

Mt. Carmel Center Beacon



For Veterans

Jay Cimino
Founder &
Chairman of the Board

Gina Cimino
President

Robert McLaughlin COL(R)
Chief Operating Officer
Center of Excellence

Cindy McLaughlin
Program Director

David Shoup
Deputy Program Director

Jacque Bauer
Deputy Program Director

Randy Gradishar
Outreach Coordinator

Christina Chapman
Operations Coordinator

Peer Navigators
Aaron Kiewicz

Daniel Martinez

Jennifer Medved

Joy Jenkins



Mt. Carmel Center Welcomes Partners and Guests

On March 3rd, the Center of Excellence proudly showed off its reception area in a "thank you" party for its partners. Community supporters enjoyed a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres provided by Mission Catering, complemented by wine and beer furnished by the Antlers Hotel and Red Leg Brewery, respectively. Tours of the building revealed a number of partner offices, incubator spaces, and meeting rooms. The expected 200 guests quickly grew to nearly 350 supporters. Among the honored guests were Jay Cimino, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Gina Cimino, President, and Bob McLaughlin, Chief Operating Officer, all with COE. Partners: Bill Hybl from El Pomar Foundation; Charlie Whelan, Chief Executive Officer of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Phil Martinez, Director of the USO; Scott Arnold of Westmerica Insurance; and Sperry Redd of Pikes Peak Energy Network. The Mt. Carmel Center and all of our partners have been doing a great job of supporting military, veterans and their families since the March 3rd Open House. As we continue to build awareness of our Center, our partners and our services, we are off to a GREAT start!

Notable activities in March, April and early May

- **Welcomed over 200 veterans and family members into Mt. Carmel to receive direct support**
- **Hosted an additional 825+ visitors**
- **Completed two well attended yoga classes**
- **Conducted tours for The Better Business Bureau and the Volunteers of the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau**
- **Held two networking events at Red Leg Brewing Co with over 160 veterans and community partners in attendance**
- **Hosted Congressman Lamborn and Congressman Coffman as they conducted a Veteran round-table discussion**
- **Hosted a Veterans Spiritual Connections worship session with New Life Church**
- **Hosted 2 Prep-Connect 360 Classes on their final day of instruction**

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

The Voice of Our Clients

"It was during that transition time from military to civilian, that I needed a mentor and an outreach program to help me find work and the resources to get started in school. Thanks to Mr. Martinez and Mt. Carmel I was able to write a resume, rehearse for a job interview, and get the job." Mario

"Peer Navigator Daniel helped me with developing and fine tuning my resume, mock interviews, and assistance for uniforms which was critical to getting employed. Mt Carmel Center of Excellence has gone above and beyond my expectations as a veteran's assistance program." Derek

"While making the transition from military life to a civilian career, Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence was there to offer support. The dedicated staff know what it means to serve in the military. They care for veterans and are well equipped with the tools needed to offer meaningful assistance. Their networking events are entertaining and enjoyable yet serve a greater purpose by assisting veterans in connecting with employers. I highly recommend connecting with the people at the Mt. Carmel Center for Excellence and utilizing their services" Joe

"My Peer Navigator helped me re-frame my job search, encouraged me and kept in touch with me, and I quickly found suitable employment. Additionally, Mt. Carmel funded me taking a certification test which put me in line for better employment opportunities! All in all, I'm very grateful and impressed with the Peer Navigator program. They meet veterans right where they are, and look for ways to help, across the entire spectrum of needs." Kyle

Behind the Scenes - COE Staff

Bob McLaughlin, Chief Operating Officer - Bob served his nation for 29 years, first as a commissioned Second Lieutenant from the ROTC program at the University of Massachusetts to Chief of Staff, Headquarters US FORCES - Afghanistan. His local experience was as Garrison Commander of Fort Carson. Bob retired in 2014.

The foundation for Bob's civilian career really began when he was Garrison Commander at Ft. Carson on the occasion of his meeting with local philanthropist, Jay Cimino. Bob and Jay worked diligently together on the Pinon Canyon training site to build synergy between the local ranchers and farmers and the US Army. It was natural that Jay tap Bob to be the COO of Mt. Carmel when Bob retired from the military.

With his military background, deployments and dedication to aiding his fellow military, you would think Bob to be "Mr. Serious". The contrary is true. He is known for his off-beat sense of humor and timing. Many a serious moment has been lightened up by Bob calling out "Biscuits and Gravy" or singing Christmas carols in July.

Cindy McLaughlin, Program Director - When asked, the five McLaughlin children will tell you that Mom, Cindy, is the serious one in the family, not father, Bob. Yes, the McLaughlins are a team both at Mt. Carmel and at home. Cindy currently oversees the programs and grants and sees that the needs of our guests are met. Cindy will soon be transitioning from COE to Mt. Carmel of Colorado to oversee all communication, marketing and PR for both Centers and related entities. Cindy is equipped with a B.S. in Marketing and Advertising.

Cindy has had a varied career starting with assignments in Marketing and Advertising in Boston and New York City to numerous jobs supporting children, school districts and military families as an officer's wife in the military. Her philosophy is that as a manager, it is her duty to bring out the best in the people she works with, to help each other to be the best they can be, and to treat everyone as we would guests in our own home. When asked about her hobbies, she responded, "With five kids, a husband, a dog and a job? You must be kidding!"

Partner Corner - Discover Goodwill

As part of our mission to collaborate with community partners to better serve the needs of our veterans, military and their families, we have engaged in a wonderful partnership with Discover Goodwill. Two staff members, Adam Baker and Matt Glover, work from Mt. Carmel serving 20 veterans funded by a grant through the Colorado Department of Labor. This pilot program consists of job retention/follow-along services for their clients whose service to the nation has been from the Gulf War through current conflicts. Adam Baker, Discover Goodwill Retention Specialist, believes that "working from Mt. Carmel is great for my clients because in addition to the services offered through Discover Goodwill, veterans can take advantage of other services to include financial counseling, family and individual counseling and even benefits counseling through the El Paso County Veterans Service Office!

In addition to this Pilot Program, Discover Goodwill also serves veterans through their Diesel Technology Certification Program which educates and trains individuals in the valued skills of diesel mechanics. Certificates include; Diesel Lube Technician, Fleet Maintenance Technician and Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Additionally, Goodwill has a transitional employment program developed to address the barriers to employment and help prepare participants for successful work in an unsubsidized workplace, Re-Hire Colorado. This is a proven strategy for helping low-income workers gain on-the-job skills. If you know any veterans interested in these programs or any Discover Goodwill program, please have them call Miriam Yost at 719-381-9463.



On the Slopes with Ski Breck IV

"This weekend was absolutely amazing! Very inspirational and rewarding!" - Robert
"Excellent opportunity to step away from the business of life and reconnect with my spouse with quality time." - Karen

The quotes are an assessment of one couple who attended the fourth annual Ski Breck veteran couples retreat weekend in Breckenridge for the Returning Military Heroes hosted by the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence. After a session of "life coaching" and orientation to Breckenridge and the COE staff, the group was ready for this "couples" weekend. A tour of the COE facility was followed by a trip on the Grayline bus which took them to Breckenridge where they were treated to lunch, installed in a luxurious lodge and fitted with ski equipment. After dinner, the evening was spent at the lodge getting to know their fellow attendees, watching Gradishar football highlights and touring the model train replica of the City of Trinidad, CO housed in the lodge. There followed a day of skiing on the challenging Breckenridge slopes and exploring the quaint shops and restaurants of this charming resort. Dinner was followed by a group activity, promoting fellowship and reconnection. Sunday, after another quick run on the slopes and lunch, the bus collected couples for the return to Ft. Carson. Many thanks to our generous sponsors for this event: **Larry H. Miller Toyota; Toyota Dealer Match Program; KOAA 5 & 30; Phil Long Dealerships; and Disabled American Veterans.**



Golf Tournament at Sanctuary

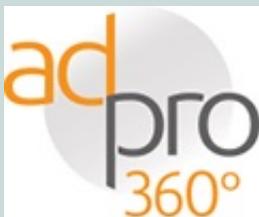


Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence will hold its 1st Benefit Golf Tournament at the exclusive Sanctuary Golf Course in Sedalia, Colorado, on August 10, 2016. Sanctuary has consistently been recognized as "one of the 150 best courses in the United States," *Golf Digest*. Sanctuary hosts approximately 25 charitable golf tournaments each year and Mt. Carmel COE was chosen as one of the nonprofits. Located 40 miles from Colorado Springs, the course is flanked by 40,000 acres of protected open space. "Sanctuary is simply the most coveted round of golf in Colorado. It might be the most exclusive private golf course in the world." *RockiesGolf.com David R. Holland, Senior Writer 2012*. An opportunity to play the Sanctuary is not to be missed!

The mission of Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, a local non-profit established in 2015, is to collaborate with community partners as a BEACON OF SUPPORT providing direct transition, wellness programs and services with special emphasis on veterans, the military and their families. Mt. Carmel helps veterans and their families achieve their goals from SERVICE THROUGH CAREER. The golf tournament benefits veterans and their families.

In addition to the 18 holes of golf, the event will include lunch and dinner, a silent auction, mulligans, and on course contests including a chance to win a hole-in-one car donated by the Phil Long Dealerships. Play is limited, so early enrollment is encouraged.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. For more information or to reserve your sponsorship contact Moyra Hower at Mhower@mtcarmelcenter.org or [Mt. Carmel Veterans](http://Mt.CarmelVeterans)



**Our Sincerest thanks to our many contributors and supporters.
Thank you for Helping Us Help Ours!**