

Mt. Carmel Center Beacon



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Celebrating our FIRST YEAR!

"For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know." - Anonymous - Republic of Vietnam

Our first year of full operations has proven to be a HUGE success, fundamentally changing the way that Military, Veterans and their Families receive support and services in the Pikes Peak Region. True to our mission statement - "to collaborate with community partners providing BEST PRACTICES in transition and wellness services for Veterans, Military and their Families by delivering expertise, resources and space"- our dedicated team partnered with over 30 community agencies to deliver critical programs, support and events to this deserving population. These partnerships are poised to not only continue this year, but also to grow in the coming months and years as the needs of our Veterans grow and change.

Of note, our critically acclaimed and award winning Veteran Integration Program (VIP) has significantly enhanced and streamlined the process of a service member's transition from military service to civilian employment. Through one-on-one mentoring and coaching, resume review, networking practice, and mock interview events, along with maintaining direct relationships with Veteran friendly employers, our VIP Team's indelible impact accomplished the following: enrolled 264 new Veterans, while placing 211 Veterans in training, education or employment; Peer Navigators participated in a total of 95 events impacting 2,513 Veterans.

Through a very successful partnership with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, and through the advocacy of our elected leaders, Mt. Carmel administers the Veterans Service to Career Pilot program, which has now been extended by the State Legislature through 2018. This program focuses on transitioned Veterans from any era, along with their eligible dependents and caregivers so that we can assist them in finding meaningful employment, through paid internships and transition classes. Since the start of this program in November, our Job Coach has enrolled 50 Veterans into this program, placed 14 in employment and has a wait list of 70. And, we have 13 active interns in the internship program!

Beyond our employment programs, we have had great success in the areas of Benefits and Resource Assistance as well as Behavioral Health and Wellness. With nearly 5,000 client visits overall and an additional 7,000 visits by community members through our education and outreach efforts, we have far exceeded our expectations for our first year! In the coming months, look for our Impact Summary which will highlight in greater detail the results of our first year!

While we are proud of what we have accomplished, we are even more excited as we look ahead into the new year with pending partnerships with organizations like Operation TBI Freedom and Greccio Housing. We remain committed to a collaboration of *best practices* in transition and wellness services for Veterans, Military, and their Families. Here's to another great year making a real difference in the lives of so many, who have given so much.

Staff

Col (R) Robert McLaughlin
COO

Col (R) Joel Hamilton
Director of Operations

Cindy McLaughlin
Communications Director

Cheryl Christie
Veterans & Family Programs
Director

Daniel Martinez
Director of Employment
and Transition

Angie Pickett
Operations Manager

Keisha Lancaster
Facility, Resource, Event
Coordinator

Kirsten Belaie
Mental Health Program
Manager

Leslie Abrams
Administrative Assistant

Randy Gradishar
Outreach Coordinator

Peer Navigators

Tony Hoobler
Nicole Holling

Generalist Navigator

Amber Hargrave

HB16-1267 Internship

Program

Paul Price
Workshop Facilitator
Chip Underwood
Job Coach

Christina Martinez
Intern Facilitator

Receptionist

Juanita Reedy
Hilary Bryant

Newsletter Publisher

Marilyn Twaites

The Voice of Our Clients

"Mt. Carmel helped me BIG TIME! If it wasn't for them, I'd be homeless right now. I would recommend everyone go to Mt. Carmel before they decide to just give up!" - Aaron

"We are raising our autistic son in a hotel and the stress was almost unbearable at times. We needed help! Amber (Generalist Peer Navigator) recognized the need and seemed to take on our case personally. She was very responsive and was easy to talk to about our situation. With all of our trials and tribulations in the past five months, Amber and Mt. Carmel have answered our family's prayers and for that we are humbled and grateful. We are thankful for the quick response from everyone on the team and we will tell everyone how amazing and helpful you all have been! Thank you from my family and God Bless!" - James

Program Updates

This month Mt. Carmel hosted several important community events geared to enhancing our ability to serve Veterans and their Families. The first two events brought community working groups to Mt. Carmel - Military Veteran and Spouse (MVS), Employment Coalition and the Colorado Integrated Support Network (CIMS) In collaboration with David Donahew and the El Paso County Veterans Service Offices we hosted local Veteran Service Organizations on March 7th to share information and to learn about what each private and public partnership had to offer the veteran community.

Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence also hosted our 2017 *Behavioral Health Collaborative* at the Penrose House on Feb 28/Mar 1, with the support of the Colorado Springs Health Foundation Grant. A number of community behavioral health partners, along with Mt. Carmel's Behavioral health team came together to participate in a two-day intensive planning session. The strategic emphasis was on clarifying the vision, mission, and goals regarding access to Behavioral Health services as well as to identify gaps in the community. This was a great a first step in our collective efforts to increase access to quality behavioral health options for our local Veterans and their Families.

Increased access is a true need demonstrated by our behavioral health activities. In recent months Mt. Carmel has been able to provide service to more of our military community's needs. We have increased our clientele by 100% in the first three months of 2017. We have an overall 93% client satisfaction rating. We are serving Veterans, Service Members and their Families. We have incorporated a trauma focused Yoga program to reduce anxiety, stress and PTS(D) symptoms. Depending on need, we are looking forward to broadening our counseling groups by adding a women's PTS(D) group, divorce recovery group and a "Letting the Anger Go" group. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in attending these groups, please contact Mt. Carmel at 719-309-4714.

Opportunity for EMPLOYERS

Partner with Mt. Carmel to hire a Veteran Intern!

Based on the huge success of the paid internship program under the Service to Sales Pilot Program (House Bill 16-1267), we are in need of employers willing to take on interns. This is a great opportunity for an employer to give back and take a chance on a qualified Veteran or family member as an employee. These personnel come with a variety of experiences and an abundance of dedication that can be appreciated by any organization. They just need the opportunity to prove themselves. If you are willing to provide this platform, please contact Christina Martinez at 719-309-7424 or Christina Martinez.

Mt. Carmel's New Employees

We would like to welcome our newest Peer Navigator. Mrs. Nicole Holling has recently arrived to the Colorado Springs area. She and her husband have been assigned to the United States Air Force Academy. Nicole originally hails from Ohio. Her passion to help Veterans and their Families stem from her experience as both an Air Force Veteran and a spouse. Her dedication and experience as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will be a true asset to the team and the patrons of Mt. Carmel.

Mr. Paul Price has assumed responsibilities as the PrepConnect 360 facilitator under House Bill 16-1267. Paul retired from the Air Force as a Colonel after serving 25 years. After a stint in the corporate sector, Paul realized that his true desire is to assist Veterans. Along with facilitating the 5-day career transition workshop, he also volunteers at the Air Force Academy Equestrian Center supporting the Warrior Wellness Equine Therapy Program.

Join us as we congratulate Daniel F. Martinez. He will now be assuming responsibilities as the new Director of Employment and Transition for Mt. Carmel. It is always great to see personnel grow from within the organization, especially those like Daniel who are so passionate about what they do. Daniel has proven himself as a Peer Navigator for the last two years assisting Veterans in transition and growing with Mt. Carmel.



Golf Tournament at Sanctuary



Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence will hold its 2nd Benefit Golf Tournament at the exclusive Sanctuary Gold Course in Sedalia, Colorado, on August 16, 2017. Sanctuary has consistently been recognized as "one of the 150 best coursed in the United States," *Golf Digest*. Sanctuary hosts approximately 25 charitable golf tournaments each year and Mt. Carmel Was chosen as one of the non-profits. 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!

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 donation 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 Nick Palarino at npalarino@mtcarmelcenter.org.



Thank you to our Sponsors





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