STAND DOWN

The Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is held annually at the Manatee County Fair Grounds. A variety of area organizations provide support services, including transportation to the event, a hot breakfast, new clothing and shoes, bicycles, medical and dental screenings, eye exams, haircuts, showers/hygiene items, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, referrals for housing, employment, substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling services, and an amnesty court for legal issues.

This event focuses on helping homeless veterans and their families, but also helps other homeless families receive services and is put on by the Yellow Ribbon Project at Turning Points in Manatee County. Turning Points uses a grant award from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and Harvest provides volunteers to help with parking, hospitality, handing out clothing and other tasks on the day of the event.

TURNING POINTS

Turning Points, located in the Bill Galvano One Stop Center in Bradenton, helps homeless veterans and others to find a place to live and build a new life. As part of this mission, the program provides free primary care medical services and dental care. Also at the One Stop Center is the Open Door Day Resource Center where clients can work with staff from the Suncoast Board and Goodwill on job searches, resume writing and interviewing skills. The center provides clean clothing and shoes, a laundry and haircuts, hot showers, restrooms, and emergency assistance for short-term housing. There is also a Transitional Development Program that offers a rental assistance program for people at risk of falling into homelessness. As these programs support veterans and their families, the Harvest Ministry with Military Team periodically sends volunteers to the center to help with housekeeping tasks.

Harvest United Methodist Church and the Ministry with Military Team embrace the following core values:

• Embrace a Pioneer Spirit •
• Live Authentically •
• Share Genuine Community •
• Walk a Disciple's Path •
• Have a Servant Heart •

MORE INFO:
welcometoharvest.org/military

HARVEST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ministry with
MILITARY
Serving Those Who Serve

Ministry with
MILITARY

The mission of the Harvest Ministry with Military Team is:

"As disciples, we demonstrate Christ's love by providing compassionate service to active duty military members and their families as well as veterans who have served and sacrificed."

The team carries out this mission in several ways and many are explained here. If you would like current information about joining this team or if you know someone that needs assistance, visit welcometoharvest.org/military for contact info.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ministry with Military participates in the Lakewood Ranch annual Memorial Day "Tribute to Heroes" parade and the placing of flags on the graves at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Operation
HELPING HAND

Operation Helping Hand (OHH) of Tampa is sponsored by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and assists families of seriously wounded active military personnel during their hospital stay in Tampa Bay. They provide patients' families with airline tickets, temporary housing, rental cars, etc., while they are here visiting their family members who are undergoing treatment in Tampa. OHH also sponsors a Helping Hands Dinner every third Thursday at the James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Hospital to honor the wounded and injured patients by recognizing their service and sacrifices. The Harvest Ministry with Military Team members attend the dinner to honor and interact with the patients and their family members.

Wreaths Across
AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization focused on the mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom. This national entity has over a thousand participating organizations in 50 states at 24 national veteran cemeteries. In our local area, wreaths are laid on gravesites at Sarasota National Cemetery in December and removed in January. The Harvest Ministry with Military Team volunteers to lay wreaths on gravesites.

Operation
TROOP SUPPORT

Manasota Operation Troop Support (MOTS) is a non-profit organization that serves military troops in Manatee and Sarasota County and their families. Each month, MOTS sends between 35 and 50 care packages to deployed troops. In addition, MOTS supports the troops and families back home by helping them with cash, gift cards, and a food pantry, depending on their needs. The Harvest Ministry with Military Team supports MOTS with monetary donations and regularly helps with packing care packages. On select third Sundays, the team collects food at Harvest for the MOTS food pantry.

Indigent Veteran
FUNERALS

The Ministry with Military Team members extend compassion to veterans who have no loved ones present to affirm the significance of their lives, by attending funerals for indigent veterans at the Sarasota National Cemetery. Attending the funerals and praying for the veterans is open to anyone. If you are interested, your name will be put on a list so you can be notified of funerals.