



Tri-County Veterans Support Network

“...when men like Tim Taylor take a stand, I want to be where he is because his heart is with our veterans...as a matter of fact, a part of my government shut down pay that I was going to donate to charity, I’m going to give to this organization because I believe in Tim.” - U.S. Senator Tim Scott

“The work of Tim Taylor and the Tri-County Veterans Support Network is so vital to our veterans. I appreciate what they are doing and commend Tim for it. I’m proud to be a part of it because it provides effective service to our veterans and their families, who need tremendous help.” – Maj Gen Charles Baldwin, USAF (ret)

Tri-County Veterans Support Network
1004 Jefferson Ave – Extension, Bldg 716
Naval Weapons Station
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Mailing address:
PO Box 1884
Charleston, SC 29402

Telephone: (843) 276-2840
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For over a decade the United States has been embroiled in a global conflict. Many valiant men and woman have voluntarily put themselves in harm's way in defense of our nation. As their term of service comes to an end, they face the challenge of transitioning home. While many veterans and their families make that transition into their new lives very successfully, becoming productive members of their communities, there are still many others who for a myriad of reasons, find the challenge a minefield full of insurmountable obstacles, each leading to an endless path of destruction.

Tri-County Veterans Support Network is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Charity committed to effective advocacy and holistic service to our veterans and families. Through the opening and managing a **Veterans Support Center** in a collaborative effort with other concerned community organizations, we are focused on innovative and proactive outreach methods, to reach veterans who, for whatever reason, have fallen through the cracks and help them to find stability in the midst of their crisis. Alarming current statistics on veteran's challenges reveal the following:

- More veterans have **committed suicide** than were killed in action in our two most recent major conflicts!
- We lose 22 warriors a day – EVERY 80 MINUTES to suicide with no end in sight.
- Up to 40% of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- There are approximately 800,000 to 1 million unemployed veterans at present.
- There are 12 million underemployed veterans, forced to work multiple part-time jobs in order to make ends meet.
- On any given night there are over 100,000 homeless veterans.
- There is an alarming increase in female homeless veterans that includes single mothers.

Veterans are the very best of us – disciplined and self-reliant. Many veterans are prone to isolation either as a result of frustration in their attempt to find real help or mistrust due to a systemic breakdown of a government bureaucracy which is inundated and overwhelmed and struggles to keep pace with the needs of our veterans and to provide them with holistic service. While many veterans wait up to 18 months for their benefits, many fall into substance abuse in an attempt to manage the pain they experience from the traumas of war. This can lead to addictions and a path of destruction that devastates them and their families, leaving them to deal with the aftermath of jail and/or suicide which are highly possible outcomes. **It is a shocking national tragedy that EVERY 80 minutes, a veteran commits suicide in this country!**

There are many difficulties our veterans face in their transition home. A major challenge is overcoming the loss of identity and direction after leaving the military. Exiting the military triggers an extremely stressful and life changing pivotal moment of introspective evaluation and reinvention to find a sense of value and life purpose. How they resolve this can have a tremendous impact on their future. Many are ill prepared for reintegration into their community upon their return. In a word, **stability** for a veteran in crisis is our objective, which may come in many different forms given the wide array of difficulties veterans and their families face. Many are left deficient in coping with their difficulties and as they deal with the traumas of war. This added stress compounds their problems which can be extremely daunting and leave them feeling completely overwhelmed and without hope, causing any number of reactions ranging from depression and isolation to rage and suicide.

Communities are, for the most part, left to fend for themselves as the military does not notify the community that the soldier is returning home, who often feel unprepared for their transition home. Consequently, communities are left using their valuable resources in reactionary measures, picking up the pieces rather than proactively acclimating the veteran to their community and welcoming them as a new asset to their area.

In a recent account from a local mayor, he relayed how he regrettably had to let one police officer go, who was also a veteran, for being overly aggressive because he unloaded his weapon into an oncoming car because he felt threatened and was taking defensive measures. The mayor also had to comfort the widow of another officer who took his own life while on duty because he was unable to cope with his circumstances.

Tri-County Veterans Support Network serves as a community "clearinghouse", a hub or liaison to comprehensive supportive services for our veterans. Through the upcoming opening of a **Veterans Support Center**, we will be the crossroads where a grateful community and our veterans can meet. We serve them by proactively finding

them in the community and after gaining a full understanding of their needs, help them to create an action plan, give them practical tools to implement their plan and plug them in to the appropriate local, state and national resources to turn that plan into a reality.



We accomplish this through collaborating with every veterans' service organization imaginable and through that network, offering services to our veterans focused in five main areas: health and wellness, basic needs assistance, education and vocational training, employment and business development. Our ultimate goal is to have a duplicable model for both metropolitan and rural areas, to give comprehensive support to our veterans that can be transplanted and grow into serving communities across the country. In short, our aim is to empower and equip veterans to achieve their new goals.

Our curriculum utilizes a powerful assessment tool which reveals an individual's innate passions, strengths and natural gifts that when applied result in an action plan for their life and a comprehensive support network to help them realize their plan. Using the old adage of teaching a man to fish rather than giving him fish and he can fish for the rest of his life, our aim is to empower and equip veterans to achieve their new goals.

In addition, by implementing strategic preventative measures, we can turn the tide of these massive waves of devastating statistics and create a healthy restoration for our veterans. For example, we have discovered that there is no tracking mechanism that follows the veteran from his/her last posting within the Military back to their community. This leaves the community unprepared to receive their local daughters and sons home properly. We have proposed legislation that allows a redacted copy of the veterans exiting order to be filtered down to local community leaders, who can then form their own welcoming plan to reach out proactively to the veteran and connect them to resources before he or she disappears or isolates and goes down a path of destruction leading to substance abuse, homelessness, jail or suicide. We continue to encourage the implementation of this policy change.

Mission Statement

The Tri-County Veteran Support Network is a collaborative community response of organizations across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties dedicated to create stability in all aspects of the lives of the Veterans and families we serve. As a grateful community, we owe them no less. 5 Areas of Focus:

- Health and wellness
- Basic needs assistance
- Education and vocational training
- Employment
- Continued Support

Vision Statement

To find creative solutions that are duplicable and can be applied in any community, to bring a positive and uplifting source of strength that lifts our veterans out of their difficult circumstances and powerfully impacts and empowers them so as to bring stability into their lives so that they can in turn be a source of strength to the community around them.

This is accomplished through a 4 Step Plan:

Connect – Find, assess and link veterans to our network of resources to create and implement an action plan

Educate – Empower veterans with practical information, instruction and tools to overcome the obstacles they are facing to finding stability in the midst of their crisis and inform them of the services and opportunities available to them

Advocate – Find and facilitate strategic policy changes to create better and more efficient service as well as hold all parties accountable in their performance of service to ensure veterans receive the *comprehensive support* they need and have earned

Collaborate - Work with partners at all levels to facilitate comprehensive veteran care and support

Our Program is comprised of 4 main parts:

1. Outreach - The Tri-County Veteran Support Network is committed to seeking out and identifying veterans and families in our Tri-County community in a massive and consistent outreach campaign called OPERATION LOWCOUNTRY WARRIOR CONNECTION. With the help of members of the Tri-County Veterans Support Network and volunteers from the community, we strategically canvas the Tri-County Area monthly to find veterans and families in crisis. After identifying them we work to help them attain stability through:

2. Assessment - We have a powerful battery of assessments conducted by our Licensed Clinical Social Worker that help the individual come up with a specific plan for their situation.

3. Implementation - We plug them in to the various relevant resources and give them practical tools to educate and empower the veteran and their family to overcome their crisis, reach a place of stability and enhance their quality of life by going beyond stability into a place of thriving in the new chapter of their lives.

4. Accountability and Advocacy - We believe in the principle of leaving no veteran behind. We walk it out with our veterans and family, advocating for them and holding both the agency providing the service and the veteran and / or family accountable for their part in implementing the agreed upon plan. We continue service until they have reached the desired outcome of stability and successfully achieved their desired goal.

We believe that our veterans need a holistic approach to the services and treatments they require as they navigate the myriad of obstacles they face while transitioning home. Our mission puts a tremendous focus on Outreach and Engagement. Through our proactive outreach measures, we identify and connect with veterans and after assessing their needs, connect them with the relevant services they need, mostly from the member agencies of the network.

Our program also has a strong focus on Economic Empowerment. We utilize a powerful battery of very personalized assessments resulting in a summary which triangulates the confluence of the three sides of an individual's mind. This process explains the individuals personal Passions, Cognitive Strengths and Conative Instincts. This is given in tandem with our curriculum in a series of workshops or conferences, whereby the veteran or family member is given tools to adapt and overcome their circumstances and formulate a plan for the next chapter in their life. We also have a 2nd conference that will provide job seekers, job changers and people in career transition with powerful tools to enhance their search for job and career fulfillment. In addition to introducing world-class practices in Managing Change, Taking Stock, Job Searching (Networking), Resume Preparation and Interviewing, participants will receive personal encouragement, networking opportunities and expert advice from HR specialists as well as successful businessmen in the community. Simultaneously tools are given to those who are more entrepreneurially inclined, helping them with the practical applications of starting their own businesses. We will also have college and vocational schools as well as representatives of various certification programs on hand to work with those who would like to get more education.

Tri-County Veterans Support Network – A True Community Stimulus Package

As veterans and their families become more stable, they become more of an asset to their community. With an economy in decline, our mission in effect acts as a stimulus to our veterans and the local economy!

The statistics most commonly used come from the Veterans Administration which often fall short of the actual numbers of veterans in a given area because they can only report statistics on veterans that have plugged into them. As a result we rarely have accurate numbers of veterans in the community since it is quite common for veterans not to plug into services. Consequently, when they are in need they naturally turn to any local or state service they can find and often become a drain on that organization's resources. Through our diligent focus on outreach, we identify a veteran in need and as we plug them in, we in effect create a lateral transfer of funds from the drain on local and state resources to the Federal benefits they are actually eligible for. This begins the process of turning that veteran from being a drain on our community to an asset and the more stable they become the greater the asset they are to their local community.

For example, US Army veteran Joe Smith is interested in pursuing a certification or degree to help improve his life. Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Joe would be eligible for 36 months of paid tuition as well as a monthly housing allowance, which in Charleston County is \$1178.00.

This means for every 100 veterans we help get enrolled in our area:

Tuition (average \$21,000 per year)	\$2,100,000.00
Housing Allowance (average \$14,136)	<u>+1,413,600.00</u>
	\$3,513,600.00 per year infused into the local economy

For every 100 veterans we help find a job averaging 30,000 per year they will pay approximately:

\$2550.00 ea = \$255,000.00 Per Year in Sales Tax

For every 100 veterans who we have helped find stability that buy a house at an average of \$150,000 per year, they will pay approximately:

\$600.00 ea = \$ 60,000.00 Per Year in Property Tax

SC State reports an expense of \$7273.00 per suicide attempt which is 5 citizens per day! While it is hard to quantify attempts averted through our intervention, if we are able to save 25 veterans from attempting suicide per year:

\$7273.00 ea = \$ 181,825.00 Per year in savings

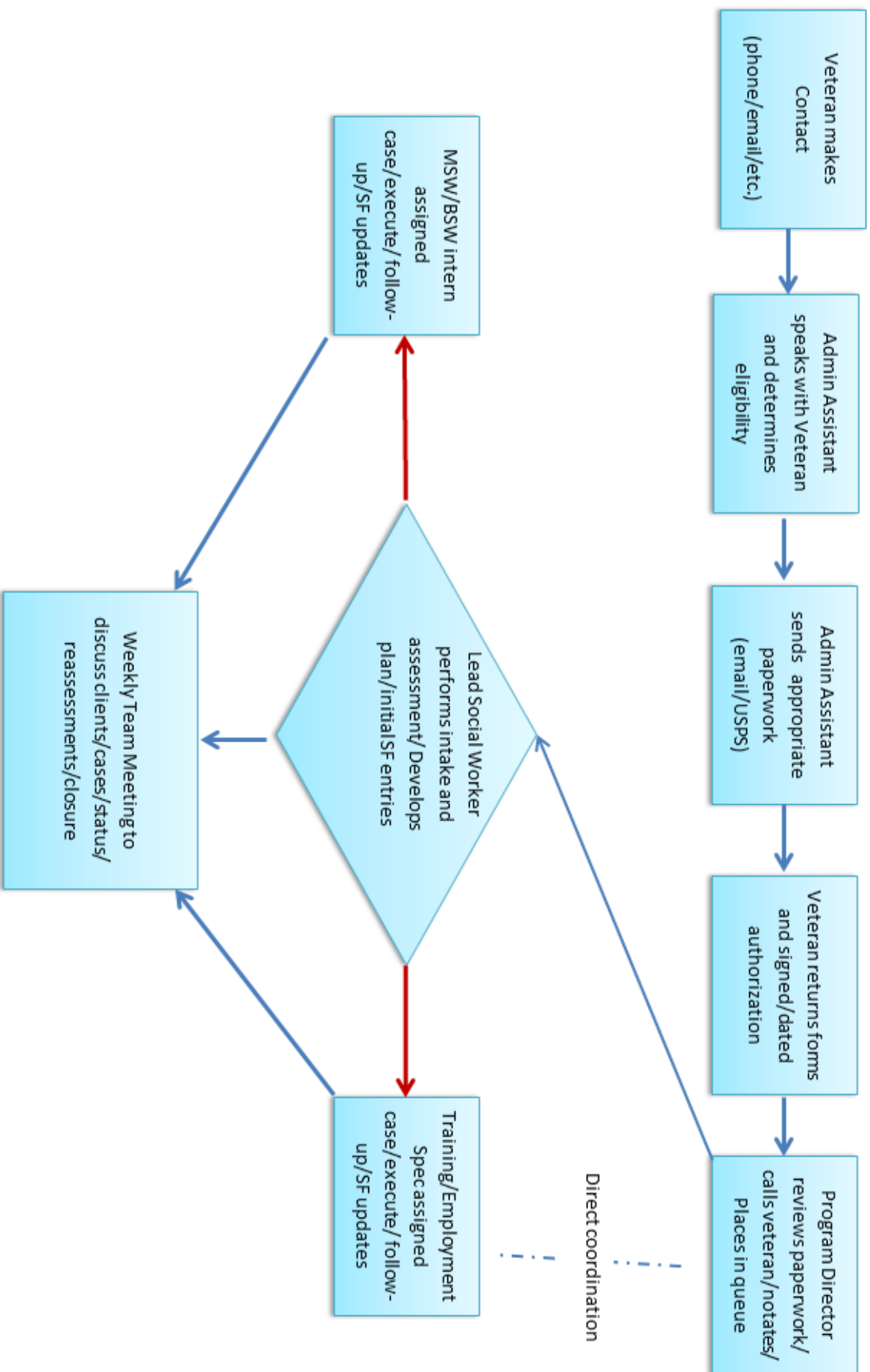
The final analysis shows it is clear that our mission pays for itself and is a tremendous financial benefit to our community!

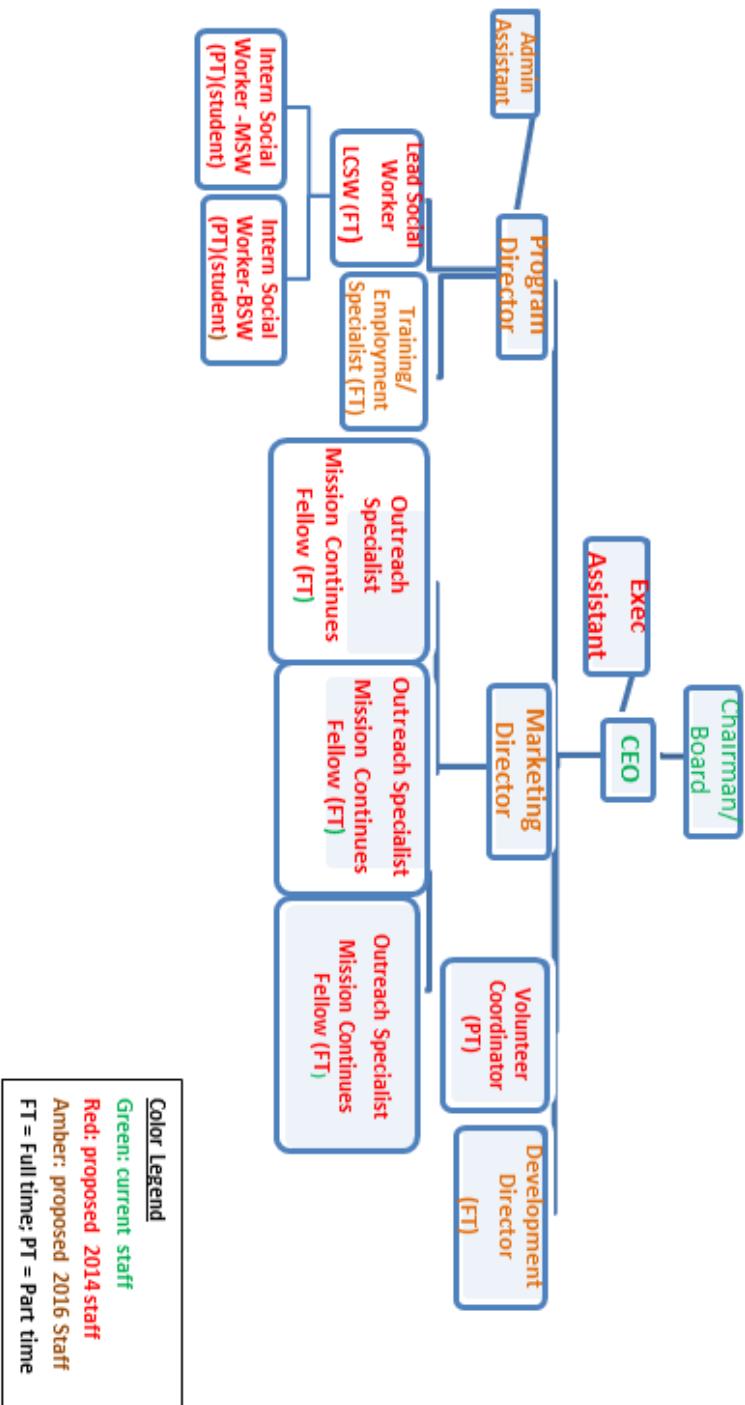
Our progress thus far

We have approached this tremendous challenge from a free market perspective, always seeking innovative approaches, to find impactful solutions. Our work thus far has yielded the following:

- Recognizing that outreach is the VA's biggest problem and our top strength, we have been invited to collaborate with Charleston area VA in their outreach initiatives.
- Tasked by the VA, we have recently created a comprehensive Veterans Support Network Resource Directory comprised of over 130 Veteran Support Agencies in the Charleston Tri-County Area.
- In partnership with the American Red Cross, we have formed a collaborative veteran's community networking roundtable, currently comprised of 53 Veteran Service agencies, chaired by our board member, Major General Charles Baldwin, USAF (ret). This creates greater networking and more effective comprehensive service for our veterans right here, right now.
- We have proposed new legislation which when enacted will reduce the incidence of suicide, homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, addiction and crime rates among veterans.
- We have been approached by a major national veteran's organization to take our curriculum to venues across the country where they serve veterans.

Tri-County Veteran Support Network : Veteran/Client Operational Flow Chart





Conclusion

After laying their lives on the line in defense of our freedom, our veterans have not only earned our respect but also our enduring gratitude and thanks. To the Tri-County Veteran Support Network, thanks is more than just words; it is dedication to serving our veterans with excellence in their time of need, just as they served our country. We believe we will fulfill our mission with the proper appeal to so many Americans who have proven time and again to be a kind and generous people and grateful to those who have willingly risked their lives to protect our cherished liberties. We will continue to work creatively to see that every veteran who desires help and seeks it receives it. Our goal is their stability and in time, as our veterans find restoration, hope and a sense of purpose for their lives and as they take leadership roles in their communities, we will see greater stability and restoration of the very foundations of our communities. We will need the backing and the resources of the business community to accomplish this. Be assured that your generous financial support will be life-changing and will make the difference in turning the tide in this national battle for the lives and well-being of our veterans and their families in their hour of dire need. After all, our veterans deserve no less than our best.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to Augusta Warrior Project, Charlotte Bridge Home and Upstate Warrior Solution for their guidance and wisdom and for blazing the trail for many years in this field of serving our veterans here in South Carolina and in neighboring states.

Tri -County Veteran's Network News

Serving Veterans
In Charleston, Berkeley
and Dorchester
Counties



Volume 1, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

19—21 September

Lt Dan Weekend
To see the full schedule
www.ltdanweekend.com

25 September 6pm

Tri County Veteran Support
Network Meeting - VA

24—25 October

Operation LowCountry
Warrior Connection
Training & Outreach

31 October

Stand Down For Homeless
Armory Park—N. Charleston

8 November 8:00am

Tri Co Vet Support Network
Veterans Day 5K—James Island

8 November 10:00am

Veterans Day Parade— pg 2
Www.charleston.va.gov

20 November 6pm

Tri County Veteran Support
Network Meeting—VA

**please contact Audra Harmon—
audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil to add
events to our calendar*

Welcome to the Network

Our Mission Statement

Tri-County Veteran Support Network is a collaborative community response of organizations across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties to create stability in the lives of Veterans and Families we serve.

Veterans Day Weekend Event

To Honor & Celebrate our Veterans and Families

Saturday, November 8, 2014

8:00 am—2:30 pm

- 5K & 1 Mile walk begins at 8am Veterans' Day Run to benefit Tri-County Veteran Support Network
- Even if you don't run please join us for the party from 9:30—2:30pm
- Tribute to Veterans
- Family Fun Event
- Jump Castles, Face Painting
- Live Music
- Veterans Expo



James Island County Park

Wappoo Shelter

871 Riverland Drive Charleston, SC 29412

For more information

www.lowcountrywarriorconnection.org

843-276-2840



Strategies Committee Update

Updates from our last meeting—

As we know not everyone can make any meeting, Thank you to those who were able to attend. Highlights included:

- The Mission statement developed by the strategies committee was voted in and accepted by those present.
- Thank you to our Speakers, CATR, Vets On Deck and Healing Waters
- We are starting to meet as Focus groups as soon as formed.

Please Join One of our Sub Committees to serve our Veterans

Select your top three (3) preferences for a sub-committee focused on serving our Veterans

☐ Education

☐ Homelessness

☐ Employment

☐ Marketing & Development

☐ Financial Crisis Management

☐ Peer Support: Senior Veterans

☐ Events

☐ Peer Support: Post 9/11 Veterans

☐ Health & Wellness

☐ Spiritual Support

We hope you will find the sub-committee focus groups to be helpful in connecting with other like-minded organizations and representatives. Please indicate your top three sub-committee preferences and submit them as soon as possible to Tim Taylor or Jordan Hardy.

If you are interested in taking a leadership role in one of the focus groups, please contact

Jordon Hardy (jhardy@fsics.org) or Capri Griffith (cgriffith@one80place.org).

Thank you for all that you do in service to our Veterans and their Families.

- Continuing work to promote Tri County Veteran Support Network in our communities.



*Apps for your
Smart phone*

*One Bridge
Friends of Joint Base
Charleston*

This app features contact numbers, messages, resources, info on workshops and link to TriCoVet Network

American Red Cross Apps

These apps are FREE and provide local information on the what to do and where to go in an emergency

First Aid
Tornado
Hurricane
Earthquake
Shelters
Flood
Wildfire
Swim
Team Red Cross

MilitaryOneSource

Does your organization have an app? Let us know!

Chaplain's Corner—Submitted by Maj Daniel Thompson—Chaplain USAF, Joint Air Base

SUBJECT: "Rejection" AUTHOR: Ch, Maj Hundley, Deputy Joint Base Chaplain

Rejection is in the Eye of the Beholder

A young salesman became discouraged because he had been rejected by so many customers he approached. He asked a more experienced salesman for some advice.

"Why is it that every time I make a call on someone I get rejected?"

"I just don't understand that," answered the older salesman. "I've been hit on the head, called dirty names, and thrown out the door, but I've never been rejected."

Rejection isn't what happens to us but how we interpret what happens to us. I like how Henry Rollins puts it, "We all learn lessons in life. Some stick, some don't. I have always learned more from rejection and failure than from acceptance and success."



This Month's Featured Agency

Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding—Veterans Programs

I had the opportunity to go out and visit the CATR Farm and Brenda Lewis—it is a beautiful opportunity for Veterans

CATR has developed a Veterans Program that is seeking to offer an alternative rehabilitation. Far from the chaos of a war zone or the commotion that can be a VA Hospital, Veterans participate in a non-traditional therapy program that focuses on the close bond between a horse and rider, while learning new skills.

CATR serves veterans with a wide array of disabilities. They seek to expand their population of veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury. These veterans are known to withdraw socially and tend to isolate themselves. It has been taught that these actions can be cause for concern of suicide. Through consistent equine therapy activities, a veteran is able to build confidence and skills that can translate into day-to-day life.

Each student, along with their instructor, identifies their own goals for the program. This activity is a progressive activity; in other words, we do not just throw a student on a horse and say have at it. Time is spent learning about the horse, the tack used, feeding and grooming requirements, and overall basic horsemanship. A horse and student are matched based on needs, and they are a team until end of session. Several of the participants, including a double leg amputee, experience the thrill of being atop a horse. The freedom and physical movement that is allowed through this activity are otherwise not experienced anymore for a veteran isolated to a wheelchair.

Participating veterans, their children, therapists and family members have all given positive feedback about the CATR experience. This is one of very few outdoor recreational therapies available in the area that is physically beneficial, teaches new skills and builds confidence.



For more information



Organization Name: Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (CATR)

Contact: Brenda Lewis

Address: 2669 Hamilton Road, Johns Island, SC 29455

Phone: 843-559-6060

Email: veterans@catr-program.org.



Website: www.catr-farms.org also on

Facebook: Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding

Purpose: CATR's mission is to improve the lives and children and adults with disabilities using therapeutic riding and equine related activities. CATR is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center and has been in operation for 22 years. They have been working with Veterans from the Charleston VA Medical Center as well as other groups. They have WWP scholarships available for Veterans who have served post 9/11/01.

2014 Veteran's Day Parade—Downtown Charleston

Saturday, November 8th 10:00am

The Veterans Day Parade is a very special event that gives the community an opportunity to recognize Americas Heroes—our Veterans

9:55am National Anthem

10:00am Fly Over—Parade Starts

For more info and parade registration—http://www.charleston.va.gov/Veterans_Day_Parade.asp

or call 843-789-7488 email Fred @ Edmund.lesinski@va.gov



Contact us

Jordan Hardy
843-735-5884
jhardy@fsisc.org

Tim Taylor
843-276-2840
tim@usvetcorps.org
Facebook.com/usvetcorps
LowcountryWarriorConnection.org



Tell us your stories, successes and let us help you promote the great things you do everyday to help Veterans and their Families in our community!

Please contact:

Audra Harmon

TCVSN Newsletter editor

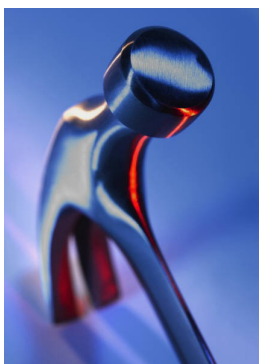
Audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil

803-429-9792

Impact

Since our last newsletter, a local Service Member sustained a non combat, life altering injury requiring his home to be modified for a wheel chair.

The Network got the call and in matter of 3 days was able to reach out and pull together people, organizations, tools and funding to get this project started.



Thank you

To all of you who were able to assist including Dell Webb Veterans Club Cathedral of Praise—North Charleston Veterans for Christ

Most importantly we were able to make a positive impact in the life of this Service Member and his family in a time of need. That is the basis of this organization. Knowing that when the need arises in our Veteran community we are there to answer the call.

The Ralph H. Johnson VAMC has been gracious enough to allow us to meet every other month in the main Auditorium. Please join us for our next meeting:

Thursday, September 25th 2014

6:00PM

An agenda will proceed the meeting via email.

We look forward to seeing you.

Operation LowCountry Warrior Connection

How do we find our Veterans? We go out and look for them!

Coming soon:

Training to help us get boots on the ground to find Veterans and discover what services are needed, missing, working or not working in our community.



MUSC Study Opportunity for Veterans

BRAVO—Better Resiliency Among, Veterans with Omega-3's

We are seeking Veterans who have experienced suicidal thinking or behaviors, or Veterans who feel they may be at risk.

For more information contact:

1-888-322-6884

BRAVO@MUSC.edu



<https://www.facebook.com/BRAVOStudy>

**this research study is funded in full by the Department of Defense

Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond it's normal limitations.

- Margaret Mead

It's quite a challenge when leaving the military



While in service you were an integral member of a highly skilled team...
Responsible for the lives of your soldiers



You were responsible for multi-million dollar equipment

Upon your return home you lose your identity. Its difficult to know where to turn for help in your transition.



There is a backlog of almost 800,000 veterans still waiting for benefits and a maze of dead ends and websites by organizations promising help.

What is alarming is that after heeding the call and sacrificing in defense of our nation our veterans are facing tremendous challenges:

- More veterans have **committed suicide** than killed in action in our two most recent major conflicts!
- We lose 18-22 warriors a day to suicide EVERY 80 MINUTES with no end in sight...
- 800,000 to 1 million unemployed veterans and 12 million underemployed veterans at present
- Even more shocking is that on any given night there are over 100,000 homeless veterans
- With an alarming increase in female veterans recently reported homeless.



Mission Statement

The Tri-County Veteran Support Network is a collaborative community response of organizations across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties dedicated to create stability in all aspects of the lives of the Veterans and families we serve.

As a grateful community, we owe them no less.

In a collaborative effort with other great non-profits and local community volunteers, the Tri-County Veterans Support Network is dedicated to helping Veterans dream a new dream and attain that dream once they return home.



Our goal is to help veterans find stability in their new life physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially.

Facilitating Support in Five Areas of Focus

1. Health and Wellness

A primary focus is helping our veterans deal with the unseen wounds of war by facilitating complimentary and confidential counseling to help a veteran and their loved ones find emotional and spiritual wholeness so they are able to move on with their lives and dream a new dream.



2. Basic Needs Assistance

Homelessness, Utilities, Basic Short Term Needs, and Food.

3. Education and Vocational Training

Whether it's help finding the right college or figuring out grants and scholarships and their GI Bill.



4. Employment

Helping with resume writing, interview skills, and help find a great job.

5. Continued Support

Whether it's Spiritual support or other peer support we're here to help you through the different challenges in the life of a veteran.



Tri-County Veterans Support Network

*A 501(c)(3) nonprofit network
of over 50 Veteran Service
Agencies in the Charleston
tri-county area dedicated to
proactively finding and helping
our Veterans and their families
in their time of crisis.*

There is much to do.

Your support is critical in helping us in
this vital mission.

Please lend us:

**Your time
Your talents
&
Your resources**

To join our efforts
or for more information:

Tim Taylor 843.276.2840

www.TriCountyVeteranSupportNetwork.org

Stay Connected and involved

Write to us at:

PO Box 1884
Charleston, SC 29402

After laying their lives on the line in
defense of our freedom, our veterans
have not only earned our respect and
thanks but also the support they need
as they transition home.

After identifying a veteran and
family in crisis we:

- Begin the work of assessing
their needs
- Compile an action plan for their
stability
- Connect them to the various
Veteran resources and
agencies necessary
- Follow up and hold all parties
accountable to ensure the
veteran and their family attains
stability and continue to support
them as needed.

Our veterans
deserve no less.

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1004 Jefferson Ave – Extension, Bldg 716
Naval Weapons Station
Goose Creek, SC 29445
843.276.2840

OPERATION LOWCOUNTRY WARRIOR CONNECTION

A Community Recon to seek out and find warriors and families in crisis in the Charleston Tri-County area.

Veterans are the very best of us – disciplined and self-reliant. Unfortunately there are many difficulties our veterans face in their transition home. Exiting the military triggers an extremely stressful and life changing pivotal moment of introspective evaluation and reinvention to find a sense of value and life purpose. How they resolve this can have a tremendous impact on their future. Many are ill prepared for reintegration into their community upon their return. In a word, stability for veterans and their families in crisis is our objective, which may come in many different forms given the wide array of difficulties veterans and their families face. Many are left deficient in coping with their difficulties as they deal with the traumas of war. This added stress compounds their problems which can be extremely daunting and leave them feeling completely overwhelmed and without hope, causing any number of reactions ranging from depression and isolation to rage and suicide. It is a shocking national tragedy that EVERY 80 minutes, a veteran commits suicide in this country!

Communities are, for the most part, left to fend for themselves as the military does not notify the community that the soldier is returning home, who often feel unprepared for their transition home. Consequently, communities are left using their valuable resources in reactionary measures, picking up the pieces rather than proactively acclimating the veteran to their community and welcoming them as a new asset to their area.

In a recent account from a local mayor, he relayed how he regrettably had to let one police officer go, who was also a veteran, for being overly aggressive because he unloaded his weapon into an oncoming car because he felt threatened and was taking defensive measures. The mayor also had to comfort the widow of another officer who took his own life while on duty because he was unable to cope with his circumstances.

The Tri-County Veteran Support Network is committed to seeking out and identifying veterans and families in our Tri-County community in a massive and consistent outreach campaign called OPERATION LOWCOUNTRY WARRIOR CONNECTION. With the help of members of the Tri-County Veterans Support Network and volunteers from the community, we strategically canvas the Tri-County Area monthly to find veterans and families in crisis. After identifying them our army of caseworkers:

- Begin the work of assessing their needs
- Compile an action plan for their stability
- Connect them to the various Veteran resources and agencies necessary
- Follow up and hold all parties accountable to ensure the veterans and their families attain stability and get what they need.

With your help we can impact those devastating statistics that plague our veterans and tangibly enhance the lives of many veterans and families here in the Tri-County area. In order to accomplish this we need your support. This takes a tremendous effort to facilitate and coordinate and we need your financial sponsorship and willing hands to help conduct this mission.

Please support our work and become a sponsor of OPERATION LOWCOUNTRY WARRIOR CONNECTION.

Tim Taylor
Co-Founder
Tri-County Veteran Support Network
843.276.2840

“The work of the Tri-County Veteran Support Network is so vital to our veterans. I appreciate what they are doing and commend them for it. I’m proud to be a part of it because it provides effective service to our veterans and their families, who need tremendous help.”
– Maj Gen Charles Baldwin, USAF (ret)