

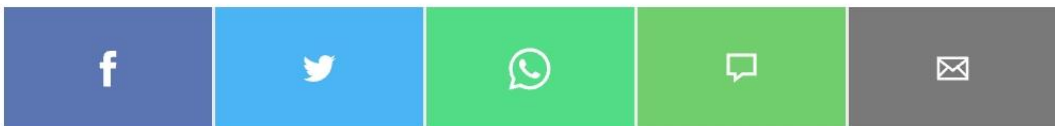
# Love of Corvettes drives desire to give back



Battlefield submitted Corvette Club President R... ▲

By **ADELE UPHAUS-CONNER THE FREE LANCE-STAR**

Dec 19, 2020



This has been a year full of political and social issues that have driven the nation further apart.

But for the members of the Battlefield Corvette Club, love of the classic sports car is stronger than all of those issues—and it fuels a desire to give back to the community.

“During this crazy year of COVID and political issues, there’s been no divisiveness in the club, which is a major statement,” said club President Roger Austiff. “We all know that everybody has their own beliefs and it takes a lot of fruit to make a fruit basket and we respect that fact.”

“The [Corvette] is the centerpiece that brings us all together,” he continued.



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The car is also what inspires club members to raise funds for local

charities all year.

“We’re always looking to figure out how we can give back,” said Rino Piviroto, the club’s membership director. “Our cars are very nice cars. Some of us have had [Corvettes] since maybe our first or second car, and others are relatively new owners, we feel blessed to have one of the world’s best sports cars, so we try to give back.”

Battlefield Corvette Club wrapped up the tumultuous year 2020 recently with formal donations to the two charities it fundraised for this year—the Frazier–Mason Some Gave All Foundation and the Mary Washington Hospital Cancer Research Fund.

Though the club had to cancel its main fundraiser—an annual Corvette show—due to the pandemic, it was

still able to raise a total of \$1,800 for each charity through donations from its members, who number about 88.

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“I feel really good about what we were able to do,” Austiff said.

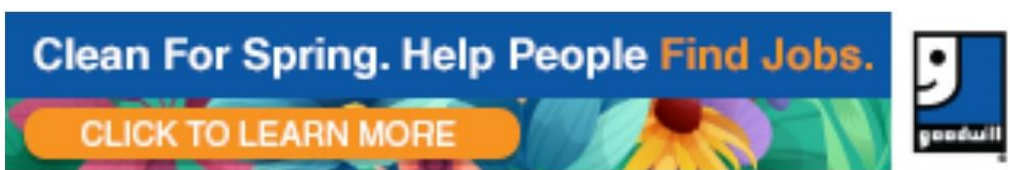
The club, which was formed in 2008, has supported the Frazier–Mason foundation for many years.

The foundation was established in 2007 by the fathers of two local service members—Marine Sgt. Joshua

Frazier of Spotsylvania, and Virginia Army National Guard Sgt. Nicholas Mason of King George—who were killed in Iraq. It supports local service members who have been wounded or disabled as a result of injuries sustained during the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to its [website](#), the Frazier–Mason foundation has raised more than \$305,000 for its cause.

Battlefield Corvette Club also chooses a second charity to support each year. Previous charities have included Empowerhouse, the local domestic violence shelter, and the Brisben Center homeless shelter.



This year, the club selected the Mary

## Washington Hospital Cancer Research Fund.

Pivirotto said club members have Corvettes representing almost every year of the car's existence, from 1953 to 2019, when the most recent model came out.

“Our membership appreciates all those years, representing the evolution of the car over 67 years and the variations of upgrades,” Pivirotto said.

For many owners, the cars are a form of stress relief, which has been greatly needed this year.

“Our average age is closer to 65 than

45,” Pivirotto said. “So for us, when we were 13, 14, 15, our adventures all involved not social media or computer games, but a vehicle taking us somewhere. When we get in these cars, it takes us back to that time frame. When we’re stressed out, the car takes us away from that and back to a time when we had no obligations or responsibilities, just young kids looking forward to hanging out on Main Street in our cars with the radio blasting.



“Cars can become a very positive memory,” he continued. “And the fact that we have been able now to buy the cars of our dreams—that really motivates us to give back.”

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