



**FORGING
FORWARD**

Forging Forward Foundation

ATTN: Jamie Burton

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MISSION

Healing through finding what is strong with you.

VISION

To create an everyday life filled with quality, friendship, motivation, flexibility, and individual pride.

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 Foundation or simply 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, 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 over 12 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. Forging Forward's goal is to help them 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.

MAJOR GOALS

- 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.
- Access to existing organizations offering activities to promote physical and mental health, socialization, and activities.
- 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, 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-\$8,000 depending on the number of participants and whether the organization purchases flights and/or transportation to the event site. Our goal is to keep the cost at \$5,000 or under, but with prices rising considerably this is going to be a difficult goal to reach. Personally, we try to provide all the transportation we can with our own vehicles, depending on the event location, but we do sometimes have to fly to the event ourselves. Our biggest expenses are getting the participants (and volunteers as needed) to the event site (flights and transportation) and lodging. We try to locate a company or organization willing to work with us to provide free or reduced lodging when possible.*

LOCATION: *We can bring a Forging Forward Retreat anywhere in the USA, we need local connections to assist with lodging and/or food expense. We also like to partner up with like-minded organizations (not for profit or for profit) and people with resources to provide the Retreat and/or skills and activities during the Retreat.*

RETREATS: *Our goal is to schedule four (4) Retreats per year.*

Forging Forward brings 4-8 active duty or veteran Military and/or First Responder individuals to a 2-4 day retreat to enjoy nature and learn a skill. Activities are planned in a variety of locations to rekindle camaraderie in a safe and open environment. We team up with local artists and professionals to teach participants a new outlet or tool through art to address post-traumatic stress and other trauma-related issues. Activities may include whittling, wood crafts, storytelling through poetry, songwriting, comedy, welding, forging a knife, painting, photography, and more. Additional activities include hiking, nature walk, camping, kayaking, fishing, outdoor water activities, bicycling, community service, and more.

FORGING FORWARD REMEMBRANCE TAGS

COST: *The military veterans tags have already been purchased. We are currently searching for an organization or public entity that can provide names of First Responders who have died by suicide. 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 issues. The Tags are presented primarily to Military and First Responder Veterans in memory of the service member, to never be forgotten.

We ask each person receiving a Remembrance Tag 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.

[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

COST: *We have not had anyone apply for this service as of today. The cost could be upwards of \$3,000-\$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. 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.

FORGING FORWARD REAL TALK;

COST: *Participation on the show is free, the participant has to have a TikTok account with 1,000 followers.*

In February 2022, a live chat show on TikTok was brought into the fold of Forging Forward. The show was started by two law enforcement officers, one of which is a military veteran. The chat show focuses on mental health awareness and overcoming daily challenges to live a productive life. People are invited to “be in the box” with the hosts as well as comment throughout the show to support others or provide resources to assist with a stated issue.

FORGING FORWARD EXPEDITION OUTREACH

COST: *This is a new service and just getting underway, we hope to do at least one event in 2022. The cost could range from \$1,000.00 and up, depending on the supplies needed such as food, purchase of tents, kayaks, fishing poles, bait, etc.*

In February 2022, David Starbuck was brought on as the volunteer Arkansas Program Director. He and other volunteers will be providing outdoor activities to military and law enforcement populations near the Conway, Arkansas area in the form of kayaking, fishing, hiking, camping, nature walks, and more.

FORGING FORWARD: LIFEWORK ADAPTER POWER TOOL KIT

COST: *The cost is \$5,000 per kit provided to a military veteran or first responder meeting the criteria. There are currently 32 military veterans on our list who would like to have the power tool kit and we are working with LifeWork Adapter to locate funding through other non-profits or donors.*

In late April 2022, Forging Forward partnered up with [LifeWork Adapter](#) to reach out to the military and first responder communities to collect a list of people with arm amputation, upper body limb difference, or missing digits who are interested in using hand or power tools. The goal is to provide a fully adapted 10-piece power tool kit to each person who meets the criteria to be able to safely use the equipment with their prosthetic. Each power tool kit will be free to the recipient, with funding provided by non-profit organizations and private donors.

FORGING FORWARD BIG SKY SMOKE'N BBQ

COST: *The costs include transportation for the Pit master and his grill, smoker, and flat top to your location. Charges include a roundtrip mileage allowance, lodging (as needed), and wood for the BBQ.*

In May 2022, Forging Forward teamed up with Ken McClean out of Montana. Ken is an Army veteran, willing to give his time and service to persons or organizations needing a Pit master for their event. Available cooking implements include a 6' long grill built on a 10' trailer, smoker, and flat top. He is available to travel with his grill throughout the continental 48.

The person or organization requesting the service purchases all food items for grilling, including cooking and serving utensils, a concessions trailer or team to take payment and serve food. Planning is in conjunction with the Pit master. Monies raised from the sale of food items goes to the person or organization requesting the service. *NOTE: A tip jar will be available at the grill site for the Pit master.*

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 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 is relying on the 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 postcard 990 has been filed each year that Forging Forward has been operational.

HASHTAGS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

***FYI:** None of the Forging Forward Board Members are paid. We all provide support on a voluntary basis. Bobby and Jamie are the planners, resource connectors, and participate in the activities.*

CONTACT

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FORGING FORWARD ACTIVITIES

Donations and sales of Forging Forward products have supported the activities below since 2019 and the planning of 2022 activities.

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

- NC: Service dog selection, training, travel for one military veteran with Retrieving Freedom in Missouri
- NC: Vehicle, vehicle insurance, housing purchase for one military veteran with Veterans Advocate LLC
- NC: Camping equipment, camping and kayaking fees for two military veterans - 2019
- NC: Camping meals for 10+ military active duty/family/veterans with Off-Road Outreach (ORO)
- CO: Dinner for 10+ military veterans from across the USA and Canada with Challenge Aspen
- NC: Burial services and lunch for one military veteran's family and all the supporters with ORO
- PA: Returned the ashes of a military veteran to his family with ORO
- NC: Fundraiser for winter clothing for homeless military veterans in Fayetteville with ORO
- NC: Fundraiser for Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gaston with Motivating America
- NC: Provide consultation / meals for the V.E.T.S. Conference to educate and assist military veterans / community entrepreneurs wanting to start their own business with the Axios Inspires Foundation
- GA: Share our story with others at Feeding the Heroes Foundation event and provided over 200 meals to first responders in the local vicinity - 2021
- NC: Host Axes With Allies, an event to help heal veterans and first responders from across the USA - 2021
- SC: Host MB Beach Retreat, an event to help heal veterans and first responders from across the USA - 2021
- NY: Motivational Speaker at Kids Helping Kids event to raise funds to provide new winter coats to children in Long Island – 2021
- AR: Partnered with RealTalk; live talk show on TikTok to assist with PTSD and other issues - 2022
- NC: Beneficiary of US Logoworks “2.2 for 22” Suicide Awareness and Prevention walk - 2022
- SC: Firefighter and EMS/Paramedic associated with a fire department Retreat for individuals from across the USA - 2022
- NC: Ride of Pride, Daimler Trucks of North America, Cleveland – 2022
- VA: 2nd Annual Sweat Fundraiser in Virginia Beach - 2022
- GA: Fundraiser at Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern with BeardVet to benefit American Warrior Garage and Forging Forward - 2022
- MT: Partnered with Big Sky Smoke’N BBQ - 2022

2022 SCHEDULED

- AL: Co-sponsoring a military/first responders Retreat with Alabama Veteran
- CO: Fundraiser with American Legion Riders
- TX: Bailless Golf Tournament

2022 PLANNING IN PROGRESS

- SD: Comedy Show
- SC, possibly MT: Retreat for veterans and first responders from across the USA