

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center



One-Stop For Veterans & Military

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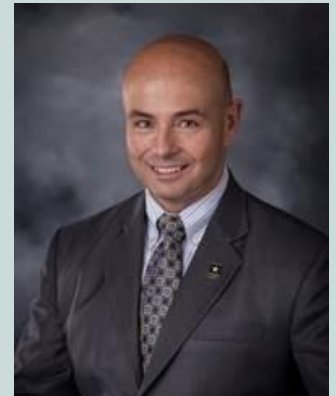
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Help Change Lives in this Season of Giving

This powerful time of year, this “Season of Giving” is an important time in the lives of our clients. At Mt. Carmel, the season is known as a time of generosity, opportunity, and positive outcomes, often backed by significant client effort and support from community partners. For weeks, we’ve been a strong partner to inspiring outcomes directly impacting military, veterans and their families. I’m happy to share a few here and in the pages ahead.



We were proud to help four veterans in need highlighted in our Success Stories! section. You will learn how Harold, a veteran of 22 years, overcame a series of staggering setbacks during his transition to civilian life. There is Apoorva, with a medical degree, who, with our help, went from unemployable to enjoying numerous job offers which she credits to the revitalization of her resume and completion of our Prep Connect 360 program. The Jimenez Family – Gisse and Angel were successful in finding shift work at the same time which allows them to commute together. They, too, are graduates of our Prep Connect 360 program. Probably, most dramatic of all is Daniel’s story. Daniel went from homelessness with all its attendant problems to full employment, housing, and health insurance obtained through the counseling and training guided by his Mt. Carmel peer navigator who referred to several of our partners like Ecumenical Social Ministries, Rocky Mountain Human Services, Springs Rescue Mission, El Paso County, and Colorado DHS. Read their complete stories in the Success Stories! section further on.

We were happy to brighten the holidays of military, veterans, families and widows through the donation and distribution of 1,200 turkeys and Thanksgiving baskets. We were also proud to be on the serving line at Fort Carson’s Wolf Dining Facility to personally serve the troops Thanksgiving dinner!

We’re blessed every day by dedicated volunteers who partner with our amazing staff to serve clients, and we’re incredibly grateful for meaningful support from friends and supporters throughout the community.

We’ve received impactful donations from veteran-owned small businesses. We have benefited from grassroots efforts that turned neighborhood get-togethers into Mt. Carmel benefit events. We’ve attended a combined high school/middle

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Greet and Connect
Shawna E. Dusharm

school concert that included a choir-led fundraiser for Mt. Carmel programs. To these partners, supporters and so many others, Thank-you! We simply cannot continue to be the Beacon of Support for Military, Veterans and Families without your assistance!

This year, we're also proud to be a featured organization in the regional IndyGive 2018! Campaign. In this Season of Giving, please consider Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center as part of your charitable activities. Learn more at indygive.com or veteranscenter.org.

Bob McLaughlin
COL, US Army Ret, COO

We Helped Over 1,200 Families Celebrate Thanksgiving!



Mt. Carmel provided 1,200 turkeys and 100 turkey baskets with trimmings during Operation TURKEYS FOR TROOPS. "Mt. Carmel is very proud to help make this important American holiday special for our military, veterans and families," said retired Army Col. Bob McLaughlin, Mt. Carmel Chief Operating Officer. "We're grateful for

the support of community partners and sponsors who made this effort successful, and we wish all military, veterans, their families, and our great Colorado Springs community a Happy Thanksgiving." Recipients of the holiday bounty were pre-identified through partnerships with local military installations, Guard and Reserve units, community organizations, and with input from Mt. Carmel case managers and peer navigators. "Our military families know this community cares, and it's a Herculean act of giving by Mt. Carmel that brings us together as a community. There are military members and families who will celebrate Thanksgiving because of this effort," said Army Maj. Darin Mitchell, Fort Carson Family Life Chaplain. A young Fort Carson Soldier agreed, "This definitely helps my family. We're a family of four, and this makes a big difference."

Beyond Thanksgiving, Mt. Carmel and its partners provide pizzas and soda year-round to returning soldiers at the Fort Carson Special Events Center regardless of troop arrival time. Mt. Carmel also partners with base chaplains and local organizations supporting military widows and wounded warriors to provide food assistance vouchers and more throughout the year. Please support our generous sponsors: Laurie Long, Phil Long Dealerships, Safeway of Denver & Colorado Springs, Security Service Federal Credit Union, Senior Benefit Resources, Tire World Auto Repair Tire Pros, The Church at Woodmoor, Used Car Dealers of Colorado, and Veterans United Home Loans of Colorado Springs.

Make a Difference Today!

At Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, we believe military heroes need a hand-up, not a handout. You can play an important role and have a direct impact on thousands of veterans in our community by donating to help provide vital services, programs, and resources. Donate today!

[Visit www.VeteransCenter.org to Donate](http://www.VeteransCenter.org)

We Support Resiliency!



Mt. Carmel proudly supported resiliency activities of 16 veterans, military, and family members during a full-day retreat on November 3 at Split Pine Ranch. Funded through a generous grant from Disabled Veterans National Foundation, the retreat offered a mix of equine therapy, art therapy, and trauma-focused yoga. Our Behavioral Health program offers individual, group, and couples' therapy, no-cost retreats, and nontraditional therapies. Services are confidential and open to veterans of all eras, regardless of discharge status.

Learn more: VeteransCenter.org, (719) 772-7000, kbelaire@mtcarmelcenter.org

We're Proud Members of the IndyGive Class of 2018!

Live Here? Give here! Mt. Carmel is honored to be part of IndyGive! Class of 2018! We're a featured nonprofit organization highlighted in the community's largest annual giving event, ongoing until Dec 31.

Mt. Carmel makes a difference and directly helps military, veterans, and their families.

Visit <https://indygive.com/nonprofit/mt-carmel-veterans-service-center/> to learn more and consider helping.



Success Stories

Meet Harold!

Mt. Carmel is proud to soldier on alongside Army Veteran Harold! While in uniform, he served as a forward observer to direct fire, led security missions, conducted detention operations, operated heavy vehicles, and led teams responsible for feeding troops. “I wanted to help our country. I wanted to lead. I did that for 22 years and served four tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places. I trained and led good people. I’ve lost soldiers in combat. And I’d do it all over again,” said Harold. In retirement, before Christmas 2017, Harold was laid off from work. Financial hardship forced separation from his family and relocation to Colorado Springs to find work. Bills went unpaid, a vehicle was repossessed, and he went through an eviction. In early October, Harold was referred to Mt. Carmel, where our Supportive Services team and partners (El Paso County VSO and Colorado VFW) helped with rent and resources. Next, we helped launch a look into his VA benefits with support of the El Paso County Veterans Service Office at Mt. Carmel. In less than a month, a tragic series of multiple administrative errors with life-impacting results were corrected and VA payments owed to Harold dating back to 2013 were paid in full. “I thank God every day. I’ve been struggling for five years. This is a blessing for my family,” said Harold. “I have a car now, and I can go to bed and know it’s not going to be repossessed. Bill collectors aren’t calling.” While life has changed significantly, some VA paperwork still requires correction and Harold plans to work with a Pikes Peak Workforce Center financial coach as he rebuilds his credit to buy a home. Today, the Army leader in him still looks to mentor. “For our younger veterans, I tell them, ‘When pursuing benefits they’ve earned, don’t give up the fight! It’s worth it.’ I tell all veterans to visit Mt. Carmel. This organization took care of me and I’m so thankful.”



Army Veteran Harold, right, with Mt. Carmel Chief Operating Officer, Retired Army Col. Bob McLaughlin.

Meet Apoorva!



Apoorva addresses Prep Connect 360 students to pay-it-forward after the effort helped her find employment.

We’re proud to celebrate Mt. Carmel client Apoorva! The military spouse was hired as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the neurology department of the largest academic health center in the region. She credits Mt. Carmel and its partners for much of her job search success. “Moving so many places and trying to find a job is hard,” said Apoorva. “It’s so nice to have people committed to helping military families succeed.” A practicing medical doctor, born and raised in India, Apoorva had nearly completed graduate school in the U.S. when the Army brought her family to Colorado. “I finished grad school and I was struggling with my job search,” she said. “My resumes were terrible and I wasn’t getting interviews.” She was referred to Mt. Carmel for help. “Your career team and Prep Connect 360 were amazing. I learned to share my experiences as success stories

and targeted resumes. I also learned that networking effectively means really putting yourself out there,” said Apoorva. Networking resulted in a powerful letter of recommendation to her new employer. “Before you helped me, I hadn’t received a single call for an interview. Now I’m called to interview for nearly every job I apply for,” she said. Apoorva recently shared her experience with veterans and military spouses beginning their transition to employment. “I was in the same class and remember someone had visited and inspired us with their success. It was affirmation that I was on the right path. I had faith that if I did what I was taught, it would work, and it did. It’s important to share with others so they also know, you’re in the right place, believe in yourself, and keep moving forward,” she said. A highly-skilled artist, Apoorva has also partnered with 25 artists in a new Colorado Springs co-op, “Eclectic Co.” Her art is featured there at “Hummingbirds & Horses.” We wish her all the best!

Meet Daniel!

Mt. Carmel salutes the resilience and accomplishments of Army Veteran Daniel! The former small arms and artillery repair soldier currently works full time at a local call center and recently landed a second position at a national retailer's local distribution center. After the Army, Daniel ran into hard times, experiencing homelessness and unemployment for months before finding Mt. Carmel. With help from his Mt. Carmel Peer Navigator, our supportive services team, and community partners, Daniel's situation quickly stabilized. Mt. Carmel provided immediate shelter, groceries, personal items and more, bringing in assistance from community partners including Ecumenical Social Ministries, Rocky Mountain Human Services, Springs Rescue Mission, and El Paso County, Colorado DHS. "Your staff welcomed me, made me feel at home, and truly helped with everything," said Daniel. The next focus was employment. With a resume-writing workshop from The Pikes Peak Workforce Center and job interview preparation from his Peer Navigator, Daniel quickly found work. "Today I'm employed. I have a home, food, health insurance, and more," said Daniel. "Other veterans should know Mt. Carmel is here and will help with finding a job, housing, or whatever you need. They are here for you. Today I'm motivated, I'm happy and so grateful to have a place of my own. I was truly astonished to find an organization like Mt. Carmel," said Daniel. "Now I have a sense of fulfillment. I'm happy to be moving forward." Daniel is also reflective on his success in the workforce. "Professionalism goes a long way. Honesty and integrity are huge. Maturity and hard work are critical. And a positive attitude, self-motivation and good time management skills are key," said Daniel. Mt. Carmel agrees. Congratulations, Daniel! We wish you the very best!



Shopping for a Meaningful Gift this Holiday Season?



Honor a loved one or show your support of a veteran friend or family member by purchasing a brick or paver, featured as part of our Veterans Tribute Walkway on the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center campus.

The proceeds are used to continue providing our essential veterans services. Bricks range from \$175 - \$200; Pavers from \$750 - \$850. They can even be personalized with military emblems.



To order your brick or paver,
or for additional information,
visit www.thatsmybrick.com/mtcvsc.

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[AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Simply choose **Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center** as the charity of your choice, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases to help veterans, military and their families. It's that easy!

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday season at [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com)!



(719) 985-9605

www.vanorumhometeam.com

**Free Pictures
with Santa!**

Shop for
holiday Gifts.

Mt. Carmel SANTA FEST

December 8, 2018

9am-3pm



530 Communication Cir.
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

www.veteranscenter.org

Presented By:  **CARDINAL**
FINANCIAL COMPANY | LIMITED PARTNERSHIP



Santa Fest - Dec 8 at Mt. Carmel - Family fun, photos with Santa, food trucks and Holiday Gifts/Vendors! **Visit our Facebook page to reserve your free tickets or call (719) 772-7000.**

Santa's Stockings 2018

Please join us for our 8th annual Santa's Stockings

We will gather together as a community to fill stockings to distribute to our in need neighbors. Each family, group, or individual will have the opportunity to gather supplies, work together to stuff the stockings, and then they will be able to personally distribute those stockings. It is very exciting that we have once again partnered with Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center so we can do what we can for our amazing veterans.

We have a New Addition this Year! We will be stuffing Stockings for local Animal Shelters to ensure our Furry Neighbors have an amazing Holiday as well!

Items we need:

- * Gloves * Hats * Water Bottles * Candy * Snacks * Combs * Toothpaste * Scarves *
- * Toothbrushes * Hygiene Items *
- * Bones * Small Food Bags * Toys * Food Dishes * Treats * Little Outfits *

Please call Amanda 719.337.8890 or Rebecca 719.244.7044 with questions or donation/sponsorship opportunities!!
Donation Drop off ~ Documart * 4020 Palmer Park Blvd. 80909



* December 16th * 9am - 12pm *

* Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center * 530 Communication Circle * 80905 *

Santa's Stockings is a movement to help our local Colorado Springs residents in need. Mt. Carmel is proud to partner with them for this event on December 16. Join us!

Can You Hear Us?



Visit <https://soundcloud.com/user-672943232/bob-mt-carmel-veterans-service-center> to listen to an inspiring "Our Town" interview with Retired Army Col. [Bob McLaughlin](#) on Mt. Carmel's impact on veterans, military and families.

Visit the links below to listen to our Veteran's Voice Podcasts hosted by Navy veteran and KRDO-AM/FM personality Mike Lewis and presented by USAA in partnership with Star Dental Institute Inc.

- **November 10** - <https://krdonewsradio.podbean.com/e/the-veteran%E2%80%99s-voice-with-mike-lewis-november-10-2018/>
- **November 24** - <https://krdonewsradio.podbean.com/e/the-veteran%E2%80%99s-voice-with-mike-lewis-november-24-2018/>





HELLO
my name is



Peer Navigator Social & Networking Event
Date: Dec 13
Time: 5 -7pm
Veterans, military & military spouses welcome!
Hors d'oeuvres, water & soft drinks provided.
Location:
Red Leg Brewing Company
4630 Forge Rd Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Upcoming Events

Santa Fest

8 December, 11 am - 3 pm
Mt. Carmel

Reserve your free tickets on our Facebook page or call (719) 772-7000.

Prep Connect 360

10 - 14 December

Pikes Peak Workforce Center

5-day advanced job seeker workshop for Veterans, Active Duty, Guard/Reserves and military spouses. Email prepconnect360@gmail.com to register.

Peer Navigator Social & Networking Event

13 December, 5 - 7 pm
Red Leg Brewing Company
4630 Forge Rd.

For transitioning military, veterans and military spouses. Informal event with light refreshments, water and soda provided.

Santa's Stockings 2018

16 December, 9 am - 12 pm
Mt. Carmel

Bring donations and/or help fill stockings for neighbors and animals in need.

Support Mt. Carmel and IndyGive!

18 December, 5 pm to close
Brass Brewing Co.
318 E. Colorado Ave.

Salute, Cheers, Give! Brass donates \$1 from all pint sales to be split among five non-profit organizations - including Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.

Brown Bag Bible Study

20 December, 1 - 2:30 pm
Mt. Carmel

Topic: Exploring the Spiritual Relationship, Hosted by Neutral Zone.

Hails and a Farewell



Welcome, David Burton **Operations Director**

Dave, a retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, was born and raised in Northwest Indiana. After graduating high school, Dave enlisted and served his nation for 25 years. Dave holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership. Dave is married to Shawna, the most tolerant woman in the world, and they have four children - Noah, Brody, and twins Masie and Sawyer. Dave lives to ride motorcycles and support veterans' causes.

Welcome, Lisa Buckman **Director of Partner Development**

Lisa is a retired Air Force Command Chief and medic with more than 27 years of honorable service. She is originally from Columbus, Ohio, and is a huge Ohio State Buckeyes fan. Her last four years of service were spent in the Colorado Springs area between the Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force Base. She is married to Larry, a retired Air Force Master Sergeant, and they have three young adult children, the youngest currently a sophomore at Arizona State University. Lisa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Education and an MBA in Human Resource Management. In her spare time, she loves to read, ski, hike, and is an avid weight lifter. She is honored to continue serving veterans, service members, and their families from all branches of the military along the front range.



In Memory of Our Friend, Tamra

The Mt. Carmel family is saddened by the passing of our friend, Mt. Carmel volunteer and Air Force Veteran Tamra Johnson who succumbed to her long battle with breast cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this difficult time.

Are you following us?

Please follow us on social media and our website at www.veteranscenter.org. Your likes, comments and shares are a welcomed part of the Mt. Carmel conversation. Follow us on the following platforms:

