E.T.S. Conference to help military veterans wanting to start their own business or become entrepreneurs with the Axios Inspires Foundation - 2021
- Recipient of 2022 2.2 for 22 Fundraiser hosted by US Logoworks, Fayetteville
- Hosted Axes With Allies Retreat for veterans and first responders at Camp4Heroes, Fairmont - 2021
- Spoke at the 20th Anniversary of Daimler Trucks of North America "Ride of Pride" for Memorial Day, Cleveland - 2022
- Spoke at the Local UAW 3520 Veterans Committee Christmas Party – 2022
- What's Strong With You: Deadlifts and Tattoos Fundraiser hosted by TruFit Gym Fayetteville, TruFit Gym Hope Mills, The Holiday Highlander for Forging Forward at The All American Tattoo Convention, Fayetteville, NC – April 2023
- Free Comedy Show with Bobby Henline at USO Fort Bragg – 2023
- Free Comedy Show with Bobby Henline and RJ Ryan at USO Cherry Point - 2023

COLORADO

- Dinner for 10+ military veterans from across the USA and Canada with Challenge Aspen, Estes Park - 2020
- Comedy Show and Fundraiser with Colorado ALR Romp, Buena Vista - 2022
- Hosted Pagosa Springs Veteran and First Responder Retreat, partnered with Warriors Mountain River Adventures, Pagosa Springs - 2022

PENNSYLVANIA

- Returned the ashes of a military veteran to his family with ORO - 2021
- Bobby Henline Comedy at the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association, Pittsburgh - 2023
- Funded a military veteran comedian for a comedy show at the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association Conference, Pittsburgh - 2023

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Hosted Beach Retreat, for veterans and first responders, Myrtle Beach - 2021
- Hosted Hydrant Heroes Retreat, for firefighters/paramedics and their families, Myrtle Beach - 2022
- Top Golf for military and first responders, Myrtle Beach – 2023

NEW YORK

- Bobby Henline, Motivational Speaker at Kids Helping Kids event to raise funds to provide winter coats to children in NY and annual gift to one child with a severe disability, Oheka Castle, Huntington - 2021
- Started the Forging Forward Body Shop service, 2022

GEORGIA

- Bobby Henline shared his story at a Feeding the Heroes Foundation event which provided over 200 meals to first responders in the local vicinity, McDonough - 2021
- Bobby Henline, Keynote Speaker at Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Atlanta - 2022
- Comedy Show and fundraiser for American Warrior Garage and Forging Forward with Beard Vet Coffee at Brimstone Restaurant and Tavern, Alpharetta - 2022
- Keynote Speaker, Forging Forward fundraiser at the Republican Women of Forsyth County, Cumming - 2022

OHIO

- Grill N Chill with Bobby Henline at Patriot Iron's inaugural event to kick off their t-shirt company, Columbus - 2022
- Bobby Henline, Keynote at EHOVE Career, sharing his story with hundreds of high school students in career training, Sandusky - 2022
- Comedy Show, Forging Forward fundraiser for American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, Roseville - 2023

VIRGINIA

- Fundraiser for Forging Forward at the 2nd Annual Sweat Raiser in Virginia Beach hosted by The Bearded Wonder - 2022
- Bobby Henline Comedy at Cozzys Comedy Club, Forging Forward Fundraiser, Newport News – 2022
- Fundraiser for Forging Forward at the 3rd Annual Sweat Raiser in Virginia Beach hosted by The Bearded Wonder - 2023

ALABAMA

- Co-hosted Veteran/First Responder Retreat at Soggy Bottom Lodge along with Alabama Veteran, Linden - 2022
- Bobby Henline Comedy at the 2022 Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association Conference, Gulf Shores - 2022
- SEHIA Conference Fundraiser, hosted by SEHIA - 2022
- Gulf Shores American Legion Post #44 sponsored a fundraiser at The Hang Out, Gulf Shores - 2022
- Co-hosted Veteran/First Responder Retreat at Soggy Bottom Lodge along with Alabama Veteran, Linden - 2023
- Bobby Henline Comedy, a fundraiser for Alabama Veteran at the Stardome, Birmingham - 2023

OKLAHOMA

- Comedy at the Major Ed Golf Invitational to raise funds for John Daly-Major Ed Heart of a Lion Foundation, Oklahoma City – 2022

TENNESSEE

- Bobby Henline Comedy for Waypoint Vets Fundraiser, Nashville - 2022

- Bobby Henline Comedy at Music City Charity Golf Festival to raise funds for 4 military veteran non-profits, Nashville - 2022
- Bobby Henline and RJ Ryan Comedy Fundraiser for Forging Forward at Zanies Nashville hosted by Elite Events of Music City - 2023
- Bobby Henline comedy for John Daly Major Ed Heart of A Lion Foundation, hosted by Elite Events of Music City - 2023
- Hosted Veteran/First Responder Retreat in Silver Point, TN at Camping Defenders Retreat with supporter Harrington for Hope - Sept 2023
- Assisted a military veteran in purchase of a kayak - 2023
- Comedy Show and fundraiser at CVMA 18-6, Millington – 2023
- Donation provided to CVMA 18-6, Millington - 2023

KENTUCKY

- Bobby Henline, Keynote Speaker at the National Guard Association of Kentucky, Louisville – 2022
- Golf Tournament with first responders, Louisville - 2022

TEXAS

- Keynote Speaker at Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association Conference - 2021
- Military Guest with Kevin Hodes, Swypit, at the Dallas Mavericks game, Dallas - 2022
- Keynote Speaker at Permian Basin Gala, Midland - 2022
- Keynote Speaker at the Braden Bailess Golf Tournament, The Woodlands - 2022

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Bobby Henline Comedy at the VFW Post 1273 for Casting Vets Fundraiser, Rapid City - 2022
- Bobby Henline Comedy at VFW Post 1273 for Casting Vets Fundraiser, Rapid City - 2023
- Bobby Henline Comedy at Mueller Center for Casting Vets Fundraiser, Hot Springs - 2023
- Donation provided to Casting Vets - 2023

ILLINOIS

- Bobby Henline Comedy at the McHenry Indoor Downtown Theater, Forging Forward fundraiser, McHenry - 2021
- Bobby Henline Comedy at The Vixen, Forging Forward Fundraiser, McHenry - 2022

MONTANA

- Heroes Tailgate at Carroll College, Helena - 2022
- Hosted Big Sky Retreat at Canyon Ridge Ranch, for military and first responders, Helena - 2023
- Bobby Henline Comedy Show at The Myrna Loy, fundraiser for Forging Forward, Helena - 2023

NEBRASKA

- Bobby Henline comedy at Beard Vet Coffee "Coffee, Cigars, Guitars" event at 88 Tactical for military veterans and first responders - 2023

CALIFORNIA

- Assisted a military veteran and family to avoid foreclosure on their home - 2022

FLORIDA

- Comedy Show and fundraiser at Hookin' Veterans event – 2023
- Donation to Hookin' Veterans from Forging Forward sales at their comedy show - 2023

MISSOURI

- Comedy Show and Fundraiser for Burns Recovered - 2022