



## *News Release*

*For more information, contact:*

Barbara Gould  
**Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**  
(440) 329-9609 / (440) 225-6869  
barbara.gould@bendix.com

or  
Ken Kesegich  
**Marcus Thomas LLC**  
(888) 482-4455  
kkesegich@mtllc.com

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**R.H. SHEPPARD AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO CHARITABLE SERVICE ORGANIZATION**  
**SUPPORTING U.S. VETERANS AND MILITARY MEMBERS**

*For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., Will Use the Corporate Grant to Fund  
Specialized Treatments for Veterans Struggling with PTSD*

**ELYRIA, Ohio – June 2, 2021** – Within days of Memorial Day, a group of veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may receive the good news that they've hoped for: to be able to receive specialized medical treatments arranged by the charitable organization For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., based in Hanover, Pennsylvania. The treatments will be funded by a \$10,000 grant from R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix).

The gift was delivered at a check-presentation ceremony and media event held June 2 at Sheppard's North American headquarters in Hanover. With this award, For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., will be able to increase access to specialized medical care for a select group of veterans. The 501(c)(3) organization provides aid to deployed troops and homeless veterans. It is focused on raising awareness and support for veterans and active military members, especially those with PTSD.

The gift is part of Sheppard's continued and long-standing commitment to support and engage community initiatives. It comes at an opportune time, on the heels of Memorial Day and as Sheppard is commemorating the first anniversary of its joining with Bendix in June 2020.

R.H. Sheppard – one of Hanover's largest employers, with more than 725 team members – is an industry-leading manufacturer of steering systems for commercial vehicles in the North American market. Bendix is the North American leader in the development and

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manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking system technologies for commercial vehicles.

“Bendix and Sheppard are honored and proud to support veterans in the Hanover community with corporate grant funding – as part of our pledge to support the communities where our people live and work,” said Maria Gutierrez, Bendix director of corporate responsibility and sustainability. “Our employees in Hanover told us they wanted to support veterans in the community, and For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., is the perfect fit for this support. The organization implements many meaningful projects and demonstrates a strong show of support for our veterans and currently deployed troops. And we hope this initial gift will kick off continued collaboration between Bendix and For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., going forward.”

### **Support from the Veteran Community**

One of the individuals who supported the charitable service organization during its quest to win corporate funding from Bendix was Jeremy Ivins, a site facilities professional at Sheppard and a military veteran himself. Ivins had recommended the organization for consideration and selection to receive Bendix’s corporate grant funding through Sheppard.

“Hanover is a small community and we have a very strong veteran presence, and I appreciate this organization’s selfless commitment to serve both veterans and active service members,” Ivins said. “For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., and its founder does a lot in the community to support veterans, including motorcycle rallies, which I have attended. And I appreciate that the organization does all of this without taking a paycheck, which makes For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., stand out among veteran support organizations.”

For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., is not the only charitable organization in the region dedicated to serving veterans, but its mission is unique. The organization was founded in 2013 by Christine Waltz, the mother of an Army veteran who had been deployed to Afghanistan for a year.

“I’d send him care packages, but I learned that many other service members didn’t receive care packages,” Waltz said. In 2010 she began volunteering for the local chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., filling care packages for deployed troops. When that group disbanded, Waltz wanted to take those traditions to the next level by creating her own 501(c)(3) organization.

What makes For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., different from others, Waltz said, is that its work is handled entirely by volunteer efforts from its staff.

Today, Waltz said, the organization aims to raise awareness and support for veterans and active service members who are suffering from PTSD. The organization has historically

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done that by raising funds and collecting donations to fill backpacks with supplies and essentials for veterans, and care packages for deployed soldiers. The organization also holds monthly resource rallies at its headquarters where veterans can receive assistance with benefits, housing, employment, and more. In 2020, the organization sent care packages to more than 6,500 deployed troops.

“So many of those who struggle with PTSD feel there’s no hope. But with projects like this, we’re working to give them that hope. The care packages and backpacks are a small way to show them that people care,” Waltz said.

### **A Specialized Treatment Offering New Hope**

Today, For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., is on a new mission to support veterans and returning service members struggling with the symptoms of PTSD: The organization is pursuing a partnership with the medical provider Stella, which offers a specialized injection to treat the symptoms of PTSD through a network of offices around the country. The Stella treatment, launched in 2020, is adapted from a similar injection-based treatment in use since 1926 to provide relief for chronic pain. The organization says its treatment can alleviate PTSD symptoms in more than 83% of patients.

For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., intends to use the \$10,000 gift to pay for the cost of the specialized medical treatment. The treatment, a modified stellate ganglion block administered via injection, is frequently not covered by veterans’ health benefits. The grant is enough to cover the cost of between three and five treatments.

Supporting the PTSD treatment via funding is important, Waltz said, because it aligns with the organization’s main goal to create awareness of the need to assist and aid veterans and returning soldiers, especially those with PTSD.

“The more we learned about this treatment and how it has helped veterans, we realized we definitely wanted to partner with Stella to support this,” Waltz said. “This treatment provides almost immediate relief of PTSD symptoms. While helping three to five veterans may not sound like a lot, for the veteran community it is a huge help. This has the potential to also help hundreds of other people, including veterans’ families, children, and loved ones, whose lives are also affected.”

### **The First Collaboration of Many**

As Sheppard is the first major employer in the area to assist the organization with corporate funding, Waltz said the company’s show of support may also help the organization to rally additional assistance from other large employers in the community.

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For Sheppard's part, Gutierrez said she is hopeful the company's support will continue beyond this initial grant. "We are actively developing opportunities, engaging with them and learning what more we can do, such as offering volunteer support for their events during the year and providing additional donations."

Waltz agrees that working with Sheppard and Bendix going forward would be greatly beneficial for the organization.

"To have the Sheppard name behind us is huge for this organization," Waltz said. "We're hoping others in the area or the industry will see this support and follow suit, which will allow us to help even more veterans. We hope to explore additional projects. There are so many ways we can continue this partnership."

**About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,100 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](http://bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](http://brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](http://bendix.com/careers).

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