

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center One-Stop



For Veterans & Military

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3rd Annual Golf Tournament a Huge Success!

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center hosted its 3rd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at the exclusive Sanctuary Golf Course in Salida on August 16th. What a perfect day for the golf tournament! We had over 100 golfers enjoy an incredible day of golf, team building and golf ball hunting, all followed by a delicious dinner and silent auction! Many thanks to our sponsors and golfers as we exceeded our financial goals and could not have accomplished this without their support. The event netted \$113,224! These funds assist us in providing and maintaining **five critical program areas for our Veterans:**

Employment & Transition Services: Veterans Integration Program, Veterans Service to Career Program, Service to Sales Training Program

Behavioral Health Counseling and Wellness Programs: Low to no cost Behavioral Counseling, Support Groups, PTSD, Veterans X, PTSD Family Support

Supportive Service Case Management and Resource Management Navigation: Individualized Support and Case Management

Partner Programs Under One Roof: Career & Employment, Veterans Benefits, Financial Counseling & Support, Housing Assistance, Educational Assistance and Legal Assistance

Community Synergy and Collaboration: Building Partnerships in the Pikes Peak Region to identify gaps in service. Community Outreach, a Community Center, Health Fairs, Meetings and Job Fairs

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center is capitalizing on the strength of our community and the passion of our residents to support our troops, whether serving in our military today or in past eras. We value those who have served our nation and seek to create a culturally competent environment within Mt. Carmel where they feel welcomed and supported. Colorado Springs is home to dozens of organizations and government agencies



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

Staff

Col (R) Robert McLaughlin
COO

Cheryl Christie
Director of Veteran &
Family Programs

Nick Palarino
Director of Partner Development

Daniel Martinez
Director of Employment & Transition

Melodie Owens
Development Director

Keisha Lancaster
Facilities, Resource &
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Kirsten Belaire
Mental Health Program Manager

Leslie Abrams
Administrative Assistant

Randy Gradishar
Outreach Coordinator

Hilary Bryant
Volunteer Program Coordinator

Amber Hargrave
Supportive Services Program Manager

Katie Travis
Resource Navigator

Peer Navigators

Nicole Holling

Adam Baker

Paul Arends

HB 16-1276 Internship Program

Paul Price
Workshop Facilitator

Chip Underwood
Job Coach

Christina Martinez
Intern Facilitator

Greet and Connect

Juanita Reedy

doing phenomenal work to support our Heroes. We simply bring the best of those agencies together under one roof to ease the burden of receiving support for our clients. Where necessary, we have also defined innovative programming to fill gaps that exist in our community. We were honored to have Laurie Long, Phil Long's daughter, assist us with the sponsorship, planning, logistics and mulligan sales for the tournament. Laurie's commitment to helping Veterans in our community is unparalleled!



Randy Gradishar and Wonderful Volunteers

Please consider joining and supporting Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center with our fundraising efforts for the August 2018 tournament. We are planning an event even more spectacular at the Sanctuary as we honor Mr. Phil Long's 100th birthday. Your sponsorship and donations allow us to continue to make an impact on the daily lives of our Veterans, Military and Their Families. **Please contact Melodie Owens, Director of**

Development, at (719) 309-4771 for sponsorship and golfing information.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF VETERANS, MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES!

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**For all who supported the golf
tournament and those who
provide support in other
ways...THANK YOU!**

El Paso County Veterans Service Office just
announced that the number of Veterans in El Paso
County has increased to **98,000!**

500-600 Soldiers are transitioning each month from
our local Colorado Springs military installations

———— Mt. Carmel's Impact ————

2,232 Individual Clients Served Since 2016 Opening

567 Total Job Placements

\$27.32 Average Hourly Wage

69 Active Volunteers

6,203 Volunteer Hours

7,485 Veterans Impacted Since 2016 Opening

Words from Our Clients

"The staff at Mt. Carmel has made such a positive impact in my life. They have given me great hope, providing needed resources to help me move forward in my life. I will be forever grateful for this organization. Thank you all so very much." - M.B.

"Mr. David is nice and helpful. He made all of my documents superfast. He didn't hesitate to help me even when I couldn't find my appointment." - T.B.

"Every service that I have used at Mt. Carmel has had a positive impact on my transition from military to civilian life. I would and have recommended Mt. Carmel to past or present military members in need of assistance." - L.M.

"As soon as we walked in, the person behind the desk asked, "How can we help you," instead of waiting for us to approach the desk. We prefer not to holler our business across the room. We've experienced this at other places and find it inappropriate. We met with Liz Foster, the financial counselor. Liz helped us put our finances into perspective and gave us great ideas for tracking certain expenses. She also helped us think of different scenario outcomes regarding our two properties. She has great customer service and really listened to us. Regarding your recent food drive, we participated and it really helped us a great deal. Thank you for that and for offering your one-stop resources and services." - J.W.

Meet our New Staff Member



Paul Arends Career & Transition – Peer Navigator

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center would like to introduce our newest Peer Navigator, Paul M. Arends, retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class. Paul is originally from Northern California. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the Army as an Aircraft Structural Repairer. After 24 years and 19 days of service, he retired out of Fort Carson and has settled in Colorado Springs. Paul is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration and intends to keep his focus on the Veteran community. When he is not volunteering with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), he can be found on the road every morning getting his miles in.



We would also like to wish Christina Martinez a safe journey as she fulfills her Air Force Reserve commitment with an upcoming deployment. Janet Farley will be filling the role and continuing with managing the internship program in Christina's absence.

The Employment & Transition Team has been hard at work with community engagements and continuing to help Veterans and their Family Members gain meaningful employment. The Colorado Veterans' Service to Career Pilot Program is continuing to gain steam. The success has earned an extension of the program, and we are working hard to ensure this becomes a permanent fixture in the Colorado Veteran Community!

3rd Annual Patriot Day Event



For the third year, **Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center**, in partnership with **The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes**, **Feed the Children**, **Care and Share** and **4Kidz Sports**, said "Thank You" to 400 local Military and Veteran Families by providing non-perishable food items, fresh produce and children's sporting equipment!

Over 50 volunteers came to distribute to 195 families/individuals; there were 689 people identified in the households. The remaining packages were distributed to local military organizations and food banks in the area.

A big thank you to Vital Colorado for purchasing breakfast and lunch for the volunteers.

We look forward to serving our Veterans and Families next year and collaborating with our partners and volunteers to bring this great event to the Front Range and community again.



Featured Partner



On September 18 and 19, the movie WE ARE STRONGER (<http://www.strongermovie.com/>) premiered in Colorado Springs at the Stargazer Theater. Kristin Goodrich, of Mountain Springs Church in Colorado Springs, led the effort to organize and have the movie brought to town. Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center was the designated military organization to receive 10% of the ticket sales from the two-night event.

The purpose of the movie is to raise awareness of PTSD and the hope Christ offers for healing. WE ARE STRONGER is a faith-based movie exploring a Veteran's battle with PTSD. As he struggles to recover from his injuries, reclaim his marriage, and fit back into the civilian world, he learns he can't do it alone.

Monday evening was the Red Carpet night, which began with several members of the cast and crew coming to Mt. Carmel to meet, greet and receive a tour. Local media conducted interviews too. During the Red Carpet VIP gathering, more than 25 people came to talk with the cast and crew and ask questions about their involvement in the movie. Several organizations, including Mt. Carmel, also provided a resource table to showcase their organization and answer questions.

Over 200 people were in attendance for both showings!

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center's goal is to assist Veterans, Military and Family Members who are dealing with PTSD or to help them find resources to begin their spiritual journey. For more information, visit <https://veteranscenter.org/behavioral-health-and-wellness/> or call (719) 309-4711 to schedule an appointment.

**Help Support Veterans, Military
and Their Families Today!**

Visit www.veteranscenter.org to Donate