



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

THE WALL THAT HEALS

Sponsored by

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Trust, FedEx Corporation and New Century Transportation and Target Corporation

Healing legacy

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) inaugurated *The Wall That Heals*, an exhibition featuring a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that travels to communities throughout America. *The Wall That Heals* is the **only** traveling replica that is directly affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Like the Memorial in Washington, D.C., *The Wall That Heals* has a profound effect on people. The unique design and moving scenes of veterans and family members paying tribute to those who served and sacrificed have touched the hearts of millions throughout the world. *The Wall That Heals* offers a powerful example of The Wall's healing legacy, as well as its unlimited educational value for people of all ages.

The response to the traveling Memorial has been overwhelming. Since its inception, the exhibit has been seen by millions of people in more than 300 cities and towns throughout the United States.

Bringing The Wall home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit also allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of "facing The Wall" to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities.

A visit to the traveling Memorial not only touches hearts, it also stimulates minds. The exhibit engenders an impressive cross-section of thoughtful educational programs and ceremonial events within the communities to which it travels. Community members often organize programs related to the Vietnam War and its era, with an emphasis on educating students. The *Echoes From The Wall* curriculum, produced by VVMF, is distributed to each site, and VVMF staff members assist host organizations in coordinating middle and high school visits to *The Wall That Heals*. At the same time, schools are urged to integrate lessons from *Echoes* with visits to *The Wall That Heals*.

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Community-led events bring together local dignitaries, congressional representatives, veterans' groups and the general public for parades, motorcycle escorts and special ceremonies at *The Wall That Heals*. Which activities are pursued is up to the individual communities, so each stop on the tour schedule is different. These events present another example of The Wall's ability to unite and impact communities.

Traveling museum

The tremendous response to *The Wall That Heals* inspired the addition of a mobile museum in 1998, which was completely redesigned in 2009, providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences.

The museum's exhibits help visitors understand the Vietnam War and its era, as well as why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial offers powerful healing to so many. Displays feature some of the more than 100,000 items that have been left at The Wall since it was built—including the boots and dog tags worn in Vietnam by Jan Scruggs, who led the effort to build The Wall in 1982—as well as items left at *The Wall That Heals*. The exhibits also feature photos and biographical information on some of the more than 58,000 individuals whose names are on The Wall. Other displays chronicle the history of The Wall and facts about the Vietnam War.

The traveling museum was designed by the same firm that is planning the displays for The Education Center at The Wall, an underground learning facility being built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The traveling museum displays reflect the concepts being developed for the Education Center.

Information center

An information center located on site features computer stations outfitted to assist visitors in searching for names on The Wall and to provide source information for veterans' issues. Staff members are also available for guests who have questions.

Photo collection

VVMF is collecting photos for use in the Education Center of each of the more than 58,000 individuals whose names are on The Wall. *The Wall That Heals* is equipped with a scanner, so that families, friends and veterans who are visiting the traveling replica can bring their photos and have them scanned on site.

Summary

The Wall That Heals traveling exhibit is endless in its potential. Today, Americans are poised to re-examine the Vietnam War with the wisdom and objectivity gleaned over 30 years. From the 85,000 individuals who visited Vincennes, Ind. (population 25,000) to the 75,000 who visited Omaha, Neb., *The Wall That Heals* offers a powerful gift of honor, healing and education to communities nationwide.