

Mt. Carmel Center Beacon



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Mt. Carmel Center Welcomes Joel Hamilton



Mt. Carmel introduces our new Director of Operations, COL (R) Joel Hamilton! Since opening our Center in March, we have had tremendous success in delivering support to our local veterans and families. That success, coupled with our unwavering commitment to using **best practices** to deliver outstanding programs and services to our transitioning military, veterans and their families, has created the need to grow our team. We quickly seized the opportunity of Joel's recent retirement from active duty service to add his unique expertise and focus to our staff.

Joel has had a highly successful military career spanning 28 years, most recently serving as both Garrison Commander and 4th Infantry Division Chief of Staff at Fort Carson. Joel is a family man. He met his wife Anne while in undergraduate school at Creighton University. They have two accomplished children; Jenna, a recent graduate of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and Andrew is currently a Plebe (freshman) attending the US Military Academy at West Point. As a family, life in Colorado fits like a glove and together they enjoy spending time in the mountains and back country camping, skiing/snowboarding, hiking and fishing.

Joel is extremely excited to join the Mt. Carmel team and shares his view. "I personally saw the impact Mt. Carmel was having in the communities of Trinidad and the greater Colorado Springs area, and I look forward to continuing to build upon my relationship within the community and our local military installations along the Front Range in an effort to best serve the Veteran population. I'm passionate about our Mt. Carmel mission and building upon the great accomplishments to date, forever committed to making a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families!"

Staff

Col (R) Robert McLaughlin
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Col (R) Joel Hamilton
Director of Operations

Cindy McLaughlin
Communications Director

Jacque Bauer
Partner Development Director

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Angie Pickett
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Randy Gradishar
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Peer Navigators

Charles Hillyer

Daniel Martinez

Jennifer Medved

Amber Hargrave

Receptionist

Juanita Reedy

Hilary Bryant

Newsletter Publisher

Marilyn Twaites

"Laurie, thank you for becoming a Hero Level Patron!" Bob Friends,

Among the citizens in our community are a few brave souls, who, after serving their country with courage, are still willing to fight for their family and the community they live in. These are the people who work at Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence.



I have joined their cause, because I believe that Americans will heal and grow best at home with their loved ones close by. We all need to support those around us who have given their dreams and future to preserve all we hold dear. Our American Veterans are in the neighborhoods we drive through everyday and their children are in our schools learning for tomorrow.

It is an honor and privilege to contribute to their growth in the Pikes Peak Region. The health and well being of our veterans will help our economy thrive and provide a safe and secure future for the families who will live and play here. These strong, brave people need some direction, and Mt. Carmel can give them the assistance they need.

I would appreciate it very much if you would open your heart and join me in giving your support any way you can, to help these dear and accomplished people.

We would be grateful for your time, your wisdom and we take checks, too.

Most Sincerely,
Laurie J. Long

Service to Career Pilot Program with Pikes Peak Workforce Center

On May 20, 2016, Governor John Hickenlooper signed House Bill 16-1267, the Colorado Veteran's Service-to-Career Pilot Program, into law. The law created this program in the Colorado Dept. of Labor (CDLE) allowing local workforce agencies to apply for \$475,000 of funds to support veterans, their spouses and other eligible participants who are seeking employment and careers. Together with Mt. Carmel, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center submitted a proposal for funding which would provide veterans and their eligible family members in our region with access to peer navigation, the highly successful PrepConnect 360 training program, internships and funding for additional training and other supportive services.

The Pikes Peak Workforce center was granted \$320,000 to support this purpose! Mt. Carmel will be contracted to execute this proposal on behalf of the workforce center. The Pilot program began the second week of November and will continue through June 30, 2017. The exciting part of this program is that some of the best services we have been able to offer veterans will now be available to qualifying spouses and dependents of veterans. Specifically, the ability to offer internships and training will provide unique workforce experience and better qualify our clients for successful careers. If you know of any veterans or their family member who may qualify for this program, please contact Aaron Kiewicz, Veterans Integration Program Manager at Mt. Carmel and he will be able to assist them.

"Meet and Greet" COE's New Employee

By Angela Ann Cesario

Amber Hargrave, Peer Navigator Generalist, is passionate about helping veterans because as she put it, "they have sacrificed for us!" Amber is a military wife as well as a professional. She has a MS in Health Administration with BA in Sociology. Very articulate, Amber has no trouble defining what she wants to do to help veterans. Her Mt. Carmel assignment covers a wide spectrum of issues that vets face: housing, behavioral issues, financial worries, family issues and everything else except employment. Her one frustration is the fact that so many veterans do not think of life beyond the military - the future after their service. Amber served as Soldier For Life Counselor at Fort Carson and found it extremely rewarding, guiding service personnel through the steps of recognizing and defining the tools their service career had given them and how they could be translated in the civilian world. Amber is very people-oriented and passionate about respect of one human for another. Amber speaks affectionately about her family's deployment in South Korea. When not attending her three children's activities she hikes, shops and binges on horror movies!

Partner Corner

Regis University has long had a commitment to supporting and serving our Colorado Veterans and their families. We have a large percentage of veterans and spouses within the ranks of our programs and we offer a unique Post Graduate Certificate in Counseling Military Families. As Mt. Carmel formed and their mission was set, a natural partnership was born as both of our organizations have a passion for serving veterans and their families. Together, we recognize that mental health counseling is an essential area of need within our collective client base.

REGIS UNIVERSITY

Our University provides quality mental health care for veterans and their families at Mt. Carmel through the use of supervised interns. We are working with Mt. Carmel to increase our programming to veterans and their families and future efforts may include couple and family retreats, trauma focused training and support groups. Regis University is excited to be a committed partner in this great venture and look forward to providing continued quality care to the veterans and families who have so selflessly served our great nation.



The financial health of the veterans and families we serve is critical to their overall success in our community. At Mt. Carmel, we offer classes ranging from "finances 101" to "Obtaining a VA loan" or "Managing your Finances after Divorce". We bring in community experts to help us make these classes valuable and informative.

One of our great partners is imortgage! Sterling Campbell is a Senior Loan Consultant who not only supports Veterans by providing some classroom instruction at Mt. Carmel, but he is also available through weekly office hours for one on one discussions with individuals. Sterling is an expert in the VA mortgage home loan process, with 19 years in the field, and has a true heart for helping Veterans achieve their goal of home ownership. He has office hours at Mt. Carmel on Wednesdays from 9 AM to 1PM. He can provide you with all the information you need to prepare yourself for the home buying process. And, when you are ready to purchase your home, imortgage offers a variety of residential loan products for the Veteran and Active Duty Military members. imortgage is the only lender that offers the VA Renovation Mortgage which is especially beneficial to an injured soldier needing accessibility modifications.

To learn more about the home buying process you can schedule an appointment with Sterling by calling Mt. Carmel at 719-309-4714, or he can be reached directly on his cell phone at 719-210-4353 after office hours! Sterling Campbell, Loan Consultant NMLS # 603397, imortgage NMLS # 174457.

The Voice of Our Clients

"I'd like to recognize Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence and the Peer Navigator group for doing such an outstanding job in regards to helping me with job searches and professional development. Their professionalism and level of caring is truly genuine. This is demonstrated by their timely and appropriate reaching out viz email and phone calls. As well they took the time to provide me with the suit to guarantee I was provided with proper professional attire. This level of caring is invaluable to a proper transition. As well the individuals are hand selected within the organization. This provides the specific skill set to maneuver the many landmine fields that await the any transitioning service member. Special thanks to Daniel and Aaron, always on point. Thank you." Charles

"Peer Navigators was instrumental in my transition process. They provided exactly what I need to assist in my transition out of the military. They provided men with multiple mock interviews. These helped me identify certain weaknesses that I was able to fix and utilize in my final mock interview. They were able to provide me with resume assistance from Hire Heroes, which automatically made me more marketable. Finally, the networking events were a great way for me to meet potential employers and become used to discussing jobs and giving my personal statement to people. Peer Navigators is an invaluable resource that all veterans need to utilize as they transition out of the military." Quentin

Program Updates

Since opening our doors in March, Mt. Carmel along with our partners in residence have had 2208 visits with Veterans and their families. Mt. Carmel's Peer Navigators, providing outreach to our community, have impacted 1748 Veterans at over 60 events. In partnership and collaboration with our community, Mt. Carmel continues to make great impact in the lives of our Veterans.

The mission of Mt. Carmel is to be a Beacon of Support and we're proving we are just that! This October, Mt. Carmel had the pleasure of placing two of our homeless families out of the 197 participants into the Homeless Coalition Program. The program offers families more than just resources. This program has assisted the families in employment, permanent housing, transportation and transitional housing during the month long program. Both families are progressing through the program and have found employment, transportation, and now are working on permanent housing. Mt. Carmel is excited about this opportunity to help our community Veterans utilize our community partners.



**Our Sincerest thanks to our many contributors
and supporters.**

Thank you for Helping Us Help Ours!

Mt Carmel Center of Excellence, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80905

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