HIVES FOR HEROES IS A MILITARY VETERAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES HONEY BEE CONSERVATION AND A HEALTHY TRANSITION FROM SERVICE. Founded and based in Houston, Hives for Heroes has operations across the United States and strives to make its program in Texas the model for international expansion. The goal of Hives for Heroes is to facilitate healthy relationships with a purpose by fostering a lifetime hobby of beekeeping. The Hives for Heroes process centers around a “NewBEE” veteran who is mentored by a local beekeeper as they work together on a single hive. In the first year, “NewBEEs” follow their mentor’s instructions to learn the basics of apiary management. By year two, veterans continue their work alongside other beekeepers in a larger community bee yard, including Memorial Hive lots to honor those that have fallen in combat. In year three, now experienced beekeepers, veterans have the opportunity to lead “NewBEEs” as a “Mentor”.

Why Beekeeping?
After military service, many veterans struggle with depression, unhealthy relationships, and addictive behaviors. Beekeeping is a unique hobby that aligns well with those who have experienced military service. Similar to combat, beekeeping allows a veteran to suit up, experience healthy adrenaline, overcome fear, accomplish a goal through process-oriented techniques, and walk away with a sense of accomplishment. This therapeutic practice easily translates to their personal and professional lives when dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and other traumas from service. Veterans are also able to learn a new trade while contributing to Hives for Heroes’ broader goal of pollinator conservation. Sustainable beekeeping practices are increasingly important, as honeybees in the United States are experiencing severe population declines. Threats to bees include habitat loss, invasive species, pesticide use, pathogens, and improper management practices. The decrease in pollinator biodiversity and abundance has negative impacts on air quality, agricultural production and food security, and the health of native vegetation. To support a healthy transition from service and alleviate stress on bee populations, Hives for Heroes regularly serves the community and fellow bee conservationists through volunteering and assisting in apiary management, whether it be in a large outdoor space or a single hive backyard management.
Hives for Heroes was selected as a Texan by Nature Conservation Wrangler based on the project’s positive impact to people, prosperity, and natural resources. Through the program, Texan by Nature is working with Hives for Heroes to address the following needs:

- **Experienced beekeepers** to join the Hives for Heroes network as a mentor, sharing their unique knowledge of apiary management.
- **Funding** to provide participating veterans with the highest quality beekeeping programs, resources and facilitation.
- **Partnerships** with diverse groups such as local businesses, non-profits, and schools to support Hives for Heroes.
- **Participation** from military veterans looking to learn a new skill and steward their health and healing through beekeeping.

**MISSION**
Through the national network of beekeepers and veterans, Hives for Heroes provides connection, purpose, and healthy relationships, fostering a lifelong hobby in beekeeping.

**IMPACT**
- 1.02 billion bees are stewarded by the work of Hives for Heroes.
- 2,600+ veterans and mentors are involved in the Hives for Heroes mentorship network.
- $700 million value in U.S. honey bee products and services sold worldwide.
- Honeybees alone pollinate 80% of all flowering plants, including more than 130 types of fruits and vegetables.

**PARTNERS**
Hives for Heroes partners with with organizations such as Texas A&M University, Texas Beekeeping Association, Winding Creek Apiary, Old Security Farms, Texas Bee Supply, US Military and Department of Defense installations, and many others. Generous financial support has been provided by Mitsubishi Electric American Foundation, TechnipFMC, ISS Global, Microsoft, Blue Ranch Farms, Kodiak Gas, and Ascend Performance Materials.

For more information visit texanbynature.org or contact us at programs@texanbynature.org or 512-284-7482.