

Tech For Troops (T4T) is as a national non-profit based in Richmond, Virginia, with a vision to improve the lives of veterans and their families, by providing digital training, refurbished technology, and workforce support to veterans who are too often left behind. In 2023, as suicide rates climbed and isolation deepened, T4T created the program, Game Corps, as a lifeline for veterans who may suffer in silence, by meeting them where they are: online. Leveraging gaming, livestreaming, and peer connection, Game Corps offers something many veterans may not have felt in years: a familiar and non-judgmental space where they are seen, heard, and safe. Veterans facing PTSD, depression, and isolation are able to reconnect with others who understand and perhaps have shared similar experiences. On average, 17.6 veterans commit suicide per day. Since its launch, Game Corps has directly saved 28 lives from death by suicide, and hundreds more have found comfort, community, and moments of hope they feared were gone.

The Impact 100 Richmond grant would allow T4T to build the region's first Veteran Digital Wellness Hub—a warm, stigma-free space where veterans can show up exactly as they are. This Hub will provide therapeutic gaming stations, a livestreaming and storytelling studio, a peer mentor lounge, and access to mental health resources. Transformational in every sense, it will turn Game Corps from a virtual only source of connection into a hybrid program with an additional physical home for gaming therapy, crisis intervention, and peer mentorship. For many veterans, it may be the first place they feel safe enough to say, “I need help,” and the first place where someone is ready to listen.

The Digital Wellness Hub will support hundreds of veterans across Greater Richmond and serve as a beacon of hope to—young veterans searching for direction, recently discharged service members struggling to adjust, veterans experiencing homelessness, and those silently battling PTSD or depression. Over the first 18 months, T4T expects to save at least 25 lives, provide more than 2,000 hours of peer support, host 150 therapeutic gaming sessions, train 15 veteran mentors, and engage over 600 veterans in a meaningful community. The true impact cannot be measured in numbers alone. It will be felt in the moments when a veteran engages in conversation that interrupts a crisis, finds a renewed sense of identity after years of feeling lost, and when she/he chooses to stay and be alive for another day. With Impact 100's support, Richmond can become a model for compassionate and innovative suicide prevention where no veteran has to fight alone.