Changing career paths can be daunting and complex, yet rewarding when you finally take the leap of faith. Ana Dominguez was seeking a more fulfilling career and contacted PVA’s Veterans Career Program to assist her with a career transition in April 2023.

Ana served honorably in the Army National Guard, including a deployment to Iraq, while completing her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. She began her civilian career in the financial industry as a bank examiner with the FDIC. While her work was rewarding, she found herself feeling unfulfilled and seeking opportunities to serve people, primarily children in need.

In May 2021, Ana was diagnosed with Leukemia/blood cancer which placed her career on hold. She would go on to receive cancer treatments and achieve remission in February 2022. Shortly after, Ana began volunteering her spare time in both family violence prevention and child advocacy services. She enjoyed being an advocate so much, she began thinking about a career change. However, this was also placed on hold when the cancer relapsed in July of the same year. Finally, in October 2022, Ana’s cancer would again go into remission and not return.

In early 2023, Ana began working with VCP’s Employment Analyst, Rodney Lee. After sharing her compelling story, Rodney conducted research and found job opportunities that matched her volunteerism, background, and skills. After finding a great fit as a Child Protective Investigator trainee, Rodney provided resume tailoring assistance to Ana. Ana would then submit her application for the role, receiving a call to interview and a formal job offer within a week. She accepted her new position and started training with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on June 19, 2023.

“Although life throws unforeseeable curve balls at us, we must remain resilient and always stay true to our dreams and passions. Life moves quickly, take your leap of faith today, not tomorrow” (Ana Dominguez, 2023).

FY23 Veterans Career Program Performance
Since its inception in 2007, the Veterans Career Program (formerly known as PAVE) has placed over 2,923 Veterans (including 435 PVA Members), military spouses and caregivers in meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities.

We are pleased to share some program accomplishments for FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):

- 223 Client Placements (including 31 PVA Members)
  - 173 Paid Employment
    - Average full-time salary is $69,965 (a 15% increase over FY22) and the average part-time salary is $18,945 (a 7% increase over FY22)
  - 40 Education/Training
  - 10 Volunteer
- 82 Veterans Career Live Sessions
  - 8,284 Registrants
  - 2,523 Attendees (Avg: 31 Attendees per Session)
  - 43 Career Skills, 17 Employer, 17 Education, 10 Small Business, and 4 Wellness Sessions
- 1-on-1 Counseling
  - 500 Clients (average active total caseload)
  - 28 New Clients (monthly average)
  - 660 Client Interactions (monthly average)
  - 133 PVA Members Assisted (monthly average)