

The Beacon



For Veterans

Jay Cimino

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Center of Excellence

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Randy Gradishar

Outreach Coordinator

Christina Chapman

Operations Coordinator

Peer Navigators

David Shoup

VIP Program Manager

Aaron Kiewicz

Daniel Martinez

Jennifer Medved

Joy Jenkins



Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence Opening Spring 2016!



MISSION: "to collaborate with community partners to provide wellness programs and transitional services with special emphasis on veterans, military and their families. Additionally, Mt. Carmel delivers space, expertise and resources."

Veteran Career and Employment Center - Finding employment post- military service is a high priority for anyone transitioning from service member to civilian. Through our partnership with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center we have established a satellite office at COE to address many employment needs. Our nationally acclaimed Veterans Integration Program has proven a tremendous success in our community providing transition assistance using coaching, mentoring and many proven techniques such as resume review and evaluation, mock interviews and by providing networking opportunities.

Greet and Connect - A **Beacon of Support** from service through career, COE will be open five days a week with trained greeters to welcome all veterans, military and their families. Along with our Peer Navigators, **Randy Gradishar**, Outreach Coordinator and Broncos Football Legend, will help individually assess the needs of each Guest and work with them to define a plan of service and support either through programs at COE, with our internal community partners or through a referral to our vetted external community partners.



Veteran and Family Resource Center - Once an individual's plan is in place, our Guests get one-on-one counseling or participate in group classes in areas ranging from financial basics to legal support. We have support available for using your GI Bill, getting housing assistance and finding access to behavioral health. We have developed many partnerships that can be called on to offer assistance at any time.

Transition and Wellness Programs - To ensure a smooth transition from the military, COE offers numerous opportunities in the area of wellness and transition through classes, counseling and direct local engagement. We strive for individual satisfaction and success as you progress through transition and beyond using a balanced and healthy lifestyle. An example of this is our **Returning Military Heroes** program where we bring active military or veteran couples on a retreat where they can reconnect through skiing or fly-fishing. This is one of our most enduring and successful programs!

Community Partners -Along with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, COE is bringing in several community partners to ensure our Guests have access to the best that the Pikes Peak Region has to offer. Stay tuned as we announce the great programs that these partners will be launching right here at COE. Together we are committed to creating an environment where support and services for our Veterans is easy.

Meet our Peer Navigators

Additional Support Staff

JoAnn Berkhimer
General Manager
Kip Hampden Properties

Chrissy Cassio
Administrative Assistant

Angie Pickett
Quality Control Manager

Gary Brunette, Jr.
Controller

Angela Ann Cesario
Board Secretary

Marilyn Twaites
Administrative Assistant



Far afield from his family's musical expectations of him, **David Shoup** is excited about leading and influencing the direction of the peer navigators at the Center of Excellence. A self-confessed jack of all band instruments and master of none, David found his niche in coaching, mentoring and management assignments in the 20 years he spent in the Army. David feels especially lucky in the talent he is working with in the Center of Excellence team. He is excited about the Veterans' Integration Program and the community partners the COE is associated with. David has a BS in Business Administration. His personal philosophy is "Don't be afraid to try something new."



After 20 years as a Tanker in the US Army, **Daniel Martinez** comes to us with an AS in Applied Technology, a BA in General Studies and is currently working on his MA in Counseling. Daniel enjoys helping others to help themselves. He evaluates his success based on his contributions to the success of others. Daniel has traveled the world with tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Macedonia, and the entire state of California. Daniel has happily transplanted his wife, two daughters, his son and the dog, Tank to Colorado Springs. Daniel's warmth and love of people is evident in his engaging smile.



Asked to pronounce his last name, **Aaron Kiewicz** employs a clever association trick, jiggling his keys and pointing to his head, "key wits" he informs one. At first glance, Aaron appears to be a no-nonsense kind of guy. After all, his personal philosophy is "You can either have results or excuses". Aaron's softer side shows through when he is working with veterans and his satisfaction comes when he sees the results of his work with them. Aaron's BS is in Sports and Health Sciences and Sports Medicine. While with the Air Force Aerospace Propulsion, he became certified in Occupational Instruction.

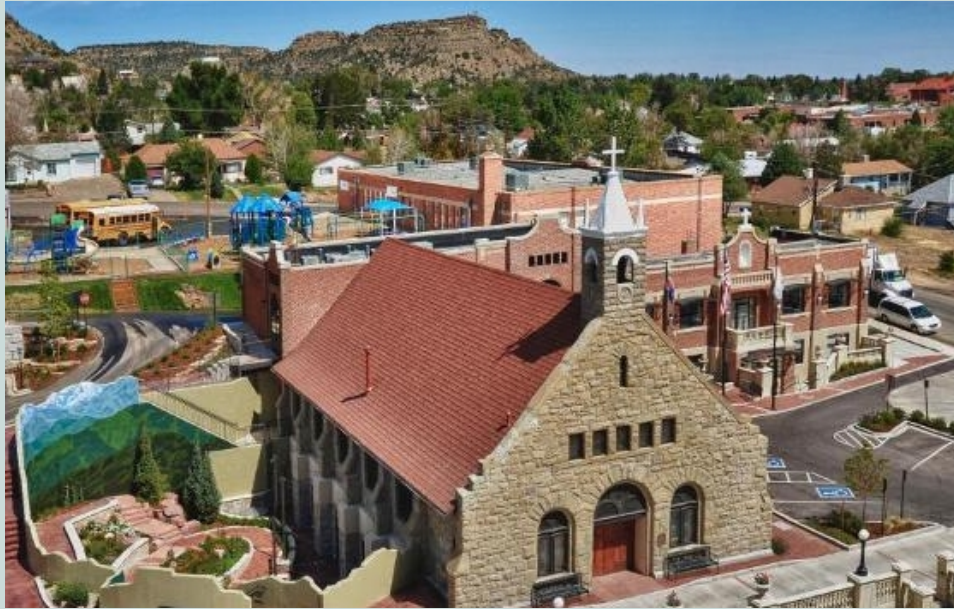


Serving as a Peer Navigator is **Jennifer Medved's** dream job. She has always wanted to serve in the non-profit arena and the preponderance of her work in the military, USAF, involved service-oriented, people-oriented assignments. Jennifer's eyes sparkle when she talks about setting up networking events with community partners for the veterans the COE serves. Her personal philosophy is very revealing of her approach to life, "Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything" - author unknown. Jennifer's latest endeavor is acrylic painting. Her work exhibits a very definite abstract, symbolic style. She is particularly excited about working with veterans in art therapy.



Joy Jenkins is a Generalist Peer Navigator, handling a wide spectrum of concerns from financial planning to tapping into the community's resources for veterans from WWII (yes she has helped one WWII vet) through the current engagements. Joy's BS is in Criminal Justice. She also served 23 years in the Army as a mechanic and then as an engineer while becoming the mother of 5 children who range in age from 6 to 26! The military also took her to far off lands as diverse as Switzerland to Somalia. Joy's personal work goal is to help each person she serves reach sustainability in civilian life.

History of Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence



The history of Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, has its roots in Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center, a medical non-profit headquartered in an historic old church in Trinidad, Colorado. The story of that entity begins in 1907 when Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church was built in Trinidad, Colorado by the Jesuit missionary priests sent there to minister to the Italian and Spanish immigrant laborers in the coal mining fields of the area. The Church is one of only five churches listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

In July of 1998, after 91 years of continuous service, the church was closed and stood, abandoned until 2006 when nature and adverse elements of weather rendered it structurally unsound and disintegrating.

In 2007, Jay Cimino, purchased the property from the Catholic Diocese of Pueblo. Not knowing at first what to do with the property, JSI Research pointed out that Las Animas County was ranked 54 out of 57 counties in the state for healthcare. The results of that survey led to the complete rehabilitation and re-purposing of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church into the now thriving Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center.

With three successful years in Trinidad under his belt, Cimino turned his visionary instincts to his current town of residence, Colorado Springs, and successfully identified the needs of the large military and veteran population there. Cimino tapped Col (R) Robert McLaughlin, former Garrison Commander of Ft. Carson, to be the Chief Operations Officer and prime mover in getting the Center of Excellence off the ground.

McLaughlin identified the specific needs of the military/veteran population, selected potential partners who were already addressing those needs and began building networks, associations, contacts and knowledgeable personnel to help build the organization and to move from concept to actualization.

McLaughlin has already assembled a staff of experienced personnel who are assisting Veterans, active Military and Families as Peer Navigators and working with The Pikes Peak Work Force Center to place vets in jobs. This is being done while the building is being completed literally over their heads. The building is scheduled for Spring 2016 and planning for an Open House is under way.



Good News Corner

Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence is proud to announce we have received the Call of Duty Endowment 2015 Seal of Distinction Award!



Our Sincerest Gratitude to Supporting Foundations

Adolf Coors Foundation	\$328,098
Broadmoor Rotary District	\$3,000
Ford Motor Fund	\$50,000
USAA Foundation	\$5,000
Call of Duty Endowment	\$30,000
Miller Family Philanthropy	\$10,000
Toyota Dealer Match Program	\$10,000
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	\$1,000
Northrup Grumman Foundation	\$2,500

We also wish to thank our individual charitable investors, too numerous to name, who have demonstrated their faith in our concept and our expertise. They truly **Help Us Help Ours!**



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