

A New



Veterans Recovery Center

Vocational Services

Health Care for Homeless Veterans

Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation
Treatment Program





HOME

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System continues to honor its plan of modernizing health care facilities and providing second-to-none care for our nation's heroes through the construction of the new

Residential Living Villas at the H. John Heinz, III Progressive Care Center. The first of their kind, the Residential Living Villas set a new standard in the architectural design and clinical operation of a traditional Domiciliary. Veterans participate in the recovery program for approximately four months with the goals of obtaining community employment and housing. This innovative design concept will create an environment of "veterans living in the community," and provide improved resources for homeless and vocational veterans.

Expansive, beautiful, state-of-the-art townhouses, apartments and patio style homes await veterans who enter the recovery program and Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PRRTP) at the Heinz Division. These Residential Living Villas exhibit architecture that is unfolding and showcases "open arms" providing a welcoming environment. Some of the Villas will also provide short-term housing for veterans receiving services from our Center for Addictive Disorders program.

A professional job development center, large dining room/multi-purpose room including a pool table and ping pong table, fully-equipped exercise room and modern kitchen to enable veterans to sharpen their cooking skills are also available in the support building. A basketball court, pavilion, and expansive yard also aid in creating an environment that allows a less institutional feeling and promotes social interaction between veterans.

The Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

(PRRTP) will continue in their pursuit to build bridges to community living at the new Residential Living Villas in the central building. Veterans participating in this program can experience spacious, accessible living areas and a private dining area. The program will continue to follow three stages: Orientation, Working on your Goal, and Community Transition with the goal of ultimately transitioning to the community residential role of the veteran's choice. PRRTP Program Coordinator Tim Morrison believes

“ I thank God for the VA. They have supplied me with the tools needed to regain confidence, get a job, get home. This is a much better atmosphere. It's like being home and will help me have a much more positive attitude. I would like to tell the U.S. Government and everyone who was involved in putting this together— Thank you very much. **”**
—Todd Terry



“ Each veteran has their own phone and independent phone number. It’s tough for 50 guys to use one phone. These types of facilities will make a huge difference for people in programs like this. Veterans will have a lot more freedom as long as the rules are followed. It is much calmer with a lot more privacy and a lot less stress so we can focus more on recovery. This will make a world of difference for everyone. ” —Patrick Dempsey

strongly that the Residential Living Villas will result in great outcomes for our heroes because the available resources will create a comfortable homelike environment that will be conducive to the achievement of individual recovery goals.

The recovery program will take on a new form as it transitions to the new Residential Living Villas. The villas will create an atmosphere that enables veterans to work on necessary life skills needed to live independently in the community. The veterans participating in this program will reside in the patio-style homes, apartments and townhouses. The goal of this program is to break the cycle of chronic hopelessness experienced by many veterans and permits them to return to their communities as productive individuals.

The patio-style homes are single story with three veteran accommodations in each unit. This home also features one private handicap accessible room in each unit, a full kitchen, two full bathrooms and a living room with a large screen television. The townhouses include two bedrooms to accommodate

four veterans, separate living room with a large screen television and kitchen. Lastly, the apartment style homes are located on a single floor with a combination living room and kitchen and two full bathrooms in each bedroom. Each apartment will accommodate four veterans. Veterans will be responsible for washing their own linens and laundry since each unit has a washer and dryer. Each veteran has their own secure locker and medication safe. There are security cameras in the community living areas and a call button in each unit that rings directly to Veterans Recovery Center staff.

Victoria Love, Veterans Recovery Center Program Assistant, agrees that this environment will help veterans build strong community bonds which can carry on as veterans complete the program. She also agrees, “Since veterans will be responsible for maintaining their own living facilities, they will experience how to live independently in the community. Veterans and staff will also benefit from the increasing opportunity to meet one-on-one.”

“ This is way more than what I expected. It’s unbelievable from what I came from—living on the streets. This is just overwhelming. Makes me feel special. This is more of an individual home and less like a dormitory. VA is giving us the opportunity to change our lives. There is nobody here but caring people— They do care. ” —Jor-El Wilson





Veterans Recovery Center

Gary Glacken, MSW
412.822.1325
Gary.Glacken@va.gov

Vocational Services

John Erskine
412.822.1285
John.Erskine@va.gov

Health Care for Homeless Veterans

Mary Frances Pilarski
412.822.1272
Mary.Pilarski@va.gov

Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Tim Morrison
412.822.1399
Timothy.Morrison@va.gov

“ Home sweet
home for the next
three months. ”
—Elliott O. Marsh

Terry Gerigk Wolf, FACHE
Director and Chief Executive Officer



partnering in veteran-centered care

University Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15240
412.688.6000
www.pittsburgh.va.gov