



NEWSLETTER **SPRING 2018**

VCHC VETERANS & COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION

FROM THE HOME OFFICE...



As we begin 2018, I am proud of the many accomplishments made by our wonderful team members of VCHC during the past year. Due to all of our team member's dedication and commitment we have been able to accomplish almost herculean results. Over the past few years we have successfully accomplished all points measures that were developed under our three years strategic plan. It is now time to move the agency forward and continue with meeting our commitment to our veterans and community. We are making great plans for the next three years and have high expectations to delivering the services needed and deserved by our constituents.

Rebranding the agency was a high priority and completed in 2017. Veterans & Community Housing Coalition accurately depicts the work that we do, our mission and the priorities of our agency.

I would like take this moment to thank all of our donors and supporters in the community, those of the business community, our political friends and all of our individual philanthropists. Your support and encouragement has been phenomenal, without you we would not be able to serve the veterans needs or the needs of our homeless neighbors. I say to you all, very humbly a great big, Thank You. Please join us again as we ready the plan for the next three years.

As president, my plan is to strengthen the Board of Directors. As part of the strategic planning we will look at skills needed to help our agency move forward. We will reach out to community members and leaders, businesses and church groups to meet the needs of VCHC. We will reach out to those who are dedicated to our mission to ensure that no Veteran is ever homeless, to those who are willing to use their skills and connections to support our Veterans.

The Board of Directors will continue to set policies and develop programs that will best serve our target population of homeless Veterans.

Norm McFarlane
President of the Board



The winter was highlighted by the success of the Veterans Ball; \$43,000 was raised thanks to the generosity of this community. Businesses, individuals and community groups all were instrumental in our success.

The Ball sold out with over 400 guests filling the Hall of Springs to honor our Veterans and show their support.

Because of all of **your** support we were able to purchase a van for the Men's House. With 14 men needing transportation it was very difficult to arrange transportation. We are now the proud owners of a 15-passenger van. **Thank you!**

Our Veterans enjoyed a very Merry Christmas, again thanks to all of you who remembered them during the holidays.

We are excited about what 2018 will bring to those who have served us and we are now serving. Our programs are running at full capacity with a 100%-success rate noted by the Veterans Administration.

Our "team" is very dedicated to the mission and go above and beyond to ensure the success of our Veterans. The Veterans programs that we operate mesh with the housing assistance programs we manage. This helps to ensure all needs of Veterans and low income persons and families are met.

I am proud to work with the team at VCHC as well as our community partners to help end Veterans homelessness.

Cheryl Hage-Perez
Executive Director

The Third Annual



Veterans Ball
at the Hall of Springs

Sunday, November 4, 2018
108 Avenue of The Pines, Saratoga Springs
Social Hour begins at 5 pm - Night ends at 9 pm

Dinner ★ Live Music ★ Cash Bar ★ Silent Auction
Valet Parking

Featuring the LaSalle Institute JROTC Cadets
and the Joey Thomas Big Band

For more information and to purchase tickets go to:
www.veterans-ball.info

Last year, the Annual Veterans Ball was a huge success. The event **sold out with over 400 in attendance** to honor and support our Veterans. We are hoping to make this year's event even more successful!

The night will begin with the Color Guard presented by the LaSalle Institute JROTC Cadets followed by a special tribute to local WWII Veterans.

You can dance the night away with live music from the Joey Thomas Big Band, while enjoying special foods prepared by the Hall of Springs.

A Ceremony honoring local Veterans from all branches of service and conflicts will be held as well as a special tribute to a Fallen Hero.

We look forward to welcoming all to support our homeless Veterans Housing Programs. Sponsorships are available and we thank all of our sponsors. Remember all donations are tax deductible!

Mark your calendar...tickets go on sale Monday
September 3rd!

PROGRAM UPDATES

Leigha Rosenberger, Associate Executive Director



VCHC provides services to Veterans at a variety of stages of their housing processes from transitional to permanent and supportive housing through several programs.

The Vet House is home to 14 homeless male Veterans. This year this home has been receiving safety updates to ensure the best quality for our heroes. A new handicap ramp and bathroom have been installed in order to best meet the needs of those with ambulatory issues. Our community supports

the Veterans with generous donations of clothing, food, and household amenities that our Veterans are so grateful for.

Guardian House is home to six female Veterans that are currently working hard to regain their independence. The ladies have been welcomed in the community to several events to help in their reintegration. Our transition homes are supported by so many local programs and are grateful for all of the invitations to community events and resources.

The Saratoga Veterans Apartment Program (SVAP) provides affordable, permanent and supportive housing to low-income and formally homeless Veterans and Veteran families. SVAP is entering our second year of operation of our 14 units scattered across Saratoga County. Our community continues to be generous and gracious in welcoming our Veterans into their community, making donations to our program and inviting our tenants to become engaged in community events. Veterans & Community Housing Coalition is extremely grateful for the supportive landlords we work with in the community that continue to assist us in fulfilling our mission of ensuring that all Veterans are able to live in affordable, safe and decent housing in a supportive community.

Colleen O. Smith, Housing Director



Currently the housing program is administering to over 250 families in various housing assistance programs. The Housing Choice Voucher Program (formally Section 8) is currently assisting 213 families in Saratoga County. Fourteen of these families are utilizing their Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers in Saratoga County.

Nine families are in the Nursing Home Transitional Diversion program which

works with Department of Health to help individuals and families stay in their own apartment, or transition into an apartment from a nursing-home setting.

Twenty-three families are participants with the Town of Wilton Housing Authority. The Town of Wilton has much to offer families in terms of employment, schooling, recreation and medical needs.

Eleven formally homeless individuals with disabilities and their families are enrolled in the Rental Assistance Program of Saratoga County. In addition to receiving rental assistance, participants are assisted with supportive services by their referring provider and must enter into a contract to follow up with their service plan.

Stan Urbonowicz, Facilities Director



The maintenance team has been very busy ensuring the safety of our Veterans facilities. At VCHC our standards are very high for the quality of the homes and apartments we provide for who we serve.

Northern Pines Veterans Housing has finished renovations with new: Roofs, windows, doors, washer and dryers, furnaces, hot water tanks, back decks for four apartments, toilets and bathroom exhaust fans.

The Men's Transitional House located at 36 Church Avenue has started renovations for new: Siding, windows, second floor rear entrance, bathrooms, front stairwell reinforcement support and front porch roof replacement.

We would like to give a *special thanks* to the IUE CWA Housing Corporation for providing grants to improve are Veterans Housing facilities.

Karen Follett, SSVF Director



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is a permanent housing program for homeless and at-risk of homeless Veterans and their families. SSVF has provided assistance to 54 households so far this fiscal year with 34 households being placed into permanent housing and 20 households were prevented from being evicted. SSVF has been very involved

with the CoCs Coordinated Entry system to assist with ending Veteran homelessness. SSVF is in the process for applying for international accreditation which will allow VCHC to apply for a three year SSVF grant. One of the Federal Benchmark's for ending Veteran homelessness is to permanently house homeless Veterans within 90 days or less, currently our average from Enrollment to Permanently Housed is 19.28 days. Our SSVF program donated \$1,000 to disaster relief for SSVF providers affected by Hurricane Harvey.



www.facebook.com/VCHCvethelp/

Eye us on...



Instagram
@vchcvethelp

Tweet us on...



twitter
@VETHELP3

The Wounds of Military Service

The tragedies of war are well documented. Physical wounds impair Veterans for life. Loss of limbs, loss of sight, loss of hearing and death is far too common.

But some wounds are invisible. Invisible wounds can also impair a Veteran for life.

These are conditions which are not only invisible to the public eye, but also to friends and family, community members and even the Veteran themselves, who sometimes suffer without even knowing what's happening to them.

The Veterans served at VCHC are living with post traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, and addiction, all as a result of their service to our Country.

These conditions can be just as debilitating as losing a limb. What's worse, they may even end in veteran suicide, if left unchecked.

Most often, the Veteran is hesitant to ask for help. They fear the stigma and stereotype. They don't understand what is happening to them. They are unsure where to go or they fear they cannot afford help.

For female Veterans, they most often do not feel they are entitled to help because they did not serve in combat. Yet many of them struggle from the devastating effects from military sexual trauma.

With proper care, these wounds are treatable and Veterans can overcome these obstacles to live a productive life in the Community and regain their dignity.

Through the housing programs at VCHC, we work with the Veteran to identify and address the invisible wounds that ultimately led to their homeless situation.

Sometimes it takes more than one stay in our programs to be successful, but we never give up. We believe that EVERY Veteran has the ability and right to live a safe, productive life in their Community and make every effort to help them achieve their goals.

Advertisement Opportunity

As the Veterans Ball attracts more attendees each year, we depend on the added support of our friends in the business community to help cover costs as well as continue to support our Veterans. This year we are offering advertising space in the Veterans Ball Program Book. For more information go to www.veterans-ball.info.

WANTED... Silent Auction Items for the Third Annual Veterans Ball

It is that time again! Time to round up some silent auction items for our Third Annual Veterans Ball Sunday, November 4, 2018, at the Hall of Springs, in Saratoga Springs. The ball raises funds to ensure that the Veterans & Community Housing Coalition can continue to provide safe, decent and affordable housing to our Veterans.

We here at VCHC depend on your kind-hearted donations to continue to help our Veterans regain their dignity and lead a productive life here in our community. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Janet at (518) 885-0091 ext. 101, or by email at jaxton@vchcnyc.org.

For more information or to fill out a form go to:
www.veterans-ball.info

Help continue to support VCHC in their work to help Veterans regain their dignity and lead a productive life in our community with your donation today!

Local Veteran Supported by New Vehicle Donation

Members of the Saratoga Chambers Veterans Business Council and Cheryl Hage-Perez congratulate Joe Miller on receiving a donated car.

Joe Miller was a resident of Vet House. Joe became homeless after losing his sight and his job. Surgery did restore his vision but Joe had no income, no family and no home.

He worked very hard to overcome these obstacles with the support of VCHC staff. He got a job, then transitioned to his



Michael Kennedy, Dan Colvin, Denise Romeo, Joe Miller, Cheryl Hage-Perez, Jason Collins, Colonel Dave Cummings, and Michelle Taylor

own apartment where he was living an independent and productive life in our community.

Then his car broke down and was not able to be repaired. Joe was devastated. He had no transportation to work and would lose his job and become homeless again.

Hearing of his situation, the Saratoga Chamber's Veterans Business Council nominated Joe to receive a car from Recycled Rides. This was a statewide competition and Joe was chosen!

Thank you to the Veterans Business Council, Travelers Insurance, DeNooyer Chevrolet and Keystone for helping Joe. He served us and they served him.

Be a Corporate Sponsor at Our Veterans Ball This Year



Commander-in-Chief \$10,000: A reserved table for 10, prominent placement of a full page ad in the event program, name and logo listed as “Sponsored by” on invitation, website, Facebook, Instagram, signage, flyers, printed advertisements and press release.



Medal of Honor \$5,000: A reserved table for eight, a half-page ad in the event program, name listed on website, invitation, event program, signage, flyers, print ads and press release.



Distinguished Service \$2,500: A reserved table for six, a quarter-page ad in the event program, name listed on website, invitation, event program, signage, flyers, print ads and press release.



Silver Star \$1,000: A reserved table for four, your name listed on website, invitation, event program, signage, flyers, and print ads.



Bronze Star \$500: Two reserved event tickets, your name listed on the invitation and in the event program.



Patriot \$250: One reserved event ticket and your name listed on the in the event program.

If you would like more information or would like to fill out a form go to our website: www.veterans-ball.info.

If you have further questions, please contact Karen at (518) 885-0091 ext. 110 , or by email at kfollett@vchcny.org.

In Memory of Many... In Honor of All...



Serving Veterans in Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Fulton,
Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties



Honor a Veteran with an Honor Guard Sponsorship at The Third Annual Veterans Ball November 2018

Do you have a family member or friend who served proudly in the military? If yes, take this opportunity to show your pride and gratitude for **your** Veteran.

Freedom isn't free. Your Veteran paid for our freedom and let's NEVER forget them.

Let us know about your Veteran and the sacrifice they made so we can enjoy our freedom in our great country.

Below is an example of how it will be presented:

PFC John Jones

Served in Vietnam

United States Army 1968-1970

Awarded Two Purple Hearts

Honored by:

Wife Dolores and Daughters Mary and Lisa

Please consider one of the following sponsorships:

IN HONOR OF...\$100

Your Veteran listed in our event program and on a recognition sign. A brief description of his/her service and honors will be included. The listing will include that this Veteran is being honored by you.

IN MEMORIAM...\$100

Your Veteran listed in our event program and on a recognition sign. A brief description of his/her service and honors will be included. The listing will include that this Veteran is being honored by you.

If you would like more information or would like to fill out a form go to our website: www.veterans-ball.info.

If you have further questions, please contact Ashley at (518) 0091 ext. 113, or by email at aborden@vchcny.org.



Visit us anytime at...
20 Prospect Street, Building 2 Suite 313
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

VCHC AND THE COMMUNITY



Executive Director Cheryl Hage-Perez, Doug Bauer of All Square Wealth and some of VCHCs Veterans photographed during a check presentation at the agency's Christmas party.



Associate Executive Director Leigha Rosenberger, accepting a monetary donation from Mike Stef of the Leathernecks.



Associate Executive Director Leigha Rosenberger and Executive Director Cheryl Hage-Perez accepting a check from the "Falling Leaves 5K".



SSVF Director Karen Follett, being recognized as a Patriot Employer by Emil Baker of ESGR.



Town of Greenfield Veterans Golf Tournament benefit our Veterans.



Executive Director Cheryl Hage-Perez, Executive Assistant Mianna Magliocca, and VFW 420 members presenting a check sponsorship for The Second Annual Veterans Ball.



Executive Director Cheryl Hage-Perez accepting a grant from Bob Santamore of the IUE CWA.



World War II Veterans being honored at The Second Annual Veterans Ball.



The LaSalle Institute ROTC Cadets presenting the Color Guard at The Second Annual Veterans Ball.

Veterans & Community Housing Coalition

20 Prospect Street
Building 2 Suite 313
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



Yes, I want to donate to support the programs of VCHC. I will do so by:

Making a monetary donation of \$ _____

Making a material donation _____

Planning a fundraiser event _____

Other _____

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

Thank you for your Support!

Return to: VCHC 20 Prospect St. Building 2 Suite 313, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

- DONATION WISH LIST:**
- 10 & 30 Gallon Trash bags
 - Paper Products
 - Personal Care Items
 - Laundry Soap & Dryer Sheets
 - Twin Quilts & Comforters
 - CDTA Bus Passes
 - Gift Cards (groceries & gas)
 - Food Items
 - Feminine Products
 - Cleaning Supplies
 - Furniture
 - Household Items
- Please make sure your donation is in good condition for our Veterans**