Red River Charitable Foundation (RRCF) is a 501(c)(3), charitable organization with a dual mandate and mission. RRCF promotes and encourages students to continue their studies in the fields of science and technology as well as supporting US military veterans transitioning to civilian life. RRCF provides opportunities for students in middle school through college interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with scholarships, internships, mentoring, and donations of IT equipment. RRCF supports veterans and their families by providing technology career counseling and mentorships as well as emergency monetary assistance as they integrate back into our community.
Greetings,

As we approach the end of 2019, I cannot help but reflect on all we’ve accomplished with the Red River Charitable Foundation. We had another memorable year, marked with new programs and new faces, all working to positively transform communities. As Red River approaches its 25th anniversary, I am filled with inspiration and motivation for all that we can do in 2020.

For several years, we’ve partnered with the Boston Bruins Foundation around our Operation Hat Trick initiative to raise money for veteran causes. In 2019, that relationship expanded to support our other mission – supporting students in STEM education. We launched a new initiative with the Bruins Foundation to build STEM labs across New England, and the first opened this fall at the Spark Academy in Lawrence, Massachusetts. I look forward to building more STEM labs in the future, impacting more students and inspiring them to pursue STEM education and career paths.

In 2019, we also saw our offices giving back in their own ways and building their own relationships in each of our communities. Our Virginia and New Hampshire offices each organized an RRCF day of service to volunteer at local nonprofits supporting veteran causes. Employees took time from their busy schedules to donate their time and energy – and are looking for more ways to give back. This includes participating in Red River Cares, an initiative that provides small grants to organizations employees are personally involved in.

In a way that would make its namesake proud, our Red River community rallied behind the newly created Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship. Jeff was a passionate supporter of RRCF and the veteran community, and the scholarship in his name will serve as inspiration to soldiers pursuing IT careers. More to come in 2020!

How could you not be inspired by the enthusiasm, dedication and unwavering support we saw this year from our employees, partners and communities? We were able to have a positive impact on our communities, and in turn, they had a positive impact on each one of us. I cannot wait to see what we are able to do together in 2020.

Best wishes this holiday season,

Kim Vacca, Director
Red River Charitable Foundation
Earlier this year, Red River lost its CEO, Jeff Sessions. Jeff was a visionary leader, a philanthropist, and deeply committed to impacting the lives of soldiers. To honor Jeff’s memory and carry on his legacy of positively impacting others, RRCF has created the Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship. The Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship supports soldiers transitioning to civilian IT careers. Jeff believed it was our responsibility and purpose to serve those who served our country. He also believed technology could be transformational – both in its use and as a career. The Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship will help to make that transformation possible for veterans and active duty service members with the kind of drive, purpose and passion that Jeff embodied. To donate to the scholarship fund visit redrivercharitablefoundation.com. We will begin accepting applications in early 2020.
Red River teamed up with COVER Home Repair and Mascoma Bank employees for a day of service to build a ramp for a family in West Windsor, VT. COVER’s mission is to foster hope and build community in the Upper Valley by bringing together homeowners and volunteers to complete urgently needed home repairs for low-income homeowners, many of whom are elderly or disabled. Special thanks to Red River employees Raelyn Moore, Angela Roberge, Kristen West and Kim Vacca for taking the time to volunteer. To learn more about COVER, visit coverhomerepair.org.

Red River provides all employees with two community service days per year and is always looking for ways to give back to our communities. If your organization has group volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Kim Vacca at kim.vacca@redriver.com.
PTC PLAN UPDATE

RRCF’s mantra is to positively transform communities, which is why the PTC Plan was created. The PTC Plan is a program that gives Red River employees the opportunity to donate to RRCF through payroll deduction. Employee contributions support programs that positively impact veterans and STEM students including,

- Our student scholarship program
- The annual PTC Hero Award
- The Jeff Sessions Memorial Scholarship
- Matching service dogs with disabled veterans
- Sponsoring adaptive sports programs
- Creating volunteer opportunities around our HUB locations.

Employees can sign up for the PTC Plan directly in Workday. If you would like to donate to RRCF, please visit redrivercharitablefoundation.com/donate.

PTC HERO AWARD NOMINATIONS

RRCF honors those who go above and beyond to have a significant positive impact on the lives of others on a day-to-day basis. The PTC Hero Award was created to recognize those who are Positively Transforming Communities. We are accepting submissions for the 2019 PTC Hero Award now through January 10. Submissions can only be made by employees. For more information or to make a nomination, visit www.redrivercharitablefoundation.com.

RED RIVER CARES

We recognize that employees are passionately involved with important charities outside of RRCF, and we want to support those charities as well. Along with Red River’s corporate donation matching program and community service time off, employees can apply for donation funds through the Red River Cares program. To date, Red River has supported 25 organizations and donated $12,000 to charities across the country.
The new sled hockey season has begun. For the fourth consecutive year, RRCF is sponsoring the sled hockey clinics held at Campion Rink in Lebanon, NH. This program is run by Ice Vets Adaptive Sports, an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to providing veterans with adaptive sports opportunities. Participating in a fun, fast-paced team sport helps bring back the confidence and camaraderie that is sometimes lost when a veteran leaves the service. Ice Vets provides equipment, coaching and ice time for the players, as well as wonderful volunteer opportunities for Red River employees and community members. Many of the volunteers have even learned how to play sled hockey themselves and have faced off with the Ice Vets players in games. To learn more visit facebook.com/icevets.
In 2020, Red River Charitable Foundation will partner with Operation Hat Trick on yet another amazing initiative for veterans: Warriors Ice Hockey. Warriors Ice Hockey is an incredible program that educates, trains, motivates and encourages the formation of “Warriors Ice Hockey Programs” locally and nationally, by encouraging veterans with visible and invisible wounds of war incurred during service to participate in the sport of ice hockey. It has demonstrated a profound impact on participating veterans on the local and national level, allowing them to learn and grow together.

OHT

Red River, Operation Hat Trick (OHT) and the Boston Bruins are partnering for the fourth time to present limited edition Bruins gear with a portion of the proceeds supporting veteran organizations. Proceeds from the 2019-2020 OHT hat and shirt presented by Red River will provide financial assistance to wounded service members and veterans to fill gaps in care that are not covered by other programs or agencies. Last year’s fundraising total of $30,000 supported causes like IceVets Adaptive sports program, Camp Resilience, and the VA’s Disabled Veterans New England Winter Sports Clinic.

For more information, visit redriver.com/oht
Q: In which branch did you serve and when?

Q: What motivated you to join the military?
A: Attending college was important to me, so seeing the world while serving in the Navy and having college costs covered seemed like a great deal — and it was!

Q: Tell me a little about your time in boot camp/basic training.
A: I attended boot camp in Orlando, FL. It was hot, but there were many people from all over that I met and became lifelong friends with to this day!

Q: Tell me about some of the special people you met.
A: I met many special people but was lucky enough to have instruction from Rear Adm Grace Hopper, the mother of computer science. Rumor had it back then that she was the one that found an insect (a bug) in one of the ENIAC’s logic gates and coined the phrase “bug in the computer!”

Q: How did (does) your military experience affect your life today?
A: I know that single decision sent me on the trajectory that I am still on today and in many respects opened my world to so many possibilities.
Q: In which branch did you serve and when?
A: United States Marine Corps

Q: What motivated you to join the military?
A: My father retired from the Army as a Sergeant Major after 30 years of service and did multiple tours in the Vietnam War. I grew up as an Army brat and knew I wanted to serve our country at an early age. It was ingrained early on in my life to serve more than one's self and for a greater purpose.

Q: Tell me about some of the special people you met.
A: The men I served with overseas will forever be my brothers and we often get together each year to reflect on our time serving together. Unfortunately, some have fallen as part of the “22” which is why I devote time to supporting military veteran non-profits like the 03XX Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, and Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society.

Q: How did (does) your military experience affect your life today?
A: Since leaving the Marine Corps in 1998 and moving to Washington, DC I entered the field of Information Technology, I continue to serve. Whether we are empowering our men and women in uniform with new technology to protect our freedoms, or enabling our customers to provide healthcare, insurance, or services to our citizens, we all SERVE our great nation in some capacity. My time serving our country has taught me to laugh at many things in civilian life. To always remember, no matter how bad things seem, they could always be worse. We should look at the many benefits we as Americans are afforded every day and be extremely thankful.

Q: Which medals or citations are you most honored to have received, and why?
A: I am most proud of my Humanitarian Service Medal for evacuating hundreds of civilians in Monrovia, Liberia during their civil war as well as my Armed Forces Service Medal for my time in Bosnia Herzegovina, former Yugoslavia, during their ethnic cleansing period, genocide.
Q: In which branch did you serve and when?
A: I served in the US Army Infantry from 2005 to 2011.

Q: What motivated you to join the military?
A: Like a lot of Americans, I was really shaken by the events of 9/11. After we entered Iraq in 2003, I found myself feeling like I wanted to do more than send toothpaste and DVDs to the troops. Soon thereafter, my 20-year-old nephew left college to join the Marines. I didn’t need a lot of extra motivation after that. I sold my businesses, got the necessary waivers (I was technically too old to serve) and joined the Army. I felt compelled to do my part.

Q: What was the best and worst ‘military’ food you were served, and why?
A: Everyone who has ever served has a Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) story, and I’m no exception. Some guys didn’t mind the pre-packaged food, but I found several of the “entrees” to be completely inedible. I would open the package, throw the entrée away, and eat the crackers and freeze-dried coffee. Yum. Breakfast of ex-champions.

At the other end of the spectrum, when we weren’t on operations, we often ate really well when we were in Iraq. Every so often, one of the forward operating bases (FOBs) that I was on would have a Mongolian Barbeque. For those who aren’t familiar, we would pick our favorite vegetables, meat, and sauces, and the cooks would sauté it all together. I can’t tell you what a boost a hot meal like that can be when you’re in theater. Amazing.

Q: Tell me a funny story you experienced that could only happen in the military.
A: One day, my buddy, Harry, and I were back from operations and getting a breather at our combat outpost (COP). The COP had a little shack that served, if you can believe it, espresso and other coffee drinks. So, Harry and I walk over there in full “battle rattle” (combat gear) and order a couple of coffees. A few minutes later, we’re there, talking and sipping on liquid happiness like actual human beings. It was amazing.

All of the sudden... BOOM! A humongous explosion occurred so close that it nearly blew the coffee out of our hands. I turn to Harry and I’m like, “HOLY #$@! Was that a bomb?!.” Harry, not missing a beat, says, “Well, it wasn’t NOT a bomb!”

We laughed and laughed and laughed. And, then we ran and took cover in a nearby bunker until we received the all clear an hour later. Mortar and rocket attacks–good times!

Q: Tell me a little about your time in boot camp/basic training.
A: At my age, boot camp was taxing physically, but not psychologically. As the oldest member of my unit, I quickly gained the trust of my drill instructors. I understood what they were there to do, and it didn’t frighten or bother me when they screamed or “smoked” us with marathon physical training sessions. I saw it all as necessary parts of an important process.

I am a black belt and former part-time NH police officer. So, that training served me very well during basic training. At graduation, I was named “Soldier of the Cycle,” and was the top marksman in my unit, too. Not bad for an “old guy!”
Herb Hohl is a decorated veteran who served his country proudly. Herb left college after three years to join the United States Army. He completed boot camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky before moving on to Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. From there, Herb enrolled in Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Six months later, Herb graduated as a Second Lieutenant and sought out his next challenge - jump school - where he was assigned to the 3/506th, 101st Airborne Division. After serving overseas, Herb returned to Fort Benning to teach jungle warfare before retiring.

Herb’s proudest accomplishment during his time in the Army is achieving the rank of First Lieutenant. He says serving in the Army made him realize that life is to be cherished and living in the United States is the greatest gift. Herb is still in touch with some of the men who shaped him into the leader he became and has great memories of serving under them.

Herb continues to serve his fellow military members as a caseworker for Friends of Veterans and member of the Board of Directors. He hopes to assist fellow veterans with the transition back to civilian life, which can be a challenge.

RRCF is proud to partner with Herb and Friends of Veterans, and we thank Herb for his service.

To learn more about Friends of Veterans, visit www.fovvtnh.org.
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

RED RIVER HELPS VETERANS THROUGH MUSIC

The Red River Reston office recently hosted a donation drive to support the Music and Memory Program at the Charlotte Hill Veterans Home in Maryland. Music and Memory is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of the elderly through digital music technology. Staff use iPods and other digital audio systems to create personalized playlists that enable patients suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and other memory challenges to reconnect with the world through music-triggered memory.

The Red River Reston office was able to donate 12 iPods, 4 chargers, 11 ear buds and 13 gift cards to the Music and Memory Program. Special thanks to Koren Flint, Red River Director, Service Advisors, for coordinating this donation drive. Visit musicandmemory.org to learn more about the organization.

THE VA GETS ACTIVE

The VA Medical Center in White River Junction, VT held their second annual Bike and Kayak Biathlon event for veterans as a part of recreation therapy. Red River provided lunch for the group and a great day was had by all!
THINKSMART PROGRAM

Congratulations to the latest high school students for successfully completing Red River’s ThinkSMART Program! Students interact with the Red River IT team and their peers to gain Skills, Mentorship, Access, Readiness and Technology through hands-on IT troubleshooting, interviewing, presentation and business skills. This collaborative program incorporates real world learning in a professional work environment. Students earn high school credit and complete the session with a final group presentation to partners, teachers, school administrators and Red River staff on what they learned from the program. This year’s program included a financial session from Claremont Savings Bank on credit, general banking, fraud and financial planning. The Red River payroll department also gave a session on how to fill out W-4 paperwork and what goes into net pay.

If you have a student interested in this one-of-a-kind learning experience, look for more information on how to apply in Spring 2020.
Carnegie Mellon University

CMU SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Marty McGartland, recently retired Red River Executive Consultant at our Sacramento hub, is a proud alumni and long-time supporter of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) located in Pittsburgh, PA. He has personally provided a scholarship to aid students with their studies. We joined forces with Marty last year to create the Red River - McGartland Scholarship to provide scholarships to students in the Sacramento area studying at the College of Engineering and in the School of Computer Science. Our first scholarship recipient is Sebastian Montiel, who is majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Sebastian is a junior at CMU and is from Carmichael, CA. He hopes to be an engineer working on the software systems for a project that he is passionate about after graduation.

VTC COMPUTER CAMP

In August, Red River hosted a group of middle and high school students as part of the Vermont Tech Computer Camp. The camp is for students entering grades 7 through 10 who want to learn about a wide variety of topics in programming, information technology and other related fields. Campers worked with Vermont Tech faculty and students on projects in areas including computer programming, website development and networking and cybersecurity. Red River presented the students with tips on early career planning and cyber security best practices.
Together with the Boston Bruins Foundation, RRCF was able to open our first ever STEM LAB at Spark Academy in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The community was severely impacted by the gas explosions last year and was deserving of such a state-of-the-art facility. Spark Academy is the first of many schools for this partnership and initiative.

Joining us at the opening ceremony was Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, who reminded the students that STEM is the way of the future and to “see yourself in STEM.” Red River donated all the IT equipment while the Boston Bruins Foundation was able to create an exciting space for students, as well as providing them with hockey-related STEM curriculum. The students are very excited about the new STEM lab, which is what makes this grand opening so special! Check out the Foundations Facebook page for pictures and videos about this awesome event!
Red River hosted our partner community at Engage 2019 at our Claremont office in July. They had the chance to share their latest product offerings with our team, network with executives, participate in a showcase and become more engrained in our team culture. We added a welcome reception this year for those who arrived early and held trainings for our Federal and Commercial teams, including three partners that are new to the team this year. We had a showcase with 36 partners sharing their latest product solutions to our teams that included over 104 people in attendance. We also held our Executive Briefing the morning of the golf event. This event is our midyear check in point for partners to get an update on our strategy, and so we can inform them of any new changes to close out the year with great success.
The day after Engage, partners joined Red River for the 13th Annual Charity Golf Classic at The Quechee Club in Quechee, VT. The event had a record 45 teams spread across two courses and included hole-in-one contests, air cannons, a silent auction, raffles and lots of friendly competition to raise money for RRCF. The morning started with a beautiful bagpipe tribute to Red River’s late CEO Jeff Sessions as golfers took to the course.

The usual prizes were awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive men’s and women’s, a putting contest as well as first, and always fun, last place teams on each course. The event was also our opportunity to celebrate this year’s RRCF scholarship recipients, who were surprised with a new Dell EMC laptop, monitor, printer, keyboard and backpack. We’re excited to see what the future holds for each of them!

Fall Mountain Regional High School
Sarah Putnam
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Lebanon High School
Aditi Jogdand
University of Connecticut
Major: Biomedical Engineering and Neuroscience

Stevens High School
Karsten Kleynsteuber
Dartmouth College
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Sunapee High School
Blaise O’Mara
University of New Hampshire
Major: Electrical Engineering

Windsor High School
Christina Gregory
Oregon State University
Major: Environmental Sciences
Ryland Richardson
Norwich University
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Mark your calendar! The 14th Annual Charity Golf Classic is July 16, 2020. The Annual Charity Golf Classic is always a fun event full of friendly competition and philanthropy. Thank you to our sponsors for helping us to make this event a success.

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A SINCERE THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

As we approach 25 years in business, we express our gratitude to our employees, partners, sponsors, and community for your support as we positively impact the lives of citizens, soldiers, and our community.

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redrivercharitablefoundation.com/

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