

**Mt. Carmel
Veterans
Service
Center**



**One-Stop
For Veterans
& Military**

**Board of Trustees
and
Board of Managers**

Mt. Carmel Team



A Milestone Worthy of Reflection

As Mt. Carmel marks its second year of operation this month, we have much to celebrate. Our organization has become an innovative and reputable one-stop center to support military, veterans and eligible family members in our community. This was the vision when we opened our doors in 2016, and it is the reality today. I'm very proud of what we have accomplished with our partners.



Our team has successfully integrated regional veteran services through partnerships and collaboration with more than 30 agencies specializing in transition and wellness. Simultaneously, we developed three major program areas to fill gaps in service to veterans including Behavioral Health Counseling and Wellness, Supportive Case Management and Resource Navigation, and Employment and Transition Programs.

In Behavioral Health Counseling and Wellness, Mt. Carmel's in-house partnership with professional counselors brings timely, responsive options to meet the needs of the veteran community. We're proud of our partnership with the local VA. Our programs are a low-to-no cost option for military, veterans and family members and include individual, couple, family, youth, and group counseling. Our alternative and innovative programs include trauma-focused yoga, tai-chi and more. These services are provided regardless of discharge or duty status to eliminate barriers to care for our clients.

Through Supportive Case Management, our team helps veterans and eligible family members in crisis. Our programs include urgent assistance, emergency and short-term housing, and a hand-up vs. hand-out effort to assist with critical needs. All support includes significant monitoring and oversight as best practices to ensure client progress toward stable living situations with the ultimate goal of successful workforce reintegration.

In the area of Employment and Transition, Mt. Carmel leads an innovative partnership with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, known as the Veterans Service-to-Career Pilot Program (VSCPP). Established by Colorado House Bill 16-1267, the effort is a vote of confidence from elected leaders and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment in Mt. Carmel's role as a best practice organization to help transitioning military, veterans, caregivers and qualifying family members.

The VSCPP is a great complement to our Peer Navigator Program. These two programs are managed by our Peer Navigators providing professional, personal counseling to assist clients with their job search and internship placements to in-demand careers. Key partnerships achieved results-driven programs including Prep Connect 360 – a premier 5-day course that builds on previous job seeking skills that veterans gain through transition assistance programs before leaving the service. House Bill clients who graduated this course in 2017 achieved an employment rate of over 80 percent. To date, more than 500 people have graduated from the program.

Innovative efforts with community partners resulted in more than 50 mass networking and industry-specific events allowing clients and regional employers to connect in an informal atmosphere. The events provide employers an opportunity to connect with eligible talent and allow program graduates to network with real-world feedback, and ideally, a job offer.

While I haven't highlighted all of the programs and services we deliver to our veteran community, we celebrate, with our partners, the more than 3,000 clients we've served through their 14,000 visits to Mt. Carmel since we opened our doors. The vision of two years ago is now the reality. Going forward, we've rededicated ourselves to serving our community's military, veterans and their families with excellence, integrity, and innovation -- because they deserve the best!

Bob McLaughlin
COL, US Army Ret, COO

Peer Navigators: Meet the Clients



Meet Kemi:

The Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center is excited for client Kemi McBeth! Today, Peer Navigator Janet Farley is directly assisting her in pursuit of two new full-time career opportunities. Kemi is a U.S. Army Veteran highly-experienced in logistics. Her post-service experience includes customer service and sales with a national

finance and insurance organization in Colorado Springs. In pursuit of new opportunities, our team and partners have provided Kemi with no-cost career counseling, resume assistance, networking opportunities, unemployment assistance and more. Today, she is signed up for Prep Connect 360, a premier 5-day course that builds on previous jobseeker skills. "My transition out of the service brought me to Mt. Carmel," said Kemi. "It's a trusting and warm environment, and the information your team constantly provides in person and over email is jobseeker gold. I've recommended the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center to many Veterans, and I'll continue to do so."

Meet Jamie:

The Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center is excited for client Jamie Walker! Peer Navigator Adam Baker, right, and USO Site

Manager Ron Kriete, left, are directly assisting as she begins her transition from the U.S. Air Force. Following a career in space operations, Jamie is beginning her journey toward a post-service career. In pursuit of new opportunities, she has completed the Transition Assistance Program and visited Mt. Carmel to consider her next moves. “I feel much more optimistic about my transition,” said Jamie. “I realize networking is the key to a successful transition and connecting with Mt. Carmel has just increased my network significantly. Your monthly networking events, connections and support of the USO and other partners, are significant. I’m excited for my next step.”



4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center will host its 4th annual Charity Golf Tournament on **Wednesday, August 15, 2018**. This will take place at the prestigious Sanctuary Golf Course in Sedalia, CO, which has been consistently ranked in the top 150 courses in the United States (2011-2017 Golf Digest). Sanctuary was created as a place of refuge, preservation and nourishment, not just for wildlife, flora and fauna – but for service organizations committed to developing unique relationships with those who support their efforts to improve our community. Sanctuary is an exclusive course; to play there is by invitation only.



Left to right: Bob McLaughlin, Laurie Long, Gina Cimino, Jay Cimino

Please consider becoming a sponsor, making it possible for us to provide the highest quality support in transition services and wellness programs for our Military, Veterans and their Families. The proceeds from your participation provides funding for our support of these heroes - 25% of all Veterans in this state live in El Paso and Teller counties, the areas we service. We continue to commit our passion and resources to support this significant and important population. It is our hope that we can join with you on this day to ensure another successful year providing hope to those who have sacrificed for our nation.

Last year, it was fantastic watching the many teams play with smiling faces and great enthusiasm. This year we are committed to making the day as equally enjoyable and full of excitement for all. We will be celebrating and honoring the 100th birthday of Mr. Phil Long. His daughter, Laurie Long, was instrumental last year with sponsorship, logistics, advice and selling those Mulligans! We look forward to seeing you on the links!

For more details [click here](#).

Exciting Program Updates

Employment & Transition:

Our Peer Navigators exceeded their employment placement goal by 20 percent! They not only work hard but play hard also. We salute Daniel Martinez, Paul Arends and Adam Baker - all

Veterans - who embarked on a grueling 26.2 mile march through the New Mexico desert on March 25. With heavy gear, they marched to honor 76,000 service members of the original WWII Bataan Death March as prisoners of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. "I'm doing this to recognize and understand the meaning behind the March," said Paul. "I'm also doing this to test my mental and physical ability. This is important because I want to help spread the word about this event, both as a physical and mental challenge as well as an important part of history." This year's memorial march was the largest ever with 8,400 participants. Learn more:

<http://www.dodlive.mil/2018/03/21/resilience-through-hell-this-is-the-bataan-memorial-death-march/>



Looking forward to upcoming events, April 10 is our Law Enforcement Recruiting Event. Our March Networking Event was a huge success, breaking previous records for attendees with 155 veterans and community partners! This signature event allows veterans to practice and actually network – a crucial component of their job search. Our next networking events are April 5, May 10, and June 14.

Behavioral Health Program:

Our Behavioral Health Program is going strong. We've served over 300 people this past year and increased our caseload by 75 percent. We currently have a 94 percent satisfaction rating from our clients. Our Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) support groups and Veteran X group continue to be successful in supporting veterans. We've also restarted our, "My Loved One has Post Traumatic Stress," program Monday evenings, and we're planning another PTS support group for female veterans.

Our Veterans Tribute Walkway is Complete!



Show your support of our Veterans or pay tribute to a loved one by having a brick or paver engraved in their honor. They will be featured as part of our Veterans Tribute Walkway on the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center campus.

Your contribution helps us to continue providing our essential services to Veterans and their families. Engraving ranges from \$175 - \$200 for bricks and \$700 - \$850 for pavers. They can even be personalized with military emblems.

**To personalize a brick or paver,
or for additional information, visit
www.thatsmybrick.com/mtevcsc .**

Remember, as a 501(c)(3), your donation may qualify for a tax credit.



Thank You, Cadets!



Four U.S. Air Force Academy Cadets volunteered on March 17 to help with beautification of our facility. This included cleaning up the Warrior Garden and collection of seven bags of trash from our campus. We're extremely grateful for these efforts and their dedication to serve our community and country! Photographed, left to right are: Lisa Orwald, Panhoya Disanayahe, Nathanael Kreiser, and Travis Maxwell.

Thank You, Bunny!



Effective May 2018—Retired Naval Commander Bunny Blaha will no longer trudge through wind and snow to arrive at a paper-covered desk and ringing telephone by 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. She is moving to Texas to be closer to family and her beloved Aggies. Bunny has volunteered at Mt. Carmel since its inception, and we're grateful for her dedication to our organization and our veteran community. Beyond her service to Mt. Carmel, she was a Navy League Board Member and avid volunteer with Veterans Trauma Court, maintaining close contact with her veterans -- even offering transportation assistance. With her bright smile and caring spirit, we can't think of anyone in the organization who has done more to lift spirits than Bunny. We'll miss you, Bunny, but we wish you the best with future plans in Texas. Thank you for all your service to Mt. Carmel!

Interested in volunteering at Mt. Carmel? We have plenty of opportunities (and certainly not limited to): 1) Supportive Services Assistant: Work with clients facing hardships, to help launch and re-establish them into the community by way of resource navigation. 2) Admin Assistant: There are plenty of staff within Mt. Carmel who could use an extra set of hands with crucial behind-the-scenes work to keep our organization moving forward. 3) Greet and Connect: Help triage our clients at the front desk. Become a subject-matter-expert on Mt. Carmel's community partners, and work directly with the military community. 4) Special Events and Outreach Team: Help us spread the word! We attend many resource fairs and host special events at Mt. Carmel. We have opportunities available nights and weekends. Contact Hilary Bryant at (719) 309-4756 for more information.

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We are excited to tell you that **Amazon Smile** is tripling the donation amount to **1.5% when customers make their first eligible purchase from March 12 - 31**. This is a great opportunity to increase donations to Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center!

Simply visit [AmazonSmile](#) , **select Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center as your charity of choice** and SHOP!

For additional details about the promotion, visit the [details page](#) .

Help Support Veterans, Military and Their Families Today!

Please consider supporting our local area Veterans and their Families by donating to Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center. Your contribution will allow us to continue to support these heroes in the following critical areas:



Employment &
Transition Support



Job Placement &
Internships



Non-Clinical Case
Management &
Resource Navigation



Behavioral Health
Counseling

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