

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities currently operates in 7 counties serving the needs of Veterans. They have focused on Sussex County even though there are fewer veterans in the county. Their goal is to make the county one of the most successful counties to receive veteran services in New Jersey. They have a vision and a goal to pull everything together for successful results. All of this is accomplished through teamwork and cooperation among the various veteran organizations and groups.

Unmet Needs Fund, Catholic Charities

David Pearson
Outreach Coordinator, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

B- 973-279-7100
C- 973-818-3601

dpearson@catholiccharities.org

24 De Grasse St.
Paterson, NJ 07505-2001

This fund has been established to assist a Veteran with sudden short term financial need such as a utility bill or auto repair. There are no administrative expenses associated with this program, 100% of the funds go to help Veterans.

Counseling, Catholic Charities

James Bencivenga
Councilor

973-361-5555

The Ernie Kosa Drop In Veteran's Center
48 Wyker Rd.
Franklyn NJ 07416

This recently opened facility provides counseling support services to Veterans and their families. The center is opened on Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Clothing, Catholic Charities

973-827-4702

Catholic Family and Community Services
48 Wyker Rd.
Franklyn NJ 07416

This service center has a "Veteran's Closet" that is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM. All Veterans are welcome. ALL CLOTHING IS FREE TO VETS

Centenary University

Director of Veteran Services

P: 908-852-1400 X 2318

F: 908-979-4277

400 Jefferson Ave.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Mission: The Office of Veteran Services has been established on firm ground to provide valuable services and resources to student veterans, veteran dependants, active military, and reservists. We are dedicated to assist you in navigating internal and external systems, achieving educational goals, developing initiatives, and helping to facilitate a seamless transition to the academic arena and a successful integration into the campus community.

- A One-Stop for questions and a stress reliever to help Veterans navigate the system
- A four year university offering advanced degrees.
- Will help Vet qualify for the various federal grant and tuition assistance programs, several scholarship programs and is a Proud Participant in the government's Yellow Ribbon Program.
- Offers two Vet orientation programs in August and January for incoming Vets and their dependents.
- Has a Veteran Resource Center available to Vets to relax, study and socialize. It is well stocked with helpful information for the Vet and their families.
- They have available helpful links and contact information to the various veteran and government sites a Vet may need to reach.
- Their Student's Veteran Organization brings an awareness of the veteran student population on campus and assists Vets to transition from military to civilian life.
- Provide in conjunction with the Vet Centers counseling services either on an individual or group basis in an off-campus location.

Center for Prevention and Counseling

Patrice Reilly
Military Family Coordinator

P: 973-383-4787

Patrice@centerforprevention.org

61 Spring Street
Newton, NJ 07821

They sponsor a free Military Family Nights Program for Veterans and Active Service Members. This is for all branches of the military and families who have a loved one that is deployed

Military Family Nights will:

- Provide family support
- Connect you with other military families and services in the community
- Bring your family closer together while having fun and learning
- Help you to acquire new ideas for daily living

The program includes dinner each week and up to \$300 of incentives for each family

These programs begin each fall in September. The September 2016 program is currently open for registration.

For more information and to register contact:

Patrice @ 973-383-4787 or patrice@centerforprevention.org

Cornerstone Family Programs (CFP)

Military Programs Manager

P: 973-538-5260 ext. 117

F: 973-538-0989

62 Elm Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org
<https://www.facebook.com/CFP4Vets/>
<https://twitter.com/CFP4Vets>

Cornerstone Family Programs' (CFP) has been commitment to serving our community for over 200 years. Started by a group of women to provide service and support in the aftermath of the War of 1812, today their proud to support Veterans and their families with the resources they need to thrive at home. Their team, experts in issues specific to the military community, provides mental health services, education and advocacy.

CFP's signature programs include:

Confidential Counseling and Outreach for Combat Veterans and Their Families

We provide counseling with clinicians trained in issues specific to service members, Veterans, and their families. Services are confidential and are FREE of charge for Veterans of combat zones and their families Cornerstone Family Programs (CFP)

Operation Sisterhood

Today, we support female Veterans (and their family members) with mental health services, education and advocacy, and the empowerment that comes from belonging to a sisterhood. Our service are FREE of charge and available to any female Veteran and her family regardless of discharge status or era served.

**Council of Compulsive Gambling
1-800-GAMBLER**

Frank Lazzaro
Problem Gambling Prevention Specialist

B- 609-588-5515 X 15
C- 551-804-0585

Frank.lazzaro@800gambler.org

University Office Plaza One
3635 Quakerbridge Rd. Suite 7
Hamilton, NJ 08619

The Council's services are free of charge and include clinical services. After an initial evaluation through the 800 number (1-800-GAMBLER) the caller is referred to a clinical therapist. One is currently located in Mountain Lakes, Morris County.

The psychological community has listed gambling as an addiction along with drug and alcohol; there are similarities, but differences. Based on their typical models 5% of the Veteran community may have a gambling problem.

This issue is a concern not only for Veterans but also for currently enlisted service men and women. As a result, the federal government is looking into directing additional funds towards the potential problem of gambling addiction among current servicemen

Gem Vacuum Vets

John Schemari
Proprietor

908-537-4071

2062 Route 31
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

“Every Day is Tuesday”. This is a gathering spot for northern NJ Vets. Members range from Pearl Harbor, WWII Vets to current day Vets. Gatherings on Tuesday can range from 75 to 125 Vets. There are no membership fees, no registration, no officers, and no organizational format.

Their informal meeting is every Tuesday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Members also drop in during the week since “Every Day is Tuesday”. If you should drop in, there is a good chance you will either meet a Vet who served with you or in your theatre of service or in your unit. As chance may have it, the Proprietor of the store lived and worked directly across the street where this author worked in Brooklyn 50 years ago. Such commonalities are normal among this group.

Hope for Veterans, by Community Hope

B: 973-273-7712 x 326

C: 973-590-4403

959 Route 46 E

Parsippany, NJ 07054

The mission of Hope for Veterans is to get homeless Veterans back in stable housing. They only work with homeless Veterans and their families. They identify a Veteran as one who must have served at least one (1) day of active duty. To qualify you must have had any discharge other than dishonorable.

They have homeless prevention and support housing programs in NJ and PA. They can assist getting a Veteran into transitional housing as well as permanent housing for both men and woman. They will work to link up the Veteran with other veteran services that may be available.

Eligibility criteria included income (household must be 50% or less than the area medium income for their county) and they need to reside or be willing to reside in one of the counties in their coverage areas:

New Jersey: Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Union, Essex, Morris, Middlesex, Somerset,
Monmouth, Mercer, Warren, Sussex

PA: Bucks, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Pike, Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe

Transitional Housing Program

Located on the Lyons VA campus at their 95 bed facility they help male and female Veterans address the issues of mental illness, addiction and poverty. A Veteran can reside there for up to two years as they rebuild their lives.

For more information or to apply call: 908-647-5717 ext. 325

Permanent Housing:

The Valley Brook Village is also located on the Lyons VA campus. It is intended to be “a place to call home” for Veterans who have struggled with homelessness.

For more information or to apply call: 908-647-0600

These two residential programs offer the following intensive services:

- A safe shelter in a supportive environment
- Recovery services for substance abuse, depression, post traumatic stress, and other forms of mental illness.
- Case management
- Access to job programs and computer training
- Legal aid
- Peer support from other Vets
- Counseling in budgeting skills to enhance financial self-sufficiency
- Special discharge planning services and linkage to affordable housing upon graduation.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

This program is a homelessness prevention program designed to assist low-income veteran families in maintaining their housing and / or repaid re-housing homeless veterans and their families.

To qualify the Vet’s family needs to meet one of the following criteria:

- Facing eviction or imminent risk of becoming homeless
- Currently homeless
- Earning low or no income

For more information or to apply:

- call 855 – 483-8466 and speak to an initial screener
- or e-mail: SSVF@NJ211.org
- They will link you into one of their main offices
- Someone will come out to meet you wherever you are, be it a soup kitchen or church.
- After an additional screening you’re paired up with a case manager whose responsibility is to get you off the street and into one of their housing units

NAACP

Ed Kaiser
Program Coordinator

P: 973-373-7287
C: 973-478-0210

60 Paine Ave. Unit 2085
Irvington, NJ 07111

www.naacp.org

Foreclosures

The NAACP conducts a series of FREE workshops around northern NJ to address this issue. These workshops are particularly important to Vets who are less familiar with current laws or their legal rights.

There is a great deal of misleading information people are told from their banks; many times the banks are just bluffing people. If you ask for particular records chances are good they may not have them.

Many times a home mortgage is sold from lender to lender. As a result the first lender still may have a lien on your property even if they have long gone out of business. If so it may take over a year for you to clear up the title to your home. Until you do so you would not be able to sell it.

Topics they discuss apply to all homes through NJ. If you need additional help after a seminar they will work with you on an individual basis to lead you through the processes.

If your property is under water (your mortgage is greater than the actual value of your home) they can assist you / direct you to lenders that will restructure your loan / monthly payments.

Over the last several years NJ has passed several laws reversing 120 years of consumer protection against foreclosures. One day in the Star Ledger there were 32 pages of Sheriff's Sales of Homes that had been foreclosed on.

The NAACP can also assist with **Bankruptcy**.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

Housing Programs

For Housing Programs contact information & benefit assistance visit:

<http://www.nj.gov/military>

NJ Veteran Memorial Homes

These facilities are for long term care. They are open to:

- Veterans of all wars who served on active duty and were Honorable discharged
- Qualified National Guard / Reserve Retirees.
- Veteran spouses
 - A spouse / widow/ widower must be at least 50 years old and married to the Vet for at least 10 years
- Gold Star Parents

Preference is given to applicants who have been state residents for at least two years.

There are asset limitations criteria. Residents pay according to ability based on income

Tours of all facilities are available. Contact the homes directly for additional information on admission.

Paramus, Veteran Memorial Home
1 Veterans Drive
Paramus, NJ 07652
P: 732-452-4100

Menlo Park
132 Evergreen Road
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
P: 201-634-8435

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home
524 North West Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
P: 856-405-4217

NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs con't.

NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA)

Offers low interest rate HMFA mortgages that provide the Vet increased buying power and savings in interest paid over the life of the loan. Most HMFA home loans are originated by private lender approved for the program.

Financial Assistance Benefits

For financial assistance benefits contact information & benefit assistance visit: <http://www.nj.gov/military>

NJ State Income Tax Exclusions

US military pension and survivor's benefit payments are not taxable for New Jersey gross income tax purposes, regardless of the recipient's age or disability status.

NJ Property Tax Deduction

An annual \$250 veteran's property tax deduction requires: citizenship, state residency, active wartime service in the US armed forces, honorable discharge, property ownership, and the timely completion of an application. The surviving spouses qualifies if all criteria were met. Eligibility for the deduction is established as of October 1 of the pretax year. The application can be filed at the local tax assessor's office with appropriate documentation.

NJ Property Tax Exemption

Eligibility for Veterans who meet all the following criteria:

- Served during a specific wartime.
- Received an honorable discharge or under honorable conditions.
- Rated 100% permanent service-connected disabled by the VA. The 100% rating cannot be temporary or as a result of hospitalization, surgery or recuperation

NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs con't.

NJ Catastrophic Entitlement

Eligible Veterans or their surviving spouses receive a monthly entitlement of \$62.50

Available to Vets who have injuries resulting from wartime service in one of the following catastrophic disability resulting in 100% rating:

- loss of sight
- amputation of both hands
- both feet or one hand and one foot
- hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body
- paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body
- osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs
- multiple sclerosis
- the loss of use of both feet or both legs
- quadriplegic

Employment Benefits

For Employment Benefits contact information & benefit assistance visit:
<http://www.nj.gov/military>

Veteran Preference and Pension Status

Veteran Preference for Hiring in NJ Civil Service

The NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the agency to determine Veteran preferences for hiring in NJ civil service and Veteran status, for NJ civil service pension plans.

War period Veterans who pass state civil service examinations are given absolute preferences over those who were not Veterans. When applying for state, county, municipal employment absolute preference is not extended to promotions.

NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs con't.

Veterans Status for Civil Service and Pension Plans

A pension is available to qualified Veterans. To qualifying a Veteran must apply for Veterans status for the civil service pension plans after employment and must be in active employment until the effective date of retirement. Veteran's benefits cannot be deferred and the Vet must meet all the requirements to qualify

Employment or Promotion

Any individual who served and has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross while a resident of the state shall be appointed or promoted without complying with the rules the Merit System Board.

The appointing authority the individual applies for appointment or promotion shall at its discretion appoint or promote that person. A person who qualifies under this section shall not be limited to only one appointment or promotion

Military Organization Specialty Auto Plates

Specialty plates are available for purchase with the following captions on the bottom of the plate:

Airborne	American Legion	AMVETS
Civil Air Patrol	USCG Auxiliary	Leatherneck
Merchant Marine	Kings Point	Pearl Harbor 41
Combat Wounded	Silent Service	Tin Can Sailors
VFW of the US	Vietnam Vets	USAF, Retired
US Army, Retired	West Point	Lakehurst Navy
Navy League	Disabled Veterans of America	

To purchase organizational plates

- Call MVC toll-free at 888-486-3339 ext. 5061 to find your coordinator's contact information
- Once approved by the coordinator plates are available from;
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Special plate unit, 2W
22 E. State Street Trenton, NJ 08666
- plate fees vary by plate type

NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs con't.

Other NJ State Veteran Benefits

- **Replacement of Metals.**
- **Fishing and Hunting Licenses** are free to qualified disabled Vets.
- **State Park Admission** is free for entrance into a state park or forest by a resident of the state who is an active member of the NJ National Guard and has completed initial active duty training
- **Brig. Gen. William C Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery**
Free internment and perpetual care is available to Veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses and dependent children. Cemetery is located in Wrightstown New Jersey

Other Military Discounts in NJ

New Jersey has close to 5200 businesses that offer discounts for military personnel and Veterans. The state of New Jersey also provides discount to those that have served. To find business that offer discounts in your area enter your ZIP code in the search box at <http://militaryandveterandiscounts.com/location/new-jersey.htm1>

Also contact your local County office for a County Military ID

Educational Benefits

For information regarding NJ Educational Benefits for Veterans see your school's Veteran Service Councilor or the Financial Councilor

In addition to the many Federal educational benefits programs the state of New Jersey also offers the following programs: **Educational Benefits**

For information regarding NJ Educational Benefits for Veterans see your school's Veteran Service Councilor or the Financial Councilor

In addition to the many Federal educational benefits programs the state of New Jersey also offers the following programs:

- Operation Recognition: High School Diplomas for Veterans
- POW & MIA Tuition Benefits (for qualified children of Vets)
- War Orphans Tuition Assistance (for qualified children of Vets)
- Veterans Tuition Credit Program
- NJ National Guard Educational Benefits

NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs con't.

NJ Free Access to Beaches

As of 2016, the governor and the state legislature have approved a bill that permits military personnel, veterans and their spouses and dependent children over the age of 12 to use their military identification, form DD-214 or similar documents for state driver's license or identification card indicating that the holder is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces free beach access instead of having to pay for each person.

But call the town / beach you're considering going to since each town can refuse this free access, a town such a Avon By The Sea allows only current military to go onto their beach for free.

Norwescap

459 Center Street
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

www.norwescap.org

NORWESCAP is a private, non-profit corporation originally established in 1965 to serve the low-income population of Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren Counties.

NORWESCAP now services approximately 35,000 persons in its service area a year. Services are provided in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Warren. Other counties including Passaic have some limited services and programs.

Their programs are directed at the public in general and as such are available to Veterans and their families. The following is a summary of some of their programs

Family Success Center

908-213-2679

The following services are available thru the Family Success Center:

- Referrals - provides information about community organizations and services
- Health Information regarding:
 - Applying for medical insurance & obtaining medical care
 - Provides health and preventative practice information
 - An approved NJ Family Care site
- Home Visitation - for support and assistance
- Life Skills – budgeting, nutrition info, personal & home care, other basic needs
- Immigration counseling
- Job Preparation – writing resumes, job searches, preparing for interviews
- Advocacy – attend court hearings, medical appointments, school conferences
- Housing – refer families to housing services & assist with applications
- Transportation – provide families with transportation on a limited basis
- Translation – assist families

Norwescap con't.

Economic Development Programs

Carol Graebor
Program Director

✓ Family Loan Program

Contact a Loan Coordinator:

P: 908-454-7000, ext. 116

F: 908-859-0729

Email: info@norwescap.org

The program is based on the premise that life's unpredictable challenges like repeated car break-downs or child care difficulties can easily plunge a family living on a marginal family income into crisis and unemployment. Several financial institutions recognizing that no credit and bad credit prevent hardworking individuals' access to small loans, have created a revolving loan fund pool to help working families remain employed. All loans must be repaid within two years. Applicants are required to attend Financial Counseling Workshops.

Successful applicants must be:

- Employed at least 20 hours per week and at the same job for at least 6 months
- Income eligible
- Able to demonstrate that the loan is necessary to maintain employment and that the loan can be repaid within two years
- A resident of NJ (NORWESCAP primarily serves Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren residents.)

Types of Loans:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ▪ Car Purchase | Maximum Loan Amount: \$3,000 |
| ▪ Car Repair / Car Insurance | Maximum:\$1,000 |
| ▪ Child Care | Maximum : \$800 |
| ▪ Housing/Rent/Mortgage/Security Deposit | Maximum:\$1,000 |
| ▪ Employment Related Expense: | \$500 |

Repayment Information: All loans must be repaid within two years

Norwescap con't.

✓ **Individual Development Accounts (IDA)**

Contact:

NORWESCAP IDA PROGRAM
Dollars to Dreams
908-454-7000 ext. 116

This program is a **matched** savings program that works with income eligible individuals to help them achieve wealth accumulation and assets.

How It Works

- Attend an IDA Orientation
- Sign a savings plan agreement
- Open an IDA personal saving account
- Deposit at least \$50 per month
- Attend financial literacy classes
- Receive match dollars

✓ **Pathways to Prosperity**

For information contact:

Phone 973-383-4787 ext. 255

Address: 350 Marshall Street Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Pathways to Prosperity (formerly Sussex Circles) provides the support and resources to families, called Path Leaders, who have made a serious commitment to change their lives by becoming self-reliant and resilient. Path Leaders complete comprehensive education resulting in the development of an action plan that maps out their road to success. Through education, mentoring, skill building and networking Path Leaders make real and positive changes in their lives to achieve self-reliance and resiliency.

Norwescap con't.

✓ Compadres

Is Pathways to Prosperity children's program. Compadres fosters the success of Path Leaders children in school, home and the community. The program focuses on the social and emotional growth of children, as well as character development. Additional emphasis is placed on literacy and community responsibility.

Housing and Energy Services

Georjean Trinkle
Deputy Director

350 Marshall Street
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

✓ ECHO (Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity)

P: 908-454-7000, ext 160
F: 908-454-3768

620 sf. modular home on a temporary foundation to provide the benefits of independent living with the support of the family environment for the elderly occupant. The one bedroom home is temporarily place on the property of a relative. The unit's utilities are connected to that of the main property. The unit is removed when it is no longer needed. Eligibility is based on HUD Section 8 guidelines. Rent is based on 30% of income.

Norwescap con't.

✓ (Low Income) Home Energy Assistance Program

Provides funds to assist eligible households who reside in Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren or Sussex counties to help meet their heating and cooling costs. Assistance payments are made directly to the fuel vendor or utility company on behalf of the eligible applicant.

✓ Universal Service Fund (USF)

The USF program was created by the State of New Jersey to help make energy bills more affordable for low income customers. The program provides funds to assist eligible households to lower the amount that they have to pay for their gas and electric bills. Eligible applicants must apply for LIHEAP to receive consideration for USF.

Eligibility for both programs above:

- Must be income eligible
- Must complete and submit an application
- Must supply all income documentation for the entire household
- Must provide proof of ownership of the residence
- A landlord/tenant agreement must be signed (*if it applies*)
- Must submit copies of social security cards for the household & heating and cooling bills.

For Information:

Sussex:

973-209-7549 or 973-383-6020

Fax: 973-209-7553

Warren

908-454-4778

Fax: 908-454-3768

Hunterdon:

908-782-0612

Fax: 908-454-3768

Somerset:

908-685-3033

Fax: 908-454-3768

Deadline for Applications: TBD

Energy assistance for oil recipients: Starting date – November 1st*

Emergency assistance for electric & gas recipients: March 16th – April 30th*

Norwescap con't.

✓ **Safe Housing**

The Program provides security measures, accessibility improvements, and home repairs for elderly individuals (60+) to enhance the health, safety, and well being of the individual(s). Services are not provided for purely aesthetic reasons. Program service territory is all of Warren and Sussex Counties.

information

(908) 454-7000 ext. 160

(973) 383-6020

(973) 209-7549

✓ **Weatherization Assistance Programs**

Provides energy conservation assistance to income eligible households who reside in Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren or Sussex counties. The program is designed to assist elderly, handicapped, and low-income persons in weatherizing their homes and conserving energy. A computerized energy audit will be conducted to determine the efficiency of the home. The level of service is influenced by the energy audit and funding parameters.

The Energy Audits will show where heat loss occurs and energy is wasted, what you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency through energy conservation measures and when the energy savings steps you take will pay for themselves.

For Information:

Sussex:

Toll free: (908) 454-4778

973-209-7549 or 973-383-6020

Fax: 973-209-7553

Warren:

Toll free: (908) 454-4778

908-454-4778

Fax: 908-454-3768

Hunterdon:

Toll free: (908) 454-4778

908-782-0612

Fax: 908-454-3768

Somerset:

Toll free: (908) 454-4778

908-685-3033

Fax: 908-454-3768

NPOWER

P: 201-433-1600

Guidance Specialist

F: 201-433-8416

P:201-433-1608

F:201- 433-8416

285 West Side Ave.
Suite 268
Jersey City, NJ 07305

www.npower.org

IT Training Program

- Program consist of 22 week intensive IT training for Veterans and those currently in the US Armed Forces.
- Offered at no cost to participants.
- Ages 21 and over with honorable discharge
- Npower/Comp TIA A+ training (Opportunity to earn a free Comp TIA A+ Certification)
- Classes: Monday – Friday 9 AM – 1 PM on campus of NJ City University
- Instructors are senior IT Industry executives
- Seven week PAID apprentice
- Post program employment
- Continued learning services
- Help to transition from military to civilian life

To Apply:

www.npower.org/NewJesey
admissionsjerseycity@npower.org

908-892-8190

Officers of the Courts Corp

Michael P. Pasquale
CEO / Chairman

P: 973-746-4421

mpasquale@officersofthecourts.org

16 Church Street
Montclair, NJ 07042

www.officersofthecourts.org

They provide free attorneys for **Wounded Veterans**.

Founded by attorney Michael Pasquale, Officers of the Courts Corp. is a 501(c)3 non-profit that fights to obtain healthcare and disability benefits, and provides counsel on re-employment, family law and other common issues facing wounded veterans. With a proven track record of achieving life-changing results on their behalf, Mr. Pasquale has represented hundreds of wounded service members for free since 2006.

Operation Chillout

To report a homeless NJ Vet: 609-619-0861

Also: The National Call Center for Homeless Vets: 877-424-3838

PO Box 353
Long Valley, NJ 07853

<http://operationchillout.org>

Operation Chillout was founded December 21, 2000 to help a group of homeless Viet Nam Veterans living under a railroad trestle in northern NJ. OCO became a registered 501c3 not for profit in 2011.

OCO believes in the inherent worth of every homeless man, woman and child and provides emergency supplies and survival gear to the most vulnerable members of our homeless communities wherever they encounter them. They bring their care to all homeless people without regard of religious affiliation, ethnic heritage or state of life.

OCO particularly seeks out Veterans of our military services, many of whom, because of the traumas they endured in service to our nation, face acute Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other chronic illnesses of body, mind and spirit, and are represented among the highest percentage of homeless people in the USA.

Operation Chillout con't.

Their philosophy is “We welcome all strangers as we would a guest to our family and observe no borders – no barriers” in our work. OCO practices humility, charity and the “spiritual and corporal works of mercy” to alleviate the suffering of the poor and homeless in our communities and throughout the world.”

OCO is an all-volunteer coalition dedicated to relieving the suffering caused by the crisis of homelessness. There are no paid staff or salaried executives, there are no headquarters’ building; their outreach work conducted in the field.

Their research shows that one out of every five homeless persons they encounter is a military Veteran. Many face PTSD and chronic illness of body mind and spirit. They conduct outreach missions to find homeless Vets and provide situation assessment, crisis intervention, advocacy and referral services for housing, medical and social services. They distribute concrete, basic supplies necessary for temporary survival while housing options are considered on a person by person basis.

Their ***Rapid Response Outreach Team*** is able to provide emergency services 24 / 7 /365 @ **609-619-0861**.

The programs 4 Rs are:

1. **Respond** to all calls and referrals made to their hotline (OCO is an option on NJ-211 Information).
1. **Rescue** all homeless Veterans in need after emergency crisis intervention and assessment.
2. **Rehabilitation** is arranged with appropriate service providers for each person’s needs.
3. **Return** Veterans to their communities to pursue meaningful lives.

OCO conducts conduct two annual seasonal outreach campaigns.

- In the winter they prepare back packs for homeless men and women filled with NEW warm clothing, toiletries, survival gear, sleeping bags and information regarding local resources.
- In the summer they provide cases of bottled water, t-shirts and baseball caps. These items are collected and delivered free to various locations where homeless people gather: food pantries, soup kitchens, temporary shelters, abandoned buildings, parks and alleyways.

Photojournalism for Northwest New Jersey

Chris Wyman
Photojournalist

973-764-9421

Photos9421@warwick.net

www.AdvertiserNewsNorth.com Search Articles: Chris Wyman

41 Barry Drive South
Highland Lakes, NJ 07422-9802

Provides photography expertise and experience to prepare Press Releases and newspaper quality articles for possible publication in northwestern NJ and southeastern NY papers / online papers.

Project Help Inc.
55 Bank St.
Sussex NJ 07461

P: 973-875-2068
C: 862-266-9726

Project Help Inc. is an all-volunteer 501c3 charity. We deal with many issues and resolutions for our veterans, military and their families.

- We provide resources and guidance during difficult situations
 - We provide employment assistance
 - We provide financial assistance to qualified vets
 - We help navigate the VA for vets having difficulty doing so
 - We travel to locations with our mobile closet, job readiness fairs, and job fairs
 - We can negotiate on behalf of the vets with bill collectors, landlords and others
 - We do clothing and back pack drives to help vets that are in need or homeless
 - We do great fundraisers and work with other non-profit vet organizations to obtain financial support for the work we do
-
- We need you to be an ambassador and help spread our message

sandy@mitchellclan.com
www.projecthelp.us
www.facebook.com/ProjectHelpUS

Skylands Ride of Sussex County Veteran Transportation

- FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION CALL: 973-579-0480 (M-F)

John Jackson
Program Coordinator

P: 973-579-0480 X 1401
jjackson@sussex.nj.us

201 Wheatsworth Rd.
Hamburg, NJ 07419

The county provides transportation for Veterans in Sussex County to the three VA Medical Hospitals and one clinic on a regular scheduled basis:

- Lyons: most Thursdays, arrivals at 10 AM, departure at 12:30 PM
- East Orange: most Thursdays, Arrival at 10 AM, departure at Noon
- Castle Point (NY): on Thursdays but call for dates
- Morris Plains Clinic: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, call for times

They suggest you make your appointment at least a week or two weeks in advance

The critical issue is that medical appointments at the hospitals or clinics must be made at a specific time of the day (BEST ABOUT 10:15 AM) so that the veteran can conclude their visit by the time the transportation has to return back to Sussex County.

It is always recommended that the veteran make the earliest possible appointment at the clinic or hospital. The transportation cannot wait beyond its departure time. Unfortunately, not every special service is available on the days that they travel to the particular hospitals.

They will pick the veteran up at their home (outside). The night before the pickup they will call you to let you know what time they will pick you up at your home. They will assist the veteran from their home to the bus or onto the bus if necessary. The Veterans has to be ambulatory. If not, the veteran may bring a companion to assist them.

This is a free service for Veterans but they do accept donations.

They all also have a city bus that runs between the towns of Sussex, Hamburg, Franklyn, Ogdensburg and Newton on a regular schedule and makes regular stops; the cost is \$1.00 each way.

SOTA Productions and Consulting, LLC

Sandy Mitchell
Founder

P: 973-875-2068
C: 862-266-9726

sandy@mitchellclan.com

55 Bank Street
Sussex NJ

This company can, for a fee:

- help other veteran service organizations set up their web sites
- assist in producing videos and other promotional materials
- prepare press releases and other media related projects
- Co-produce or produce a fundraising event for a share of the revenue
- This program is geared to assist other not for profit organizations develop media coverage:
 - They recommend that you always share program and event information with the local media outlets
 - Include photos and a compelling article
 - Photos should include info re what it is of and the names, titles of those in the photo
 - Use social media several times a week to update the community about what's going on

Sussex County Community College

Veteran Service Coordinator

973-300-2109

One College Hill Road
Newton, NJ 07860

www.sussex.edu

This two year college offers regular seminars for those leaving the military who are considering going to college to help them determine if college life is suitable for the Vet.

The Vets education program is very complicated and has many variances

To qualify for 100% financial aid a Vet needs to have served 36 continuous months on active duty.

At 100% a Veteran can receive:

- Up to \$1000 per year for books
- Full tuition
- A housing stipend of up to \$2600 per month

Sussex County Directory of Key Social Services

Sussex County Administrative Center
1 Spring St.
Newton, NJ 07860

P: 973-579-0210
F: 973-383-1124

www.sussex.nj.us

The following list of key social services that would be beneficial for Veterans to know.

Behavior Health

P: 973-383-0973

www.atlantichealth.org

Human Services, Dept. of

Administrator: Sarah Balzano

P: 973-579-0559

sblzano@sussex.nj.us

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey Sussex County

Exec. Director: Diane Smith Esq.

P: 973-383-7400

Lsnwj-sussex@lsnj.org

Mental Health Board

Coordinator: Christine Florio

P: 973-948-5200 X1381

cflorio@sussex.nj.us

Meals on Wheels, Sussex

Catholic Family & Community Services

P: 973-209-0123

Nutrition, Sussex

P: 973-579-0555 X1285

Nursing, Public Health, Sussex

Nursing Directors: Ellen Phelps, MSN, APN

P: 973-579-057

Sussex County Directory of Key Social Services con't.

Senior Services

Director: Lorraine Hentz

P: 973-579-0555

seniorservices@sussex.nj.us

www.sussex.nj.us/seniorservices

Social Services

Director: Carol Novrit

P: 973-383-3600

Cwa.scdss@xpb.dhs.state.nj.us

Veterans Internment Officer

Superintendent: James Werner

P: 973-347-8333

Visiting Nurse

Exec. Director: Patricia McGrogan

P: 973-729-7978

TAPinto.net

Jennifer Dericks
Publisher

B- 973-729-1158
C- 973-568-9994

jdericks@tapinto.net

It is a free online newspaper serving as a source of news primarily in Newton and Sparta and is viewed by many in the community. It's part of a network of 50+ towns in NJ

It will work with any veteran organization to promote their future programs. It is best to include photographs with your online news press release. Photos should have the names of people in it along with information of what the photo is of- as much as possible.

You can post your events on the Event Calendar for free as well. Once information is posted it remains available for later search - Google indexed.

Other TAP towns will also publish information relevant to their communities.
A list of towns is on the site TAPinto.net

VA DENTAL ISURANCE PROGRAM (VADIP)

1-877-222-VETS (8387) Mon – Fri 8 AM to 8 PM

www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip

VA dental benefits in the VA hospitals are limited to Veterans that meet certain criteria (100% disabled)

But the VA offers enrolled Vets and beneficiaries of CHAMPVA the opportunity to **purchase** dental insurance at a discounted rate. This is available thru Delta Dental and MetLife via a pilot program. You can select a plan that provides benefits and premiums that meet your dental needs and budget. Each enrollee will **pay a fixed monthly premium** for coverage in addition to copayments required by the plan selected.

If interested in this program you can complete an application online through the websites of either Delta Dental , www.deltadentalvadip.org or MetLife, www.metlife.com/VADIP.

For more information about this program call the number above or go on line at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip and click the insurance link for specific information regarding registration, premium and

VA Medical Foster Care Home Program, Extended Care Service

Program Assistant Coordinator

908-647-0180 X 5544

Lyons Hospital Campus
151 Knollcroft Rd. (11E)
Lyons, NJ 07939

This is a relatively new program for New Jersey started in 2012. It has been in 20 states since 2008. In New Jersey there are currently 15 foster care homes. This is not the same as the Homeless program.

The program came about:

- as an alternative to a nursing home for a Vet
- when a veteran can no longer live with their family
- when they no longer can take care of themselves

The receiving family with whom the Veteran lives with receives between \$2000 to \$4000 compensation depending upon the Veteran's disability. The average amount is currently about \$2800. The amount is based upon the specific needs of that veteran. The receiving family accepts the Veteran into their home, just as they would a foster child. The Veteran becomes part of the family.

There also is a support team from the VA that visits the Veteran on a regular basis. Some of the members of this team include a dietitian, medical doctor, nurse practitioner, physical therapist or psychologist and other support personnel.

The minimum criteria of the program are:

- the Veteran will receive their own private room with a minimum of 100 ft.²
- On occasion when a veteran shares a room, the room size must be at least 180 ft.²
- The caregiver must live in the home with the Veteran.
- It is a 24 hour supervised care

- The caregiver is responsible for assisting the Veteran in whatever their particular needs may be, such as assistance dressing, providing their medication at the appropriate time, etc.
- The Veteran receives three meals a day plus snacks, laundry service and all other services that one would expect to receive in their own home.

The keys to the program are:

- The host family must be the ones providing the care to the Veteran
- The Veteran is to be a member of the family
- Responsibility for caring for the Veteran cannot be assigned to someone living outside the home
- In order to qualify for the program, the Veteran must have some type of disability and cannot care for himself.

The VA provides biannual care giving training sessions for the host family. In some cases a Veteran can bring their spouse or an additional family member with them into the program.

Every effort is made to match the interest of the Veteran to similar interest of the family, whether it be enjoying the outdoors, or attending a particular religious service. For the most part the Veteran improves both mentally and physically while in the program. A Veteran of any age can enter the program as long as they qualify.

VA Rural Health- Home Based Primary Care Program

Call 908-647-0180 X 5406 for referral or admission into the program

Jennifer DelPesce
Social Worker
US Dept. of Veteran Affairs
908-647-0180 X 5421 or 5406
Jennifer.delpesce@va.gov

Lyons Hospital Campus
151 Knollcroft Rd. Building 2
Lyons, NJ 07939

The Rural Health Program is a home-based primary care program. It operates in Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex and as far south as Ocean County.

The care team involves a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, clinical social worker, physical therapist, registered dietitian, pharmacist and a clinical psychologist.

They visit the Vet in their home for routine exams and provide those services usually provided in a clinic by their primary care doctor. Costs are typically the same as those of the outpatient clinics.

Services such as:

- Blood work
- Vaccine administration
- Referrals to specialist
- Providing medical supplies and equipment

The Veteran must be in the VA health care system and be recommended into the program by their primary care physician. The general age range of those receiving this care tends to be typically from the Vietnam era veterans (70ish) and older.

If a Veteran needs specialized care either at Lyons or East Orange they would be required to make that trip.

The Home Base Program and Rural Health Program are in reality one program provided similar care to the Veteran in their home environment.

Veteran Crisis Hot Line

800 – 273-8255

This 800 number is manned 24/7/365 for any Veteran who may be having thoughts of suicide or injuring themselves or others.

Unfortunately each day 22 Veterans take their own lives.

VA (Veteran Affairs), US Department of

Frank Quadrino
Manager Outreach Program
Office of the Chief of Staff
908-647-0180 X 5815
Frank.quadrino@va.gov

Lyons Hospital Campus
151 Knollcroft Rd. (136-O)
Lyons, NJ 07939

Veterans Services

The eligibility criteria to register for VA services have changed over the years. Prior to 1980 if you served just one day of active duty and received an honorable discharge, you were eligible. Since 1980 you needed to have served two years of active duty with an honorable discharge.

There are some variations to that rule, some veterans are automatically eligible:

- Vietnam “Boots on the Ground” Veterans
- Purple Heart Veterans
- Disabled Veterans
- Ex-POWs

There are other considerations to determine eligibility today. A Veteran’s income in Sussex / Warren Counties needs to be below \$46 – 47, 000. Add another \$7000 for a spouse. Once in the VA system you remain in regardless of your future income. Assets that you may have do not play a role into your acceptance or denial into the program.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans had / have five years to apply to be automatically eligible. After the five-year period they have to apply using the financial guideline standards as outlined above.

All Vets should apply to qualify today since admission standards for eligibility into the VA system can change at any time. After the new presidential elections eligibility requirements could change. For example, they may only accept veterans who were disabled during their tour of duty.

You can **apply online but it is not recommended** since your application can be lost. The best way for someone to register is to take their DD 214 up to the Eligibility Office at Lyons or East Orange and complete the application process. You should be approved before you leave the building.

US Department of VA (Veteran Affairs) con't.

Once accepted into the program, in order to receive benefits you need to have a VA Primary Care Physician. All appointments and special treatment is coordinated through your primary care physician.

Some of the most popular benefits that Veterans receive today are free glasses and hearing aids. One of the more difficult treatments to be approved for is dental care. The veteran usually needs to be 100% disabled in order to be entitled to this service.

However there are affordable dental insurance plans that are available to Veterans through MetLife and Delta Dental. There is also another affordable Dental Care Program without monthly premiums through Zufall Health which has dental (and medical) offices in Hackettstown, Newton and other locations in northern NJ.

A benefit of the VA medical program is that there are no monthly premiums. Most Veterans pay for their medications. Cost run from \$8 to \$9 per 30 day supply for a medication. Also in many cases there is a co-pay of \$15 per visit to your primary care physician and \$50 to see a specialist. By that it means if you see the specialist several times regarding the same condition you pay a one-time charge of \$50. There are many Veterans who due to service related injuries do not pay for any services. Also any Veteran who is 100% disabled does not pay for services.

Medical Records, VA

As part of the VA's promise to safeguard the private information of Veterans policies and procedures have been created. The process below applies when a Vet request to view their medical (history) chart.

- ✓ You would need to inform any health care team member you wish to review your medical chart with your Health Care Provider
- ✓ Identify which medical records you want to review
- ✓ If a full review of your entire medical chart is requested an appointment must be made. Thirty minutes are allocated for this non-billable appointment.
- ✓ Your provider will not review your medical history with anyone other than you.
- ✓ You CAN NOT receive a copy of your medical records during a review
- ✓ To receive a copy of your complete medical records you need to fill out a VA form 10-5345A, "An Individual's Request for a Copy of Their Own Health Information".
- ✓ All mental health questions must be referred to your Mental Health Provider.

US Department of VA (Veteran Affairs) con't.

Crisis Line for Veterans

P: 800-273-8255 and press #1

Online chat: www.veteranocrisisline.net

Text message: 838255

The Veteran's Crisis Line is a toll free confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders.

Services are available 24/7/365 even if the Vet is not registered with the VA or enrolled in VA health care.

The Professionals at the VCL are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances, from Vets coping with mental health issues that were never addressed to recent Vets struggling with relationships or the transition back to civilian life.

Current Presumptive (Illnesses)

Below are the categories of Veteran who have presumptive established.

Recently Separated

If a Veteran is diagnosed with chronic diseases, such as arthritis, diabetes or hypertension, within one year of their release from active duty, the VA will presume that the condition originated during military service.

Agent Orange (Registry) 800-749-8387

Agent Orange was a defoliate used in Vietnam. Many troops who served in Vietnam suffer today from the array of symptoms that today are recognizing as the result of Agent Orange.

If a Veteran has any of the following conditions, the VA will presume that the condition was caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

US Department of VA (Veteran Affairs) con't.

- Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft-Tissue Sarcoma
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type II)
- Spina Bifida (for the children of Vietnam Veterans)
- B Cell Leukemia, such as Hairy Cell Leukemia
- Parkinson's Disease
- Ischemic Heart Disease

In addition to the current list there are other symptoms and illnesses that can also be related to Agent Orange. Many illnesses even though not listed on the approved list of illnesses are related or connected to those items on the list.

If you were exposed to Agent Orange while overseas and suffer from any disability it is quite possible that that your disability can be linked to it. Should you have any doubt, contact the **Agent Orange (Registry) 800-749-8387**

For more information about Agent Orange , visit the VA's Website , Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards or call **the Agent Orange Program at: 800-749-8387**

MyHealthVet

Is a portal that provided a secure online setting where Veterans may view and manage their own personal health records, access medical relevant and factual health information, perform health reviews and use electronic services such as prescription refills. It gives Vets an active role in their health care planning.

For information go to: www.myhealth.va.gov

Champs VA

This is another program where a Vet's spouse can be eligible for free VA benefits and the children up to 21 years old can also receive free medical treatment.

US Department of VA (Veteran Affairs) con't.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp

Military Sexual Trauma is a term the VA uses to refer to sexual assaults or repeated, threatening sexual harassment occurring during a Vet's military service. Eligibility has been extended to Reservist and National Guard members participating in weekend drills.

The VA provides:

- free outpatient, inpatient and residential services to help a Vet recover from MST
- Without a limit to the duration of the care.
- Care is provided at every VA health care facility
- Each VA Medical Center has a MSY Coordinator

There are also in residential and inpatient care plans for those who need more intense treatment and support.

To receive free treatment related to MST:

- The Vet does not need a VA service connected disability
- Does not need to have reported the incident when it happened or have any documentation that it occurred.
- No length of service requirements
- Some Vets may qualify for free treatment even though they do not qualify for other VA benefits

Vet Centers / Readjustment Counseling Services

www.vetcenter.va.gov

P: 800-905-4675 during business hours

VA provides free readjustment counseling and outreach services to Vets who have served in a theatre of operations (combat zone), through community based counseling centers, called Vet Centers. Services are also available for their family's members regarding military related issues.

US Department of VA (Veteran Affairs) con't.

Copayments

- ✓ There are no copayments for the treatment of service connected conditions.
- ✓ Primary Care Services with your Primary Care Provider: \$15.00
- ✓ Specialty Care Services: \$50.
- ✓ Medication Copayments: \$8 or \$9 per 30 day supply.
- ✓ Other qualifications may apply

Women's Health

Female Veterans are potentially eligible to receive care provided in their local community when authorized by the VA. The decision to use such care is left to the VA facility providing your care and is usually granted only when the VA cannot provide required services or because of geographic inaccessibility. VA services offered to women Vets include:

- ✓ Women's gender specific health
- ✓ Screening and disease prevention
- ✓ Routine gynecologic services

Town Hall Meetings

The VA holds town hall style meetings; all Veterans are strongly encouraged to attend. At these programs there are clinicians who can immediately process any claims for a Vet.

Veteran Service Officer

Sussex & Morris County

Bill Robinson
Veteran Service Officer (VSO)
973-827-4020
Bill.robinson@dmava.nj.gov

Franklin Armory
12 Munsonhurst Rd.
Franklin, NJ 07416

Warren & Hunterdon Counties

Sibley Smith
Veteran Service Officer (VSO)
908-537-0831
908-264-6146 Wed @ Flemington
Sibley.smith@dmava.nj.gov

Vet Haven North
200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

A Vet needs to see a VSO in order to file a claim for a service connected disability. The VSO concentrates his activity on claims and not healthcare. Always deal with an accredited Veteran Service Officer. Several VFWs and AM Legions posts have members who are VSO.

A service-connected disability is anything that is caused while on active duty. Before coming to VSO for assistance the Vet needs to bring his DD 214 form.

If you're in the National Guard you're not on active duty, unless you are deployed, if you're injured during training or injured while traveling to training.

When you have a claim, you have to demonstrate continuity of the injury you are claiming. It must be reasonable that nothing else outside of your service could have caused it. By that it is meant if you were injured while on active service your injury or disability has to be continued to this day.

Veteran Service Officer con't.

For example if you suffer a hearing loss because you were in artillery and did not have ear plugs and since you left the military you worked as an accountant and your hearing is still poor there is a good possibility your hearing loss was service related.

A fully developed claim can take time to submit and resolve. The goal by the VA is 127 days for approval or disapproval. If you wish to file a claim the form is very comprehensive. You will also send a DBQ (disability benefit questionnaire) which is used by the VA to help evaluate the claim.

It is best for you have a doctor who is outside the VA evaluate your condition and provide their conclusion that your condition is a result of an event that occurred during your time of service. **It is important** that they indicate how they reached this conclusion or rationale.

Some claims can take several years to resolve. If the claim is not done properly with solid back-up: it can bounce around as "denied" for several years until it may be finally approved. Once you submit a claim you need not submit a second time while it is being processed.

Your claim may be approved quickly if completed properly and you have a thorough evaluation, a solid rationale and all other pertinent information. Therefore it is best to do it correctly and thoroughly the first time around.

Award amounts are in even 10% increments, an award of 20% is approximately \$258 a month, 60% is \$1041. It depends upon your percentage of disability, which is how much your disability prevents you from working. Like everything in life this is subject to change.

If your claim is denied you have one year from the decision date to file an appeal.

The Veteran's Pension

This program is for any Veteran in need whose income is less than \$12,600 per year. The VA will raise it up to that amount.

Program options are:

- The Veteran needs to have at least one day of wartime service.
- Pensions are also available to the Veteran's widow.
- There are benefits offered to the spouse of any Veteran who died service related condition.
- Lung cancer or Agent Orange are automatic conditions.
- There are compensations for service connected deaths.

Veteran's Haven North

Corinne Balaskas
Assistant Superintendent - Clinical Operations
B: 908-537-1999 X1966
Corinne.balaskas@dmava.nj.gov

Jennifer Chrucky
Management Assistant
B: 908-537-1999 X 1980
Jennifer.chrucky@dmava.nj.gov

Web Site: www.nj.gov/military/veteranshavennorth

200 Sanatorium Road,
Suite 101
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Veteran's Haven North is a 24 / 7 facilities run by the NJ State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. They have rolling vacancies in two programs (emergency shelter and transitional housing) and are continually conducting interviews for new residents.

It is a fully self-contained facility having a library, gym, full kitchen, game room and social activities.

VHN has a team of social workers and vocational counselors and a nurse. It is licensed as a boarding home, not a clinical healthcare facility. For the most part Veterans receive their treatments from one of the two area VA Hospitals. Transportation is provided. Only if the Veteran is involved in the VA Rural Health program is healthcare provided within the facility.

The facility concentrates on what caused the Vet to become homeless and help stabilize the situation. Their goal is to return the Veteran back into the community through permanent housing or some type of transitional housing plan.

VHN works with Veterans to stabilize any addiction or health issue that leads their families to tell them they cannot stay at home. Their goal is the reunification of the family. They have a separate wing for the women.

Veteran's Haven North
Veteran's Haven North con't.

They only serve Veterans and cannot serve spouses or children (unless they are also Veterans). Any woman coming into the facility that has children must make separate arrangements for the children. The children would not be permitted to use the facility.

They provide two types of services:

The Transitional Housing Program

- Is a two-year transitional housing program
- Rent is income-based. Rent is 30% of income (after certain allowable deductions) never to exceed \$300.
- ****It is not limited to New Jersey Veterans****
- Candidates come from as far away as California.
- To enter into the program, you must first prove you are an honorably discharged Veteran and pass a drug and alcohol test.

The Shield Program.

The liaison for the program is Scott Sussman: 908-647-0180 x4425.

The program is an emergency shelter and treatment program. Lyons conducts the primary assessment and screening not VHN. The VA hospital in Lyons has a bed allotment at VHN enabling them to place a veteran who is in need.

The Shield program has a shorter length of stay: 90 to 180 days. The goal of the program is to help Veterans rectify the situation that has caused their homelessness so it will not continue to negatively impact them. Ideally Veterans are returning to permanent housing within the community.

If permanent housing is not an option and after 180 days if there obviously are some serious issues that need to be worked out for the Veterans they can be assisted at higher levels of care (substance abuse residential treatment, PTSD residential treatment, other transitional housing programs, etc.).

The Veteran coming into this program can still fail a drug / alcohol screening test as long as they state a desire to become clean / sober; however, they must then pass another screening reasonably soon after arrival.

There is no charge to the Veterans in this program as the VA covers the cost.

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Wallkill Valley Chapter 1002**

John Harrigan
Commander

973-271-2413
Harryo19@hotmail.com

PO Box 463
614 Country Rd 517
Lower level @ St. Francis de Sales Church
Vernon Township, NJ 07462

www.VVA1002.ORG

Overview:

The approximately 130 members of this chapter are among the most well versed Veteran advisers in northern NJ. There are few Veteran related issues that this group is not up to date on and involved in. Their knowledge goes well beyond the few topics mentioned here.

Veteran's Memorial Cemetery of Northern New Jersey

It is the only cemetery owned and operated by Veterans in the country. It has recently opened (2016) and follows all the rules and regulations of the other state and federal cemeteries.

Cemetery planning began in 2008 and was finally approved in 2015 as a not-for-profit Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery cost \$1.00 to buy the land.

Based upon state regulation the cost of a burial is \$650. Out of this amount 15% goes into a fund for perpetual maintenance of the cemetery. The headstones are government issued and are free.

The cemetery is approximately 60 acres, of which 25 to 30 acres will be used for burials; that allocated enough space for 14,000 to 18,000 Veterans and their spouse's plots. The remainder acres will be for greenery and trees.

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Wallkill Valley Chapter 1002 con't.**

**Camp Lejeune Water Contamination
Camp Lejeune Family Member Program (CLFMP)**

From August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987 the water wells at the Marine Camp Lejeune, NC were contaminated. During this time Veterans and their families who were living at the Camp were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals.

On August 6, 2012 the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 was signed into law. This law, now Public Law 112-154 requires the VA to provide health care to Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune and to reimburse eligible Camp Lejeune Family Members (CLFM) for health cost related to one or more of the following illnesses or medical conditions:

- * Bladder cancer
- * Esophageal cancer
- * Hepatic steatosis
- * Leukemia
- * Miscarriage
- * Myelodysplastic syndromes
- * Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- * Brest cancer
- * Female infertility
- * Kidney cancer
- * Lung cancer
- * Multiple myeloma
- * Neurobehavioral effects
- * Rental toxicity

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, claim payment, appeals and other issues family members may call the CLFM customer service line **866-372-1144** or visit the CLFMP web site at: **www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov**

There is a push to have the VA provide compensation similar to what is being offered Veterans suffering from Agent Orange. It is in the works, but it could take more than a year for the program to work its way through all the necessary channels. Right now the VA is just taking care of all the health concerns, treatments and doctors' bills.

Anyone who was on the base between these years and believes they may have been exposed is encouraged to file a claim with the VA. The VA said that at this time, the claim may be denied, but they will put it aside and hold onto it until the new legislation comes through and then they will review the claim again

For more information goggle: the Few, the Proud, the Forgotten

Vietnam Veterans of America Wallkill Valley Chapter 1002 con't.

Blue Water Contamination

This hazard pertains to Navy ships. If your ship was tied up or sailed in the waters of Vietnam you could be entitled to the same benefits of those soldiers affected by Agent Orange.

Sailors may have been contaminated by the vessel taking on water in Vietnam running it through the ships purification systems, which was unable to remove all toxicants such as Agent Orange, then using this still contaminated water for bathing, cooking and general drinking.

If one crew member of your vessel has filed a claim then all of the members on that vessel also qualify to file a claim.

Brown Water Contamination

It is illnesses that pertain to crews of boats such as PT boats that went up the rivers in and around Vietnam. The crews now have similar illness to those exposed to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange (Registry) 800-749-8387

Agent Orange was a defoliate used in Vietnam. Many troops who served in Vietnam suffer today from the array of symptoms that today are recognizing as the result of Agent Orange.

If a Veteran has any of the following conditions, the VA will presume that the condition was caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Cute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft-Tissue Sarcoma
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type II)
- Spina Bifida (for the children of Vietnam Veterans)
- B Cell Leukemia, such as Hairy Cell Leukemia
- Parkinson's Disease
- Ischemic Heart Disease

- **Vietnam Veterans of America**
- **Walkill Valley Chapter 1002 con't.**

In addition to the current list there are other symptoms and illnesses that can also be related to Agent Orange. Many illnesses even though not listed on the approved list of illnesses are related or connected to those items on the list.

If you were exposed to Agent Orange while overseas and suffer from any disability it is quite possible that that your disability can be linked to it. Should you have any doubt, contact the Agent Orange (Registry) 800-749-8387

For more information about Agent Orange:

- visit the VA's Website, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards
- call the Agent Orange Program at: 800-749-8387

Warren County Community College

P: 908-835-2306

vipер@warren.edu

45 Route 57 W
Washington, NJ 07882

The Viper Program **Veterans In Pursuit of Educational Readiness**

Warren County Community College's VIPER Program is designed to assist Post 911 Veterans and other Veterans nationwide.

WCCC will accept up to 34 credits to qualifying Veterans for military training *plus* an additional 11 credits for courses directly correlated to our VIPER program of study.

Essentially, through WCCC's VIPER program, a qualifying Veteran may earn an Associate Degree in as little as one semester depending upon their MOS, other military background and/or other college experiences.

Through this exclusive agreement with nationally renowned Thomas Edison State College (TESC), most military training can be evaluated and qualifying Veterans can be put on the fast educational track toward completion of a Baccalaureate Degree.

No other community college in the nation has such an agreement with Thomas Edison State College making the VIPER program educationally unique.

In addition, the VIPER program will honor the in-county tuition rate for Veterans and also those serving active and reserve duty, regardless of where they reside.

Programs of Study in the WCCC Associate Degree in Applied Science:
Veterans may choose a concentration of study in:

- * Automotive Technology
- * Business
- * Computer Science
- * Food and Beverage Management
- * Criminal Justice
- * Fire Science

On- line classes are available for many courses.

Warren County, Directory of Key Social Services

General Phone #: 908-475-6331
Fax: 973-475-6206

Main office:
1 Shotwell Drive
Belvidere, NJ 07823

www.co.warren.nj.us

The following is a list of key social services that would be beneficial for Veterans to know.

Homeless Hotline: 877- 661 – 4357

Temporary Assistance & Social Services

P: 800-383-3296

Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Staff Rep: Deborah Meade
P: 908-475-6331

Public Health Nursing

Supervisor: Judith Leone
P: 908-689-6000 (general)
jleone@co.warren.nj.us

Mental Health

Administrator: Shannon Brennan
P: 908-475-6332

Transportation

Staff Rep.: JanMarie McDyer
P: 908-475-6331

Warren County, Directory of Key Social Services con't.

Veterans Internment

Supervisor: Dennis Smith
P: 908-475-5098

Veterans Recognition Program

P: 800-554-8540

Long Term Care Services

Administrator: Laura Decker
P: 908-475-7700
admissions@co.warren.nj.us
www.co.warren.nj.us?warrenhaven

Aging and Disability Services

Director: Scott Bird
P: 877-222- 3737
seniorservices@co.warren.nj.us

Community Senior Centers:

North Warren, Columbia: 908-496-4001
Hackettstown: 908-850-5438
Washington: 908-689-0650

Warren County's Transportation Program Veteran Transportation

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION CALL:

- Easton Coach Co.
 - 908-454-4044 or 866-594-4044

JanMarie McDyer
Transportation Coordinator
908-475-6331
jmcdyer@co.warren.nj.us

1 Shotwell Drive
Belvidere, NJ 07823

The county provides transportation for Veterans in Warren County to:

- Lyons Hospital, NJ
- East Orange Hospital, NJ
- Morris Plains Clinic, NJ
- Allentown Clinic, PA
 - From Allentown there is a VA shuttle to the Wilkes Barre –Scranton Hospital. The Vet will need to confirm this transportation schedule with the VA
- *Also to all medical / dental appointments within the county such as the Zufall Health Clinic in Hackettstown.*

Demand Response

The County receives a small subsidy from the VA for county Vet's transportation. They can run two trips for Veterans each week to either the hospitals, clinics or for an in county doctor's appointments. So call immediately when you want to make a transportation reservation. First come first two served.

They will take several Vets to the same location, such as Lyons, on the same day and time.

They will pick the Veteran up at their home (outside). Curb to curb service. They will assist the Veteran onto the bus if necessary. The Veterans has to be ambulatory. Wheelchair transportation is available but mention this when making your reservation. A Veteran may bring a companion to assist them.

Warren County's Transportation Program con't

A Vet needs to be honorably discharged, meet income guidelines or live in rural areas in the county. FIRST TIME Vet users will be asked to show either their DD 214 or a letter confirming their VA appointment.

Also required info of first time users include:

First and last name	Date of birth
Home address	Telephone number
Household income	Medicaid eligibility
Special Instructions	Emergency contact and phone number

Some of this information is required by the funding organizations

The transportation usually arrives at the VA facilities as early as 9 AM and depart as late as 2:30 PM. Drop off and pick up is always at the same location

This is a free service for Veterans but they do accept donations.

Trip Confirmation

Call after 2 PM the day before your trip to confirm your trip and pick up time. Call 908-454-4044 or 866-594-4044.

Shuttle Services

Phillipsburg to Washington Shuttle

- Monday to Friday – hourly starting at 6 AM until 7 PM
- Saturday – 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, returning 10AM, Noon, 2 PM, 4PM

Hackettstown to Washington Shuttle

- Monday to Friday – hourly 8 AM to 5 PM
- No Saturday service

Information for both shuttles: 866-594-4044 or 908-454-4044
Fare \$1.00 each way

All transportation schedules subject to change or cancellations

WELCOME HOME VETS OF NJ

George Hanley, Esq.
P: 973-403-1100

info@welcomehomevetsofnj.org

831-38 Route 10E
Suite 262
Whippany, NJ 07981

Services

Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey provides immediate and long term assistance through our organization and our partners to assist soldiers, Veterans and their families in need in New Jersey, including housing, employment, healthcare assistance and much more.

Housing Assistance

Welcome Home Vets of NJ understands that one of the vital needs of our Veterans and their families is shelter. Having a roof over your head is something most of us take for granted. Too many of our Veterans are homeless. Nationally, almost 50,000 Veterans are Homeless on any given night.

WHV has many resources that can provide temporary and permanent Housing assistance to our Veterans. We also provide assistance when a Veteran or their family is threatened with **foreclosure or eviction**.

Employment

One of the most difficult transitions from Military to Civilian life is finding employment. WHV helps our Veterans from all Branches of Service and any age groups find employment. We have resources that can help them to create a résumé, practice interviewing, provide proper attire for their interviews and we share all of the employment opportunities that are sent to our and other organizations.

Transportation

Transportation can become an obstacle to employment for our Veterans. Automobile donations and other means of transportation have been provided through our resources.

WELCOME HOME VETS OF NJ con't.

Medical Assistance

Many of Veterans are not aware of the benefits that are provided by the VA. One of the most underutilized is Healthcare. Less than 10% of Veterans use the available benefits. All Veterans are able to utilize the VA for their Healthcare needs. Many Veterans suffer from the invisible wounds of war. They often feel uncomfortable reaching out for the help they need. We urge everyone who knows a Veteran in need to help them find the help they need. Ask us to help.

WHV can help Veterans navigate into the system and introduce them to the individuals within the VA that can best assist them.

Resources

One of the pages on our Website is dedicated to Resources. WHV has vetted all of the links that are shared on that page. The links provide almost every Veteran with a starting contact point for the help they need.

Home Mortgages

The VA Mortgage is the very best mortgage available. With little or no down payment and the lowest lending rates, all Veterans should take advantage of this benefit. We can help Veterans find the necessary information to begin the process.

Legal Assistance

Welcome Home Vets of NJ has many Lawyers that work Pro Bono for Veterans. The number of cases and hours these lawyers have contributed is remarkable. Reach out to us through our Website for assistance.

Zufall Health Center

C 201-953-0278

www.zufallhealth.org

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR ALL LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Zufall Health is a federally qualified health center. It complements the fine services offered by the Veterans Administration.

Zufall Health Centers provide:

- ✓ Treatment close to home
- ✓ Affordable treatment for all family members
- ✓ *Dental* and medical services
- ✓ Little or no waiting time for appointments
- ✓ Referrals to specialists
- ✓ Sliding scale fee based upon ability to pay.
- ✓ Coordination of care with the VA

Services that are provided include:

- Treatment of illness and injury
- Preventative care
- Pediatric care for infants and children
- Women's health
- Dental prevention and restoration
- A great outreach coordinator
- Behavioral health and referrals
- Podiatry
- Routine lab testing
- Clinical pharmacy counseling
- Health and nutrition education
- HIV / AIDS treatment and case management
- Oral health education
- Community health
- Childhood obesity
- Food Stamps screening /application assistance
- Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) certified application counselors

ZUFALL DENTAL CENTER LOCATIONS

Dover
17 S. Warren St
Dover, NJ 07801
P: 973-328-3344

Flemington
Flemington Healthy Smile Center
361 Route 31 Building C
Flemington, NJ 08822
P: 908-968-4440

Hackettstown
117 Seber Rd.
Doctor's Park, Building 5
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
P: 908-452-5366

Morristown
4 Anno Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960
P: 973-267-0002

Newton
238 Spring St.
Suite A
Newton, NJ 07860
P: 973-862-6650

Somerville
653 Willow Grove St.
Suite 1450
Somerville, NJ 08876
P: 908-526-2335

West Orange
95 Northfield Ave.
1st Floor, Suite 2
West Orange, NJ 07052
P: 973-325-2266

Highlands Dental Van

Serving Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex and Morris Counties
P: 908-968-0898

ZUFALL MEDICAL CENTER LOCATIONS

Dover

18 W Blackwell St.
Dover, NJ 07801
P: 973-328-3344

Hackettstown

117 Seber Rd.
Doctor's Park, Building 5
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
P: 908-452-5366

Morristown

4 Anno Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960
P: 973-267-0002

Newton

238 Spring St.
Suite A
Newton, NJ 07860
P: 973-862-6650

Somerville

653 Willow Grove St.
Suite 1450
Somerville, NJ 08876
P: 908-526-2335

West Orange

95 Northfield Ave.
1st Floor, Suite 2
West Orange, NJ 07052
P: 973-325-2266

Highlands Medical Van

Serving Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex and Morris Counties
P: 908-968-0898

Morristown Wellness Center

85 Washington St.
Morristown, NJ 07960
P: 973-998-7310

Zufall Health's

Affordable Quality Dental Care

Serving Veterans and Their Families

Most veterans do not qualify for
Veteran Administration's dental service.

Zufall's Affordable Dental Care
Compliments the services offered by the VA.

Costs are reasonable for all

No:

- Sign up fees
- Monthly plan fees
- High deductibles

Sample fees as of summer 2016:**

- Initial visit: full x-rays & evaluation \$40
- Cleaning \$40
- Fillings \$40 to \$65
- Extractions \$60
- Emergency \$40
- Crowns \$400
- Partial dentures: one \$590, two \$1060
- Dentures: one \$510, two \$860

We welcome Medicaid and NJ Family Care.
Fees for patients without insurance
are based on a sliding scale.

***These fees are to be used as guides
and are subject to change without notice.*