

Innovative Example Descriptions

Serving Our Nation's Service Members, Veterans, Families & Families of the Fallen

Across the nation, many local-level organizations are stepping up to the plate to ensure that our Nation's returning Service Members, Veterans, Families and Families of the Fallen have access to the services and support they need to succeed during transition and reintegration into civilian life. The focus of these efforts is on education, meaningful employment and access to health care within communities. The following are 65 examples of such efforts.*

1. Web Portals – Expanding Collaboration and Information Sharing at the Local Level

There is a need to expand collaboration and information sharing with Web portals through public-private partnerships to reduce costs, competition, and duplication of efforts. For example, the three Web portals below assist community organizations in helping Veterans, Service Members and families access the wide range of services and resources available to them during transition and community reintegration. Community organizations are encouraged to contribute information and resources to these portals as a way to expand their reach and effectiveness.

Warrior Gateway

Warrior Gateway is a nonprofit, privately funded Web portal created to connect the military community with health care, education and employment organizations to ease transition into community life. It provides access to the largest directory of service organizations, national to local, and enables wounded warriors, Service Members, Veterans, their families, caregivers and families of the fallen to search for services by category or location, including zip code. It also allows users to provide comments and feedback, both good and bad, on organizations and services included on the site.

Website: www.warriorgateway.org

Point of contact: Devin Holmes, Executive Director, devin@warriorgateway.org

National Resource Directory (NRD)

The National Resource Directory is a government-sponsored Web portal created to help wounded warriors, Service Members, Veterans and their families and caregivers connect to services and resources that support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. It provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state, and local levels and gives individuals the ability to search by topic, state, and zip code. The NRD was created collaboratively by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor. The information it contains comes from federal, state, and local government agencies; Veterans service and benefit organizations; nonprofit and community based organizations; academic institutions; and professional associations that provide assistance to wounded warriors and their families.

Website: www.nrd.gov

2. Community Action Teams – Collaborating to Support Veterans

Augusta, Georgia

The Central Savannah River Area Wounded Warrior Care Project uses a three-pronged approach to promote community services serving Service Members and Veterans in the Augusta, GA area. It focuses on: 1) leveraging Augusta's unique warrior care assets, 2) increasing information flow and coordination among agencies, communities, and individuals, and 3) bringing troops all the way home after combat and supporting them during community reintegration. The organization has created a "Community Action Team" model of public-private partnerships. There are thousands of resources available to assist wounded warriors, returning Service Members, Veterans and their families. The Augusta model offers a community-based structure for coordinating those resources and encouraging community involvement at the local level where Service Members and Veterans live and work.

Website: www.projectaugusta.org

Point of contact: Jim Lorraine, Executive Director, jim.lorrainecsrawwcp@gmail.com

Sea of Goodwill of New York City – Collaborating to Reach Out to Area Veterans

Columbia University spearheaded the establishment of the Sea of Goodwill of New York City. As part of this, it hosts monthly meetings with Veterans service organizations, non-governmental organizations and Mayor Bloomberg's office to discuss ideas for community initiatives and events to increase public awareness among area Veterans of available programs, services, and benefits. The collaborative effort's first event, focused on jobs and services, will take place in 2011.

Website: www.veteranaffairs.columbia.edu

Point of contact: Amanda Riego, at2169@columbia.edu

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

Pittsburgh's Veterans Leadership Program

The mission of Pittsburgh's Veterans Leadership Program (VLP) is to address existing and emerging needs facing Veterans and to increase the self-esteem and well-being of Veterans and their immediate families. The organization's primary focus is to provide assistance and community services to unemployed, underemployed, and homeless Veterans. A non-profit organization, the VLP has provided job assistance and support services to the Veteran community of Southwestern Pennsylvania since 1982. It was founded by Vietnam-era Veterans to improve the image and quality of life for ALL Veterans, including those who served during peacetime, by building public awareness and encouraging community involvement.

Website: www.alleghenycounty.us/veterans/career.aspx
Point of contact: Annette Romain, Director, romaina@vlpwpa.org

Veterans Community Action Teams

Altarum Institute's Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT) Mission Project promotes a collaborative community model to enhance the delivery of services from public, private, and non-profit organizations to Veterans and their families. This model will be tested in San Diego, California, and San Antonio, Texas to demonstrate the value of a community-based system of care to improve the accessibility, scope, and quality of care available for Veterans and their families. Multiple government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations will collaborate in the project and encourage community involvement. Initial phases involved research and development, outreach and communications, and assembly of the VCAT team.

Website: www.altarum.org/research-initiatives-health-systems-health-care/improving-human-health-systems-mission-projects/mission-projects-VCAT

Point of contact: Max Burke, Senior Health Policy Analyst, max.burke@altarum.org

Tri-Vets Community Action Team, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Tri-Vets Community Action Team was born from a series of conferences addressing the needs of Veterans, their families, and trauma victims. Following those successful conferences, the group wanted to create a grassroots effort that included membership from local hospitals, educational institutions, the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, and the community at large to foster support for Service Members and their families across three counties. These partners are still formalizing their efforts; however, they are already having a significant impact in the community by building public awareness and promoting community services.

Website: www.groupspaces.com/Tri-VetsCommunityTaskForce/
Point of contact: Mike Zimmerman, Executive Director, fsawv.exec@verizon.net

South East Arizona Veterans Alliance of Local Organizations for Reintegration (SE AZ VALOR)

SE AZ VALOR builds local capacity by coordinating and collaborating with other agencies, organizations and businesses committed to serving those who have served us, in order to insure that all veterans, service members and their families have equal access to a productive and happy life. Among their key tasks are: Regular meetings for stakeholders; Networking with Providers; Exploring area assets and needs; Seeking and attracting donors, financial resources, potential partners; Identify gaps in information, services, resources, events and communication; Offer funding to close gaps; and Develop a common events calendar. The vision for SE AZ VALOR is that they will be successful when the coalition is self-perpetuating, and when every SE AZ Veteran, Service Member and/or their Families can realize a seamless assistance process from inquiry to resolution.

Website: N/A
Point of contact: Mike Holmes, michael.holmes@syzygylogos.com

Morgantown VetConnection

The Morgantown, WV community created a brick and mortar, non-profit organization that provides a "one-stop" portal for the returning warriors and their families to the Morgantown, WV area to obtain information and connect with resources for jobs, health care, training, education, housing assistance, financial guidance, legal advice and more. Recently, PACE Enterprises received a grant of \$250K from the WV division of rehabilitative services which allows a 3,000 sq. ft. building to be constructed, which will become the home of VetConnection. In addition to all the services that VetConnection already provides, it will now offer retraining programs for disabled Veterans. VetConnection is building public awareness of the issues that Veterans, Wounded Warriors, families and families of the fallen have when returning to civilian life.

Website: <http://www.vetconnection.org/>
Point of contact: Ken Busz, ken@morgantownchamber.org

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

Las Vegas

The Nevada Community Foundation has taken on a leadership role in Southern Nevada to address the challenge of reintegrating Service members, veterans, families, and families of the fallen from a systems model approach that has proven successful in their community addressing the homeless problem. They are currently conducting an assessment and developing a plan of action, while pulling in all the key stakeholders for the community.

Point of contact: Gian Brosco, gian.brosco@nevadacf.org

3. Education

Student Veterans of America

Student Veterans of America (SVA) provides Veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation. SVA member chapters are student groups that have formed on college and university campuses to provide peer-to-peer networks for Veterans attending those schools. These groups coordinate campus activities, provide professional networking, and generally provide a touchstone for Student Veterans in higher education.

Website: www.studentveterans.org

Point of contact: Derek Blumke, Co-Founder and Executive Director, derek.blumke@studentveterans.org

University of Arizona Student V.E.T.S. Club

As a hub of information for student Veterans and potential student Veterans, the University of Arizona's Student Vets Center, part of Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS), is staffed by trained student Veterans who have already successfully transitioned to the campus community. Also, Student Vets Center staff offers individualized services to improve the experience of all Veterans at the University while also promoting community services for reintegrating Veterans and their families. The Student Vets Center is a casual safe place for student Veterans to relax and study.

Website: www.vets.arizona.edu/office/

Point of contact: Glen Lacroix, President, glenl@email.arizona.edu

Troops to College – Ensuring Veterans are Aware of their Educational Options

The Troops to College program aims to attract more Veterans to California's public universities and colleges by making campuses more Veteran friendly and promoting community services for our reintegrating Veterans, families, and families of the fallen. It is a partnership between the Governor's office; California's Community Colleges; California State University; the University of California; the state's Departments of Education, Veterans Affairs, and Labor and Workforce Development Agency; and all branches of the Armed Forces. The program provides increased opportunities for Veterans to receive a quality education from the institution of higher learning of their choice.

Website: www.troopstocollege.ca.gov

Point of contact: COL(R) Bucky Peterson, Chairman, bpeterson@calstate.edu

Bellevue College Project Succeed

Project Succeed, funded through Microsoft Corporation's Elevate America Veterans Initiative and managed by Bellevue College, helps Veterans complete their education and make a successful transition into a career. Through the project, Veterans gain the high-level technology and other skills needed to obtain good jobs in the global marketplace. Furthermore, Project Succeed collaborates with local community leaders to provide services for Veterans and spouses, including part-time job and internship openings; career assessment; career exploration; career specialists; networking with employers; and workshops.

Website: www.bellevuecollege.edu/careers/projectsucceed/

Point of contact: Cheryl Vermilyea, Director, Center for Career Connections, cheryl.vermilyea@bellevuecollege.edu

Veterans Entrepreneurship Program - Oklahoma State University

The Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP) provides an entrepreneurial learning and development opportunity for service-disabled Veterans interested in starting a venture as a means to financial independence or have an existing business that they would like to grow profitably. The VEP is free to eligible Veterans who are selected for the program. VEP's efforts to introduce entrepreneurship ideas and concepts encourages community involvement in illustrating how their principles can be applied to current or potential business models.

Website: www.entrepreneurship.okstate.edu/vep

Point of contact: Dr Mike Morris, Director of the School of Entrepreneurship, mhm@okstate.edu

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

Kennesaw State University Veterans Resource Center

The KSU Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is the first of its kind in the State of Georgia. KSU is located in the Atlanta, Georgia suburbs and enrolls 24,500 students. The VRC at KSU provides academic and personal resources for military veterans and their families, active duty and reserve military members and their families. The VRC's intention is to assist veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life. Professional and volunteer staff provide outreach and support programs that include individual and group counseling, an OWL radio show called "Military Talk", a monthly Veterans INSIGHT session designed just for veterans by the Office of Admissions that provides for a smoother admissions process, a tour and information on KSU's veteran friendly campus, fee waivers for a variety of services to include Orientation and exam fees, the development of a veterans learning community, specialized Career Service program entitled "Military Veterans in the Workplace", a veteran mentors program and an Admissions and Registrar link that are designed just for veterans. Kennesaw State has provided office space near the center of campus where veterans can gather to support each other, study, seek tutoring services, be academically advised and seek on campus employment. The VRC participates and supports the Kennesaw State University Homelessness Awareness Week in hopes that a better understanding of the needs of military homeless veterans can be highlighted. The VRC staff recognizes that female veterans may have unique experiences and special programs are offered to assist them with their transition. The VRC has been instrumental in consulting with other State colleges and universities as they start their own veteran resources program.

Website: www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccess/veterans_resources/index.html

Contact: Mr. Frank Wills, Director of the Veterans Resource Center, rwills1@kennesaw.edu

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) offers cutting edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with disabilities resulting from their service to our country. The EBV is designed to open the door to business ownership for our veterans by 1) developing your skills in the many steps and activities associated with launching and growing a small business, and by 2) helping you leverage programs and services for veterans and people with disabilities in a way that furthers your entrepreneurial dreams. The EBV is designed around two central elements: a) focused, practical training in the tools and skills of new venture creation and growth, reflecting issues unique to disability and public benefits programs; and b) the establishment of a support structure for graduates of the program. The practical elements of the program will involve three phases: 1) Delegates participate in a self-study curriculum, facilitated by an online discussion and assessment module, which will be moderated by entrepreneurship faculty and graduate students from one of the partner EBV Universities. During this phase delegates will work on the development of their own business concepts.

2) During the nine-day residency at one of the eight EBV Universities, delegates are exposed to the "nuts and bolts" of business ownership through experiential workshops and lessons from world-class entrepreneurship faculty representing nationally ranked programs around the country. 3) Delegates are provided with ongoing technical assistance from faculty experts at the EBV Universities and EBV partners.

Website: <http://whitman.syr.edu/ebv/>

Point of contact: Dr. Mike Haynie, jmhaynie@syr.edu

Supportive Education for the Returning Veteran (SERV) Program

The Supportive Education for the Returning Veteran (SERV) program was created to support the Veteran in his or her return to civilian life, and in an academic environment that would ensure their success in the education, business or career field he or she choose. The program understands that experiences Veterans have had are important in helping them succeed in education or business, but some also cause barriers to learning. SERV addresses those barriers through a special program design, which includes 1) optional attendance of Vets-only General Education classes; 2) the presence of Veterans Administration counselors on campus; 3) SERV staff serving as advocates that cut through "red tape" and guide student Vets in navigating academic and other hurdles.

Website: N/A

Point of contact: Dr. John Schupp, SERV National Director, john.schupp@theservprogram.com

Davis & Elkins College

Davis & Elkins College is committed to providing benefits to Veterans to ensure they receive everything they need to obtain a college education. From a specialized Veteran ID card, to VET CONNECT, a program that links faculty and staff members with student Veterans, to the beautifully restored Veterans Lounge in historic Halliehurst, Veterans represent an important and diverse demographic of the Davis & Elkins College community. Additionally, Davis & Elkins reaches out and encourages community involvement in the development of its Veterans programs. It also offers Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), a Department of Education TRIO program. Participants in VUB receive preparation for success at Davis & Elkins College, other colleges and universities, and a variety of post-high school career and technical training institutions.

Website: www.dewv.edu/VeteransServices.cfm

Point of contact: Debbie Larkin, VA School Certifying Official, larkind@dewv.edu

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

No Greater Sacrifice

No Greater Sacrifice (NGS) was created to raise funds to support the educational needs of children and families. In so doing, they honor the sacrifice and commitment to the men and women in uniform. NGS accomplishes its mission in part by partnering with charities already on the ground to ensure that children of wounded warriors with a disability rating of 60% or greater will be able to attend and successfully graduate.

Website: www.nogreatersacrifice.org/

Point of contact: Rebekah Lovorn, Executive Director, rebekah@truvoltage.com

ThanksUSA

ThanksUSA is a non-partisan, charitable effort to mobilize Americans of all ages to "thank" the men and women of the United States armed forces by providing need-based college, technical and vocational school scholarships for their children and spouses. ThanksUSA complements, and in some cases might supplement, a variety of additional scholarship opportunities, including the G.I. Bill (direct educational aid for the troops) and other scholarships for military children and spouses that are offered by other organizations.

Website: www.ThanksUSA.org

Point of contact: Michele Stork, Executive Director, MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org

University of Pittsburgh's Veterans Coordinator – Support Services for Student Veterans

From academic and financial aid assistance to career counseling and networking, the University of Pittsburgh offers a range of services and programs specifically designed to provide guidance to student Veterans or active military personnel. In addition, the University offers an array of programs, community services, and activities for adult or nontraditional students that Veteran students may find useful and supportive. If student Veterans have any questions at all, the Director of the Office of Veterans Services is available to assist. If students prefer to speak directly with a person in a particular office within the University, Pitt has identified administrators throughout the campus who are specially prepared to help Veteran students with their most frequently asked questions.

Website: www.veterans.pitt.edu

Point of contact: Ann Marie Rairigh, Director, Office of Veterans Services, amr142@pitt.edu

4. Employment

UBS Veterans Network (UBSVN)

The UBSVN promotes leadership principles, professionalism and service at UBS. Specifically, it focuses on four things: recruiting and retaining talented staff, enhancing the client experience, leadership development, and promoting awareness of Veterans' roles in company culture, business operations, local communities, and client relationships. The goal is a culture of caring, integrity, and pride that builds the firm's reputation as a place where high-quality employees work and clients and prospects want to do business. This effort helps connect Veterans to the organization and its mission, and as a result Veterans are staying at UBS.

Website: N/A

Point of contact: Chris Isola, Veterans Network Coordinator, chris.isola@ubs.com

Microsoft We Still Serve

Microsoft's We Still Serve community supports Veterans and those still active in the National Guard and Reserve in preparing for transition or looking for their next corporate opportunities. The We Still Serve community is a network of Veterans who know what the process of transition from military service to civilian employment is like. Microsoft has a policy of not only honoring Veteran's contributions with words alone, but with "skills, work ethic, and experience." Reflecting this, Veterans can visit the We Still Serve site and enter their branch of military, their job rating or military code, and search for available positions specific to their training.

Website: www.westillserve.com/

Point of contact: RJ Naugle, Veterans Program, Microsoft, robnaug@microsoft.com

International Brotherhood of Teamsters - Helmets to Hardhats

Making a successful transition from the military into the civilian workforce can be difficult and that is why Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) is dedicated to helping National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military members connect to quality career and training opportunities in one of America's most challenging and rewarding industries – construction. Although H2H is a Web-based program that requires online registration and provides career postings, its set apart from other initiatives in that it employs several Regional Directors and has many dedicated volunteers who take an active role in connecting Veterans to career and training opportunities. H2H makes the connection between career providers and candidates. Some listings on the H2H Web site are for apprenticeship training opportunities, while others are for careers with public and private employers.

Website: www.helmetstohardhats.org

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

Point of contact: Elizabeth "Liz" Murray-Belcaster, embconsultants@gmail.com

American Corporate Partners (ACP) - Long-Term Career Development Through Mentoring

ACP is a nationwide mentoring program dedicated to helping Veterans transition from the armed services to the civilian workforce through mentoring, career counseling, and networking with professionals from some of America's largest corporations and select universities. ACP's recruitment of new mentors and the demonstration of their success not only encourage additional involvement but also significantly increases public awareness. ACP is not a jobs program, but a tool for networking and long-term career development.

Website: www.acp-usa.org

Point of contact: Sid Goodfriend, Founder, sgoodfriend@acp-usa.org

Veterans Across America (VAA) - Assisting with Veteran Employment

Veterans Across America is a non-profit organization dedicated to working on behalf of America's Veterans and to creating an employment demand for them among a broad network of leaders of American business and other organizations and institutions.

Website: www.veteransacrossamerica.org

Point of contact: Wesley Poriotis, Founder, wporiotis@veteransacrossamerica.org

SBA Loans and Incentives – Helping Veterans Pursue Business Ownership

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development works to maximize the availability, applicability and usability of SBA's programs for Veterans, service-disabled Veterans, Reserve component members, and their dependents or survivors. Specific programs include: 1) Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV), which leverages the skills, resources and infrastructure of higher education to offer experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management; 2) Women Veterans Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE), which focuses on training, networking and mentorship for women Veterans; and 3) Operation Endure & Grow, which targets National Guard and Reserve members, their families and business partners.

Website: <http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2985>

Point of contact: Bill Elmore, Associate Administrator, answerdesk@sba.gov

5. Peer to Peer – Healthy Lifestyle Alternatives - Health Care

Buddy-to-Buddy Program – A First Line of Defense for Michigan Veterans

In partnership with the Michigan Army National Guard, the University of Michigan Health Center established the Buddy-to-Buddy Veteran Volunteer Program to support Service Members and their families, both pre-deployment and post deployment. This outreach effort encourages community involvement and promotes community services for our reintegrating Veterans, families and families of the fallen. For family members, it also offers programs during deployment. For Service Members enrolled at the University of Michigan, the "peer-to-peer" component of this program is critical to connecting with Service Members and welcoming them into the campus community.

Website: www.buddytobuddy.org

Point of contact: Dr. John Greden, Executive Director, gredenj@med.umich.edu

NJ Vets2Vets Hotline

NJ Vet2Vet helpline is the central element in a multi-faceted program developed as collaboration between the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. The partnership provides New Jersey soldiers, veterans, and their families with a highly accessible means get support from someone who understands military life. The program, modeled after the highly successful, Cop2Cop program, employs and trains veterans to provide skilled support and case management to veterans in need.

Website: www.njveteranshelpline.org

Point of contact: Chris Kosseff, Senior VP of Administrations, kosseff@umdnj.edu

The Pathway Home – Caring for the Nation's "New Warriors"

The Pathway Home is a residential, state-licensed care center for the treatment of post-traumatic stress (PTS) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) located on the grounds of The Veterans Home of California in Yountville. It serves all branches of active and non-active military and the National Guard by providing community services for our reintegrating Veterans, Families, and Families of the Fallen. The program offers specialty services through several collaborative partners, including Martinez Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), San Francisco VAMC, Palo Alto VAMC, Travis Air Force Base and the St. Helena Hospital for Addiction, a TriCare West

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

provider. However, the program is underutilized because of its inability to be reimbursed from TriCare West as a PTS program. The state of California recently recognized the value of The Pathway Home and the care it provides young warriors, awarding the program a \$1.3 million onetime, non-competitive grant to keep its doors open through July 2011.

Website: www.thepathwayhome.org

Point of contact: Fred Gusman, Director, fred.gusman@thepathwayhome.org

Veteran Homestead – Serving Veterans in Need on Community College Grounds

The Northeast Veteran Training Rehabilitation Center (NVTRC) offers education and physical, occupational, and emotional therapy with an emphasis on family counseling and the critical life and recreational skills that are often taken for granted. Focusing on Veterans with limb loss, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, and burns, the NVTRC addresses rehabilitation and community reintegration. Through these community services they restore the whole person to a life in which he or she can live and interact with friends and family in a healthier, more effective manner. The NVTRC is managed by Veteran Homestead, Inc., an independent nonprofit with programs in New England and Puerto Rico, and located on ten acres donated by Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) in Gardner, Massachusetts.

Website: www.veteranhomestead.org/facilities/nvtrc.html

Point of contact: Leslie Lightfoot, Executive Director, leslie@veteranhomestead.org

LifeQuest Transitions

Based in Colorado Springs, CO, LifeQuest Transitions takes a unique and results driven approach to assisting military personnel wounded in service. Since its inception a year and a half ago it has had 500 wounded come through its program with tangible results like increased mobility and strength, decreased depression, reduced medications, and stronger reconnection with families. The organization's next step is to expand the program and develop a coalition of leading practices and treatments for PTS and TBI injuries. LifeQuest Transitions is not an entitlement program but an empowerment program through which participants quickly learn that hard tangible results in their recovery require hard tangible effort. The program increases public awareness that PTS is treatable and one can continue to be a productive member of society.

Website: www.MYLQ.org

Point of contact: CW Connor, Founder/CEO, cw@mylq.org

Phoenix Multisport

Phoenix Multisport fosters a supportive, physically active community for individuals who are recovering from alcohol and substance abuse and those who choose to live a sober life. Through such pursuits as climbing, hiking, running, swimming, road and mountain biking, and other activities, the organization seeks to help its members develop and maintain the emotional strength they need to stay sober.

Website: www.phoenixmultisport.org/

Point of contact: Scott Strode, Executive Director and Founder, scott@phoenixmultisport.org

Vets4Vets - Peer to Peer Mentorship

Vets4Vets is non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to helping Iraq and Afghanistan-era Veterans to heal from the psychological injuries of war through the use of peer support. The organization conducts workshops in multiple communities around the country and simultaneously increases public awareness and encourages community involvement. The primary goal is to help Iraq and Afghanistan-era Veterans understand the value of peer support and to regularly use peer support to express their emotions, manage their challenges and ease their reintegration into society.

Website: www.vets4vets.us

Point of contact: Johnny Elvis, johnnyelvis@vets4vets.us

Vets Prevail - Created For Vets By Vets

The interactive training is delivered online, to reach the modern Veteran, providing a convenient and completely confidential approach to treating deployment-related effects of combat such as PTSD, depression and anxiety. Public Service Announcements created by Vets Prevail have made a dramatic impact on building public awareness of the challenges associated with untreated post traumatic stress in turn having an effect on increasing community involvement.

Website: www.vetsprevail.com

Point of contact: Richard Gengler, President, richard@prevailhs.com

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

BrainLine.org – Traumatic Brain Injury Resource

BrainLine is a national multimedia project offering information and resources about preventing, treating, and living with TBI. It includes a series of webcasts, an electronic newsletter, and an extensive outreach campaign in partnership with national organizations concerned about traumatic brain injury. BrainLine serves anyone whose life has been affected by TBI, including people with brain injury, their families, professionals in the field, and anyone else in a position to help prevent or ameliorate the toll of TBI. BrainLine is funded by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, the Primary Operational TBI Component of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, through a subcontract award with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Website: www.brainline.org

Point of contact: Noel Gunther, Executive Director, ngunther@weta.com

Troops First Foundation

Troops First Foundation (“T1F”) develops, operates, and supports a synergistic group of wellness, quality-of-life, and sports-based initiatives in support of today’s military personnel. In addition, T1F initiatives facilitate a greater recognition and an enhanced understanding of the quality and character of the men and women who volunteer to serve their families, their daily sacrifices and the constant need to evaluate and improve their quality of life. Both non-injured and injured military personnel and their families are served at no cost to them by T1F’s strategically integrated quality of life, sports-based and wellness initiatives.

Website: www.troopsfirstfoundation.org/

Point of contact: Rick Kell, Executive Director, rckellco@aol.com

The Home Base Program

The Home Base Program is a partnership between the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital dedicated to improving the lives of Veterans who deployed in support of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and life with deployment or combat-related stress and/or traumatic brain injury. It provides clinical care to Veterans, support for their families, offers educational courses and materials for health care providers and the public, and brings world-class researchers together to seek medical breakthroughs in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury and stress-related disorders. Increasing community involvement, the Home Base Program encourages the Boston community to reach out and assist the Veterans and warriors returning to the Boston area as well as encourages the Veterans and their families to not be afraid to ask for help or assistance.

Website: <http://www.homebaseprogram.org/>

Point of contact: Michael Allard, Chief Operating Officer, mallard1@partners.org

Lakeshore Foundation

Each year, professionals at Lakeshore Foundation serve more than 3,000 individuals with physical disabilities, from babies who are six months old to men and women well into their 90s. Lakeshore meets these individuals’ critical needs for access to exercise and recreation opportunities. The organization strives to set a standard in this country and change public perception of people with disabilities by building public awareness and providing invaluable services. The organization have taken this model and applied it wounded, ill and injured active duty and Veterans and Service Members, their families and families of the fallen.

Website: www.lakeshore.org/

Point of contact: Mandy Geoff, MS Coordinator of Lima Foxtrot Programs for Injured Military, mandyg@lakeshore.org

Higher Ground – Therapeutic Recreation for Veterans and Supporters

Higher Ground (HG) is a rehabilitation program that combines sports, family, and coping therapies to reintegrate severely wounded Veterans. The organization’s week-long retreats use adapted outdoor activities as a catalyst for positive change in all aspects of life. Events are free for Veterans and their supporters and cater to specific populations, such as couples, singles, male, and female, in order to create a safe and intimate atmosphere in which to connect. Veterans share struggles related to battle trauma and injuries, while supporters share challenges about health care, parenting, and their role as caregivers. HG commits to three years of follow-up care for each participant, including resources at home and a reintegration budget to provide goods and services specific to recreation pursuits. In partnership with universities, HG also conducts research that proves the lasting efficacy of therapeutic recreation for Veterans.

Point of Contact: Erin Rheinschild, Executive Director erin@svasp.org

Website: www.hgvets.org

U.S. VETS

The mission of U.S. VETS is the successful transition of military Veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support. It provides comprehensive services to Veterans, including case management, employment assistance, job placement, counseling, as well as drug and alcohol free housing. Providing these services encourages more community involvement and builds public awareness. At U.S. VETS facilities, Veterans progress through a seamless

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

continuum of services designed to help them increase their level of responsibility and prepare them to live independently in the community.

Website: www.usvetsinc.org/

Point of contact: Stephen Peck, Senior Vice President, Community Development, sjpeck@usvetsinc.org

Citizen-Soldier Support Program

The mission of the CSSP is to engage and connect military and community service systems to increase the readiness and resiliency of Service Members and their families. CSSP has unified its approach under a single Behavioral Health Initiative to addressing the psychological issues confronting Service Members and their families through evidence-based, best practice online training (www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier); a robust searchable provider database (www.warwithin.org); and other innovative solutions, including the CSSP Mapping and Data Center (www.unc.edu/cssp/datacenter). CSSP works with partners nationwide and with DoD to develop effective and sustainable military/community partnerships; to build and reinforce the military and civilian capacity of behavioral health professionals, agencies, systems and resources; and to penetrate into geographically isolated, rural and underserved regions to more effectively serve Service Members and their families.

Website: www.citizensoldiersupport.org/

Point of contact: William Abb, Deputy Director, william.abb@unc.edu

6. Legal / Law

Buffalo's Veterans Treatment Court – Addressing Adverse Actions through Mentorships

Veterans and Service Members experience life-changing events, some of which may cause them to react in adverse ways and get into trouble with the law. The Veterans Treatment Court in Buffalo, NY provides a model for addressing these transgressions. The Veterans Treatment Court includes: 1) a judge who understands the unique issues that Veterans and Service Members face and that specialized treatment may be needed, and 2) a mentor system comprised of mentors who understand the Veteran experience firsthand. It has several mentors who are Vietnam War Veterans who offer trust, insight and experience to younger Veterans coming through the court system. This program builds public awareness of the challenges our Veterans and families face and made a significant impact on encouraging community involvement.

Website: www.erie.gov/veterans/veterans_court.asp

Buffalo Veteran Treatment Court Point of contact: Robert Russell, Judge, rrussell@courts.state.ny.us

National Veteran Treatment Court Initiative Point of Contact: Brian Clubb, Project Director, bclubb@nadcp.org

Sequential Intercept Model for Combat Veterans

The Sequential Intercept Model for Combat Veterans centers around four distinct points during which a Veteran may be handled, with special care before, during or after they reach a crisis point. Once identified as a Veteran, the model strives to make it easier to connect him or her (or family members) to appropriate services. The first of the four points is any time before the Veteran comes into contact with law enforcement; the second is when the Veteran comes into contact with law enforcement; the third is post-arrest but pre-trial; and the fourth is the Veterans' court.

Website: N/A

Point of contact: Sergeant David Cavanaugh, Dcavanaugh@cityofboise.org

Stateside Legal

Stateside Legal is for members of the military, Veterans, their families, and advocates to access benefits, find free legal help, and better understand legal issues. It offers a national website focusing on federal programs, which may eventually be expanded to include state-specific information as the organization continues to grow. The goal is to index the best legal information available in one easy-to-use site. Stateside Legal has also offers its own interactive forms, videos, and legal analysis.

Website: www.statesidelegal.org

Point of contact: Nan Heald, Executive Director, nheald@ptla.org

7. Housing

Soldier On

Since 1994, Soldier On has been helping homeless Veterans by providing shelter, counseling, job training, and education. In 2009, the organization broke ground on the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans community in Pittsfield, MA, and there are two other locations in the development process. Soldier On endeavors to provide Veterans with integrity, dignity, and hope as they transition from homelessness to home ownership. Each location provides opportunities for drug and alcohol addiction treatment, educational services, and job training.

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

Website: www.wesoldieron.org/

Point of contact: Steve Como, Executive Vice President, vze4t6cw@verizon.net

Veterans Village of San Diego – Dedicated to Leaving No One Behind

Veterans Village of San Diego is dedicated to extending assistance to needy and homeless Veterans of all wars and eras and their families by providing housing, food, clothing, substance abuse recovery and mental health counseling, job training and job search assistance. VVSD provides a continuum of care with a full range of comprehensive and innovative services for military Veterans that encompasses: Prevention; Intervention; Treatment; and Aftercare. VVSD also extends assistance to needy and homeless Veterans and their families by providing: Substance Abuse Recovery; Mental Health Counseling; Job Training and Job Search Assistance; Housing; Food; Clothing; and Legal Services. In their last program year, VVSD placed over 300 homeless Veterans and over 200 other unemployed Veterans into long-term jobs with an average starting wage exceeding \$13 per hour. The 60 minutes coverage of VVSD Stand-down significantly increased public awareness nationwide and encouraged community involvement.

Website: www.vvsd.net

Point of contact: Phil Landis, President and CEO, phil.landis@vvsd.net

New Directions – Co-Use of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs-Owned Land

California has more homeless Veterans than any other state, and the number is only expected to increase as troops return from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. To address anticipated needs, New Directions, Inc., a nonprofit with 17 years of experience providing comprehensive community services to Veterans, is partnering with A Community of Friends (ACOF), a nonprofit with more than two decades of experience in developing permanent supportive housing. Their joint plan, called the Housing for Veterans Project, will transform two unused buildings into 147 studio apartments for homeless and disabled Veterans. Buildings 4 and 5 on the Sepulveda grounds, owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), will be rehabilitated to accommodate the units, as well as community rooms and dining, recreation and classroom space. The VA owns the property and has granted 75-year leases to New Directions and ACOF for the project, but will not sell the property to New Directions, ACOF or any other entity.

Website: www.newdirectionsinc.org/about_sepulveda.html

Point of Contact: Toni Reinis, Executive Director, treinis@ndvets.org

HELP USA - Helping the Homeless and Low Income Gain Permanent Housing

HELP USA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help those who are homeless and others in need become and remain self-reliant. It is one of the country's largest builders and operators of service-enriched transitional and low-income permanent housing. It has 19 residential communities in the New York metropolitan area and was recruited to expand its successful model to Philadelphia, Las Vegas, Buffalo, Newark, and Houston. HELP USA's efforts include expanding and increasing public awareness of the issue and encouraging community involvement to address the problem.

Website: www.helpusa.org

Point of contact: Tom Hameline, Senior Vice President, Programs, thameline@helpusa.org

The Army Distaff Foundation, Inc. (Knollwood)

The mission of the Army Distaff Foundation/Knollwood (501C3) is to provide affordable, secure retirement housing and health care services to retired career officers of all uniformed services and their relatives. Knollwood includes four levels of care: independent living, assisted living, a skilled nursing facility, and the Special Care Center for individuals with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Efforts by the foundation promote community services and increase community involvement that go beyond the current younger generation of Veterans and recognizes the service of early generations, their families and the families of the fallen.

Website: www.armydistaff.org/

Point of contact: Ashleigh Seidler, Director of Development & Capital Campaigns, aseidler@armydistaff.org

New England Center for Homeless Veterans

The Mission of the New England Center for Homeless Veterans is to extend a helping hand to homeless men and women Veterans who are addressing the challenges of addiction, trauma, severe and persistent mental illness, and/or unemployment, and who will commit themselves to sobriety, non-violence, and working for personal change. The organization is recognized as an effective private Veteran's transition program and has had a great impact to building not only public awareness of the homeless Veteran issue but steps to take to correct it.

Website: www.nechv.org

Point of contact: Larry Fitzmaurice, President and CEO, larry.fitzmaurice@nechv.org

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

The Jericho Project

The Jericho Project's mission is to end homelessness at its roots by creating a community that inspires individual change, fosters sustainable independence, and motivates Veterans and their families to reach their greatest potential. Promoting community services, the Jericho Model has five core components: 1) a sense of community and shared purpose; 2) permanent, affordable housing; 3) comprehensive services; 4) lifetime aftercare; and 5) cost-effective business management. The Jericho Project's goals are to: 1) develop new supportive housing for veterans; 2) create an evidence-based veterans service model built on Jericho's current model; and 3) use strategic efforts to stimulate the further development of supportive and affordable housing initiatives for Veterans worldwide.

Website: www.jerichoproject.org/

Point of contact: Tori Lyon, Executive Director, tlyon@jerichoproject.org

8. Family Enrichment

Camp Better America

Camp Better America (CBA) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to reconnect military families by giving them the tools they need to create, build and achieve their dreams. CBA's program focuses on the entire military family. CBA's vision is to reach every military family that has served since September 11, 2001. Camp Better America resort-like camps are located all over the country at beautiful privately owned retreats, resorts and ranches, free of charge to military families and usually span over a 4 day period. The atmosphere is family oriented and filled with fun. It is an opportunity for the service member and his/her family to relax, let their walls down and reconnect with each other but same time, they will be exposed to leading experts in the fields of business, mental health, emotional healing, marriage, parenting, physical well being and spiritual needs. CBA focuses on the reconnection and reintegration process for military families after the service member in the family returns from war. Some focus points are on life stress, triggers and coping mechanisms of PTSD and offer extended services to the family including a Military Child Life Program. Their goal is to maintain a relationship with all of the families that come to their camps and continue to offer support, tools and opportunities to these families as they move forward in life.

Website: www.campbetteramerica.org

Point Of Contact: Kathleen Gagg, Co-founder, kathleen.gagg@yahoo.com

Coming Home Project

The Coming Home Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted, since 2006, to providing expert, compassionate care, support, education, and stress management tools for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, service members, their families, and their service providers. They are an experienced multi-disciplinary team of psychotherapists, veterans and interfaith leaders committed to alleviating the unseen wounds of war. The Coming Home Project addresses the emotional, social, moral, and spiritual injuries and the family challenges experienced during all stages of deployment, especially reintegration. They also offer a continuum of integrative services, from retreats and psychological counseling to training and self-care for service providers and community education and consultation.

Website: www.cominghomeproject.net

Point Of Contact: Dr. Joseph Bobrow, Founder and President, jbobrow@cominghomeproject.net

Project Sanctuary

Project Sanctuary is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide therapeutic, curative, supportive and recreational activities to veterans, active military personnel, their spouses and children in a leisure environment. The organization is unique in that it is designed to offer support to the entire military family. Located in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, six day retreats are filled with Healthy Marriage and Financial Peace classes all while utilizing diversion (recreational) therapy. They provide families with a fun, recreational experience while at the retreat, and the opportunity to tap into vital support structures for the following two years upon returning home. At prescribed times, they devote resources to those with disabilities and those families struggling with the loss of a loved one.

Website: www.projectsanctuary.us

Point Of Contact: Heather Ehle, Executive Director and Founder, Heather@ProjectSanctuary.us

9. Other

Shepherd Center

Shepherd Center is the nation's largest nonprofit hospital devoted to research, medical care, rehabilitation, and advocacy for people with spinal cord injury and disease, acquired brain injury, Multiple Sclerosis, chronic pain, and other neuromuscular problems. Shepherd Center's Mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention. The SHARE Initiative at Shepherd Center provides rehabilitation and community-based care to U.S. military service members who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program utilizes Shepherd's full rehabilitation continuum of evaluation and treatment services for those who have sustained brain injury, spinal cord injury or blast injury. SHARE provides assistance, support,

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

and education to service members and their families during their recovery treatment and beyond. In addition, the program compiles data that is beneficial to policy and legislative change to provide for unfunded services.

Website: www.shepherd.org

Point of Contact: Susan Johnson, Director of Brain Injury Services, Susan_Johnson@shepherd.org

Center for American Values

The Center for American Values, Inc. is a non-political organization formed in 2010 for charitable and educational purposes. Currently, it is facilitating a collaborative effort to engage communities in Southern Colorado in the discussion about how to improve the lives of returning Veterans by sharing ideas and integrating stakeholders in order to maximize resources and not duplicate efforts. This effort will, in turn, help build public awareness of the issues and challenges in the Colorado Veteran community as well as nationally. The Center's objectives and programs include use of its space for organizations in need of meeting facilities to carry out character and leadership development programs, educational training seminars, executive study groups, ceremonial activities, and outreach activities.

Website: www.americanvaluescenter.org

Point of contact: Drew Dix, Founder, libertyranch@hughes.net

I Support Vets

I Support Vets (ISV) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise patriotic support for our veterans at the local and national level; and help ready our communities to receive and care for our military families. With the firm belief that our military members, past and present, should receive the utmost thanks and support of a grateful nation, the ISV team has developed a custom dog tag as a visual demonstration of support; and is in the process of developing curricula to educate providers, employers, family members and peers on military cultures and the issues veterans face when transitioning from the service. ISV assists communities in their readiness to serve our veterans by strengthening the people and organizations that directly serve them. ISV works with local community foundations and strategic partners to identify and fund small nonprofit programs that effectively provide veteran support in their immediate community. Through donations and partnered funding, these resources will then 'pay it forward' by assisting other nonprofits with practical experience to improve the quality and longevity of programs that serve military veterans and their families.

Website: www.isupportvets.org

Point of contact: Stephanie Moles, Founder, stephanie@isupportvets.org

Robin Hood Foundation of NYC

Since 1988, the Robin Hood Foundation has targeted poverty in New York City. By applying sound investment principles to philanthropy, it has helped effective programs save lives and change fates. Its approach is simple: 100 percent of all donations go directly to helping attack the source of a problem at the roots. Recently, this organization has extended this aggressive approach to assist Veterans, their families, and families of the fallen by building public awareness through an information campaign and encouraging community involvement by the programs they support.

Website: www.robinhood.org/home.aspx

Point of contact: Eric Weingartner, Managing Director, Survival, weingartner@robinhood.org

Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment (TRIAD) Fund

The Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment (TRIAD) Fund was created to provide assistance to current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Grants are made to non-profit agencies in Texas that currently serve the military and their families or agencies that could, with additional funding, meet an identified unmet need of this group. Unmet needs may include but are not limited to emergency assistance, temporary lodging, mental health counseling, activities for families and children, transportation, and recovery programs.

Website: www.triadfund.org/

Points of contact: The Dallas Foundation, Laura Smith lsmith@dallasfoundation.org, San Antonio Area Foundation, Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez, Ph.D. spalomogonzalez@saafdn.org, Permian Basin Area Foundation Guy McCrary, gmccrary@pbaf.org

California Driver License Declaration – Reaching Out to New Veteran Residents

California has developed a program through which a new resident applying for a driver license is asked to declare whether or not he or she was a member of the Armed Forces. This information is then provided to the state's Department of Veterans Affairs so identified individuals can be linked with other Veterans and provided information on current programs and benefits for which they may be eligible.

Tax Exemptions – Assistance for Wounded Warriors and Families of the Fallen

Several states have introduced legislation to exempt the principal residence of a Veteran (or widow or widower of a Veteran) from taxation of real property if that Veteran has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a certain percentage service-connected, permanent, and total disability. In addition, in some states,

*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

disabled Veterans are prevented from participating in the Real Estate Tax Exemption Program due to lump-sum payments from entities such as the VA and the Social Security Administration.

Waiving in-state Tuition Rates for Veterans, Families and Families of the Fallen

The Ohio GI Promise ensures Veterans and their families will be treated as in-state residents for tuition, state educational subsidies and financial aid purposes. Active duty, guard, reserve and their dependents are also eligible for this educational benefit. This benefit could be expanded to other states and could incorporate the families of the fallen.

Website: www.uso.edu/downloads/documents/GIPromiseFactSheet.pdf

Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF)

With grant distributions of over \$250 million, the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF) – based at the California Community Foundation in Los Angeles – is the nation's first and largest model of philanthropic intervention in the wellness of Service Members and Veterans. IADIF's support of carefully selected non-profits and the subsequent documentation of best practices at the intersection of philanthropy, the non-profit sector, and deployment related need have dramatically changed the landscape for community-based warrior care. Its director is widely considered to be among the nation's leading experts in this field and is a critical resource for those seeking to implement strategic approaches to the community reintegration of those who have served.

Website: www.calfund.org/learn/iadif.php

Point of contact: Nancy Berglass, Director, nancy@berglassconsulting.com