

## 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 Our Fallen have access to the services and support they need to succeed during transition and reintegration into civil-society. The focus of these efforts is on education, meaningful employment and access to health care within communities. The following are 49 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 in a public-private partnership 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.

The **Warrior Gateway** is a nonprofit, privately funded Web portal created to connect the military community with healthcare, 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](http://www.warriorgateway.org)

Point of contact: Devin Holmes, Executive Director, [devin@warriorgateway.org](mailto:devin@warriorgateway.org)

The **National Resource Directory** (NRD) 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](http://www.nrd.gov)

Point of contact: Karen Vaughn, Manager, [kvaughn@conceptspr.com](mailto:kvaughn@conceptspr.com)

**Military OneSource** is a 24-hour call center staffed by master's-level consultants familiar with the military lifestyle. They answer questions and provide resources and referrals on everyday issues such as finding child care, dealing with stress, helping children cope with a parent's deployment, reunion and reintegration after combat duty, making a Permanent Change of Situation (PCS) move, creating a budget, caring for older relatives, making large-scale purchases, and finding community services. Counseling sessions are also available online or by phone. Military OneSource supplements existing service-branch and installation resources. Language-interpretation services are available.

Website: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

#### **2. Community Action Teams –**

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](http://www.projectaugusta.org)

Point of contact: Laurie Ott, Executive Director, [Laurie.Ott@CSRAWWCP.Org](mailto:Laurie.Ott@CSRAWWCP.Org)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

### **3. 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: <http://veteranaffairs.columbia.edu>

Point of contact: Amanda Riego, [at2169@columbia.edu](mailto:at2169@columbia.edu)

### **4. Pittsburgh's Veterans Leadership Program**

The mission of the Veterans Leadership Program is to address existing and emerging needs facing veterans and to increase the self-esteem and well being of veterans and their immediate families. Their primary focus is to provide assistance and promote community services to unemployed, underemployed, and homeless veterans. The VLP is a non-profit organization which has provided job assistance and supportive services of the veteran community of Southwestern Pennsylvania since 1982. This agency was founded by Vietnam-era veterans to improve the image and quality of life for ALL veterans of the United States Armed Services, including those who served during peace time by building public awareness and encouraging community involvement.

Website: <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/veterans/career.aspx>

Point of contact: Annette Romain, Director, [romaina@vlpwpa.org](mailto:romaina@vlpwpa.org)

### **5. Soldier On**

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

### **6. Veterans Community Action Teams**

Altarum Institute's Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT) Mission Project has developed a collaborative community model to enhance the delivery of services from public, private, and nonprofit 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 in terms of improving the accessibility, scope, and quality of care available for veterans and their families. Multiple government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and community based organizations will collaborate in the project and encourage community involvement. Initial phases of the project involved research and development, outreach and communications, and assembly of the VCAT team.

Website: <http://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](mailto:max.burke@altarum.org)

### **7. Center for American Values**

The Center for American Values, Inc. is a non-political organization formed in 2010 for charitable and educational purposes. The Center is hosting a collaborative effort to bring communities in Southern Colorado to the discussion to improve the lives of returning Warriors by sharing ideas, integrating stake holders so as not to compete for resources or duplicate efforts. This effort will, in turn, have a significant impact on building public awareness of the issues and challenges in the Colorado community as well as on a national level. The Center's objectives and programs include use of its space for organizations in need of meeting facilities specific to promoting character and leadership development curriculums, educational training seminars, executive study groups, ceremonial activities, educational outreach opportunities, and public tours.

Website: [www.americanvaluescenter.org](http://www.americanvaluescenter.org)

Point of contact: Drew Dix, Founder, [libertyranch@hughes.net](mailto:libertyranch@hughes.net)

### **8. Bellevue College Project Succeed**

Microsoft Corporation's Elevate America veterans' initiative grant funded Project Succeed, to help veterans complete their education and make a successful transition into a career. Through this project, veterans will be able to gain the high-level technology skills and other 21st Century skills needed to obtain good jobs in the global marketplace. Project Succeed encourages and works with local community leaders to provide services for veterans and spouses that include: part-time job and internship openings; career assessment; exploration of career options; career specialists; network with employers; and workshops.

Website: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/careers/projectsucceed/>

Point of contact: Cheryl Vermilyea, Director, Center for Career Connections, [cheryl.vermilyea@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:cheryl.vermilyea@bellevuecollege.edu)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

## **9. Davis-Elkins**

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 & staff members with Student veterans, to the beautifully restored Veterans Lounge in historic Halliehurst, military veterans represent an important and diverse demographic of the Davis & Elkins College student body. Additionally, Davis-Elkins reaches out and encourages community involvement in the development of its veterans on campus. Davis-Elkins also provides Veterans Upward Bound, 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: <http://dewv.edu/VeteransServices.cfm>  
Point of contact: Debbie Larkin, [larkind@dewv.edu](mailto:larkind@dewv.edu)

## **10. Cincinnati's USO Program**

The Cincinnati USO Program supports programs that provide the following services: Support for recuperating soldiers and their families at military hospitals; Emergency housing for soldiers and their families; Family and Community Support Centers; Operation USO Care Package for troops serving overseas; Support for military personnel, and their families, in crisis; Airport lounge assistance centers for developing and returning soldiers; Food assistance for junior enlisted military families; and United Through Reading Military Program. These efforts highlight and encourage community involvement by promoting community services for our reintegrating Veterans, Families and Families of the Fallen.

Website: [http://www.usotributecincinnati.com/about\\_USO](http://www.usotributecincinnati.com/about_USO)  
Point of contact: Stephen Lee, [Stephen.lee@ubs.com](mailto:Stephen.lee@ubs.com)

## **11. University of Arizona Student V.E.T.S. Club**

As a hub of information for student veterans and veterans looking to enter the UA, the Student Vets Center is staffed by trained student veterans who have transitioned to the UA and are knowledgeable about the campus. Student Vets Center staff offers individualized service to improve the experience of all vets at the UA while promoting community services for our reintegrating Veterans and their families. The Student Vets Center is a casual safe place for student veterans to relax and study.

Website: <http://vets.arizona.edu/office/>  
Point of contact: Glen Lacroix, President, [glenl@email.arizona.edu](mailto:glenl@email.arizona.edu)

## **12. Robin Hood Foundation of NYC**

Since 1988, Robin Hood has targeted poverty in New York City. By applying sound investment principles to philanthropy, they've helped the best programs save lives and change fates. Their approach is simple, 100% of all donations go directly to helping and they attack the source of the problem at the roots. Recently they have taken their approach to address military veterans, families and families of the fallen by building public awareness through an information campaign and encouraging community involvement by the programs they support.

Website: <http://www.robinhood.org/home.aspx>  
Point of contact: Eric Weingartner, Managing Director, Survival, [weingartner@robinhood.org](mailto:weingartner@robinhood.org)

## **13. Student Veterans of America**

Student Veterans of America (SVA) provides military 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: <http://www.studentveterans.org/>  
Point of contact: Derek Blumke, "Co-Founder" and Executive Director, [derek.blumke@studentveterans.org](mailto:derek.blumke@studentveterans.org)

## **14. 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: [http://www.erie.gov/veterans/veterans\\_court.asp](http://www.erie.gov/veterans/veterans_court.asp)  
Point of contact: Robert Russell, Judge, [russell@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:russell@courts.state.ny.us)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

### **15. 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](http://www.troopstocollege.ca.gov)

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

### **16. 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, they also offer 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](http://www.buddytobuddy.org)

Point of contact: Dr John Greden, [gredenj@med.umich.edu](mailto:gredenj@med.umich.edu)

### **17. 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 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](http://www.thepathwayhome.org)

Point of contact: Fred Gusman, Director, [fred.gusman@thepathwayhome.org](mailto:fred.gusman@thepathwayhome.org)

### **18. 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

Website: [www.vvsd.net](http://www.vvsd.net)

Point of contact: Phil Landis, [phil.landis@vvsd.net](mailto:phil.landis@vvsd.net)

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

California has more homeless Vet

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,

Website: [www.newdirectionsinc.org/about\\_sepulveda.html](http://www.newdirectionsinc.org/about_sepulveda.html)

Point of Contact: Toni Reinis, Executive Director, [treinis@ndvets.org](mailto:treinis@ndvets.org)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

## **20. 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](http://www.veteranhomestead.org/facilities/nvtrc.html)

Point of contact: Leslie Lightfoot, Executive Director, [leslie@veteranhomestead.org](mailto:leslie@veteranhomestead.org)

## **21. 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](http://www.veterans.pitt.edu)

Point of contact: Ann Marie Rairigh, Director, Office of Veterans Services, [amr142@pitt.edu](mailto:amr142@pitt.edu)

## **22. 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](http://www.vets4vets.us)

Point of contact: Tabitha Cooper, [tabithac@vets4vets.us](mailto:tabithac@vets4vets.us)

## **23. 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. HELP USA is one of the country's largest builders and operators of service-enriched transitional and low-income permanent housing. They have 19 residential communities in the New York metropolitan area, and were recruited to expand its successful model to Philadelphia, Las Vegas, Buffalo, Newark and Houston. Their efforts include expanding and increasing public awareness of the issue and encouraging community involvement to address the problem.

Website: [www.helpusa.org](http://www.helpusa.org)

Point of contact: Tom Hameline, SVP, Programs, [thameline@helpusa.org](mailto:thameline@helpusa.org)

## **24. LifeQuest Transitions**

Based in Colorado Springs, CO, LifeQuest Transitions is taking a unique and results driven approach to assisting our military personnel wounded while serving our country. Since their inception a year and a half ago they have seen 500 wounded come through their program posting tangible results like increased mobility and strength, decrease in depression, reduction in medications and increase in reconnection with their families. Their 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 but an empowerment program where the participants quickly learn that hard tangible results in their recovery require hard tangible effort. Their program increases public awareness that PTS is treatable and one can continue to be a productive member of society.

Website: [www.MYLQ.org](http://www.MYLQ.org)

Point of contact: CW Connor, Founder/CEO, [cw@mylq.org](mailto:cw@mylq.org)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

### **25. 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 female 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: <http://www.armydistaff.org/>

Point of contact: Ashleigh Seidler, Director of Development & Capital Campaigns, [aseidler@armydistaff.org](mailto:aseidler@armydistaff.org)

### **26. Phoenix Multi-Sport**

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, they seek to help their members develop and maintain the emotional strength they need to stay sober.

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

Point of contact: Scott Strode, Executive Director and Founder, [scott@phoenixmultisport.org](mailto:scott@phoenixmultisport.org)

### **27. Veterans Entrepreneurship Program - Oklahoma State University**

The Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP) provides an entrepreneurial learning and development opportunity for service disabled veterans who are 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: <http://entrepreneurship.okstate.edu/vep>

Point of contact: Dr Mike Morris, [mhm@okstate.edu](mailto:mhm@okstate.edu)

### **28. 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](http://www.vetsprevail.com)

Point of contact: Richard Gengler, President, [richard@prevailhs.com](mailto:richard@prevailhs.com)

### **29. 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 finest corporations and select universities. ACP's recruitment of new mentors and the demonstration of their success not only encourages additional involvement but 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](http://www.acp-usa.org)

Point of contact: Sid Goodfriend, Founder, [sgoodfriend@acp-usa.org](mailto:sgoodfriend@acp-usa.org)

### **30. 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 nonprofits and the subsequent documentation of best practices at the intersection of philanthropy, the nonprofit sector, and deployment related need have dramatically changed the landscape for community-based warrior care. IADIF director Nancy Berglass 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 deployed.

Website: <http://www.calfund.org/learn/iadif.php>

Point of contact: Nancy Berglass, Director, [nancy@berglassconsulting.com](mailto:nancy@berglassconsulting.com)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

### **31. US Vets Inc**

The mission of US Vets Inc is the successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support. U.S.VETS provides comprehensive services to the 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 their facilities, veterans progress through a seamless continuum of services designed to help them increase their level of responsibility and prepare them to live independently in the community.

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

Point of contact: Stephen Peck, Senior Vice President, Community Development, [sjpeck@usvetsinc.org](mailto:sjpeck@usvetsinc.org)

### **32. 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. They are recognized as an effective private veteran's transition program and have had a great impact to building not only public awareness of the homeless veteran issue but steps to take to correct.

Website: [www.nechv.org](http://www.nechv.org)

Point of contact: Larry Fitzmaurice, President and CEO, [larry.fitzmaurice@nechv.org](mailto:larry.fitzmaurice@nechv.org)

### **33. Citizen-Soldier Support Program**

The mission of the Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP), hosted by the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is to engage and connect military and community service systems to increase the readiness and resiliency of Reserve Component (RC) members and their families. CSSP has unified its approach under a single Reserve Component Behavioral Health Initiative to addressing the psychological issues confronting our Reserve Component members and their families through a variety of methods including evidence-based, best practice training, a robust searchable provider database and other innovative solutions. CSSP is working with numerous partners throughout the country and with the Department of Defense 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 our Reserve Component members and their families.

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

Point of contact: William Abb, Deputy Director, [william.abb@unc.edu](mailto:william.abb@unc.edu)

### **34. Scotland Landing – A Place for Veterans and Their Families to Recover Together**

Located on the site of the former Scotland School for Veterans' Children in Chambersburg, PA, Scotland Landing offers facilities where Veterans and their families can come for support and assistance with recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. It offers occupational and physical therapy, education and the opportunity to connect with community-based support programs and other veterans and

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

Point of contact: Pamela Gaudiose, [gaud@innernet.net](mailto:gaud@innernet.net)

### **35. BrainLine.org – Traumatic Brain Injury Resource**

BrainLine is a national multimedia project offering information and resources about preventing, treating, and living with TBI. BrainLine 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. That includes 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](http://www.brainline.org)

Point of contact: Noel Gunther, Executive Director, [ngunther@weta.com](mailto:ngunther@weta.com)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

### **36. 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](http://www.veteransacrossamerica.org)

Point of contact: Wesley Poriotis, Founder, [wporiotis@veteransacrossamerica.org](mailto:wporiotis@veteransacrossamerica.org)

### **37. 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, these 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: <http://www.troopsfirstfoundation.org/>

Point of contact: Rick Kell, Executive Director, [rckellco@aol.com](mailto:rckellco@aol.com)

### **38. 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.

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

Point of contact: Rebekah Lovorn, [rebekah@truvoltage.com](mailto:rebekah@truvoltage.com)

### **39. 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 5 core components: 1) A sense of community and shared purpose; 2) Permanent, affordable housing; 3) Comprehensive services; 4) Lifetime aftercare; 5) Cost-effective business management. The Jericho Project's Goals: 1) Develop new supportive housing for veterans; 2) Create an evidence-based veterans service model built on Jericho's current model; 3) Use strategic efforts to stimulate the further development of supportive and affordable housing initiatives for veterans worldwide.

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

Point of contact: Tori Lyon, [tlyon@jerichoproject.org](mailto:tlyon@jerichoproject.org)

### **40. 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. The Home Base Program 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, [mallard1@partners.org](mailto:mallard1@partners.org)

### **41. Morgantown VetConnection.org**

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 provide information and connect them to resources for jobs, healthcare, job 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.org. In addition to all the services that VetConnection already provides, it will now offer retraining programs for disabled vets. VetConnection is building public awareness of the issues that Veterans, Warriors, families and Families of the Fallen have when returning to civil-society.

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

Point of contact: Ken Busz, [ken@morgantownchamber.org](mailto:ken@morgantownchamber.org)

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

#### **42. 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

Website: <http://archive.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html>

#### **43. 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.

#### **44. 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, 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.

#### **45. 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: <http://uso.edu/downloads/documents/GIPromiseFactSheet.pdf>

#### **46. 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 90's. Lakeshore meets their critical needs for access to exercise and recreation opportunities--needs that can't be met elsewhere. They are setting a standard in this country and changing the perception of people with disabilities by building public awareness and providing invaluable services. They have taken this model and applied it wounded, ill and injured active duty and veteran service members, to include the families and families of the fallen.

Website: <http://lakeshore.org/>

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

#### **47. 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: <http://www.triadfund.org/>

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

\*No endorsement of any named organization is implied.

#### **48. Sequential Intercept Model for Combat Veterans**

The Sequential Intercept Model for Combat Veterans has 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 the veteran (or their family) to appropriate services. The four points are as follows: the first 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](mailto:Dcavanaugh@cityofboise.org)

#### **49. 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. HG weeklong retreats use adapted outdoor activities as a catalyst for positive change in all aspects of life. Events are cost free for veterans and their supporters and cater to specific populations -couples, singles, male, and female- creating a safe and intimate atmosphere 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 their 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](mailto:erin@svasp.org)

Website: [www.hgvets.org](http://www.hgvets.org)