

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center



One-Stop For Veterans & Military

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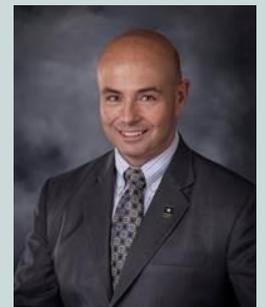
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Take notice. Be Ready. Opportunity is here now.

Fall is an incredible time in Colorado and the Pikes Peak region. As peak leaf viewing approaches various areas of the state at slightly different times, planning must be precise, lest the opportunity be lost until next year. The turning leaves carry nature's messages: Take notice. Be Ready. Opportunity is here now.

These messages are familiar to our veterans, military and their families. They know the seasons of military life: deployment; promotion; school; PCS; retirement; housing search/housing sale; plugging-in to a new community/job market; meeting new neighbors; making new friends. These also happen on timelines and carry the same messages: Take notice. Be ready. Opportunity is here now.



Our military, veterans and families know what happens in the months before opportunity to ensure success. The military calls it readiness and training; academics refer to the lifetime learner. Others call it preparation. Mt. Carmel understands the need to prepare. To ensure Mt. Carmel's continued success, we gathered clients, trustees, board members, community partners, staff, regional employers, and others. We gathered those with "skin in the game" regarding Mt. Carmel programs and we worked together to focus our new strategic plan. In the weeks ahead, this plan will be published and we'll share it with you.

As part of our summer readiness, we prepared for and conducted our largest annual community event: Mt. Carmel Patriot Day Give-Back. With the support of our national and regional partners, we provided 35,000 pounds of fresh and non-perishable food, books, personal hygiene products, sporting goods and more to directly thank more than 400 military, veterans and their families for their sacrifices for this nation.

Finally, as part of our fall philanthropic campaign, keep an eye out for our, "They Served, We Give," campaign. Centered around a Vietnam-era backpack you will see me wearing often in the days and months ahead, the idea is to visibly represent the burden of our military, veterans and their families in the form of a classic military pack. Only the donations of our grateful community will help us lighten their load. Take notice. Be Ready. Opportunity is here now.

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Patriot Day Give-Back Helps 400+ Families



Mission Accomplished! During our annual Patriot Day Give-Back Event on September 7, more than 35,000 pounds of fresh & non-perishable food, sports equipment, books & personal hygiene items were provided to military and veteran families in recognition of their service. We were honored to have Colorado Springs Mayor Suthers deliver opening comments and for country show band Fire Line for singing the national anthem. We also presented Beacon of Support Recognition Certificates to key partners for their support of our efforts to help veterans, military and their families: Liz Foster, Pikes Peak Workforce Center personal financial coach; The Vet Center; Peak Military Care Network; Sue Truex from Dillard's at Citadel Mall; and Sterling and Ann Campbell of The Loan Depot. Special thanks to event sponsors: Rockyard Brewing; Feed the Children; Coalition to Salute America's Heroes; 4kidzsports; Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado; USAA; and AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region.

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 Never Forget Our 'Why?'

Meet Ronaleen Brown:



Today we celebrate Military Family Member Ronaleen Brown! Following the death of her husband, an Army Veteran, in 2007, the young mother of three daughters, ages 7, 11 and 12, struggled financially and emotionally. By June 2018, she still hadn't received widows' benefits, GI Bill benefits and more. Her financial situation felt crushing when she first arrived at Mt. Carmel. With assistance from our community partners – the Peak Military Care Network (PMCN) referral to Mt. Carmel; personal financial counselor Liz Foster of The Pikes Peak Workforce Center; and The Home Front Cares staff – her situation quickly improved. With one month's rent

covered by Homefront Cares, Liz helped prevent repossession of the family car. Ronaleen and Liz then developed a right-sized budget, allowing Ronaleen to see that she could live within her means. Today, her car is paid off, she confidently works full-time in a service industry, is receiving many benefits she is eligible for, and she is more intentional about her finances. "As a widow of a great veteran and a mother to three kids, I never thought I'd be able to get myself out of my financial situation without help. There are a lot of bumps in the road when you lose someone," said Ronaleen, "At Mt. Carmel, they helped me breathe again. Because of their help, I'm going to make it." Ronaleen credits her faith and her daughters for the strength to work through her challenges.

Meet Daniel Maxwell:

Today we celebrate U.S. Army Soldier Daniel Maxwell! After working with Mt. Carmel Peer Navigators, Daniel is excited about post-service career opportunities as he begins his transition from uniformed service. "I'm considering medical device sales, but I'm open to e-commerce in other industries as well. I know sales are a good fit because I place a high value on professional autonomy, and sales align with my skills and interests." These points were underscored in mock interviews with industry professionals at Mt. Carmel when Daniel received informal feedback from three local employers. Additional support included one-on-one interview preparation as well as resume and LinkedIn feedback. "Mt. Carmel has incredible programs and offers a wealth of resources for veterans," said Daniel. "I was impressed by their network and the opportunities offered to help transition successfully into the private sector. While it's difficult to put into words all of the emotions involved in making a significant career change, excitement is certainly one of them. I'm most excited about the opportunity for personal/professional growth in a completely new environment."



We Played Golf to Help People!



One-hundred friends and community partners -- all strong supporters of Mt. Carmel -- joined us August 15 for a round of golf at the beautiful Sanctuary Golf Course in Sedalia. The event is our largest annual fundraiser in support of our programs supporting military, veterans and their families. **This year, we raised nearly \$90,000 to help these heroes! Next year we want to double that! Reserve your spot now for next year.** Contact Melodie Owens at (719) 309-4771.

We can't thank our event sponsors and individual players enough for their support of this fun and successful event!

Table for 108, Please



On August 14, 108 strong supporters of Mt. Carmel programs to help veterans, military and their families, joined us for “Legends of Field and Fare,” a gourmet event at Prime 25 in Colorado Springs with Celebrity Chef Christopher Lee. The event featured moving client testimony and an auction. It was an incredibly successful night, and we thank all our diners and sponsors. In a single dinner, all who participated made a big difference in the lives of our amazing clients. **The event raised \$28,600!**

Mt. Carmel Featured in 3-Part ABC News Feature



Mt. Carmel services for veterans, military and families were prominently featured in a 3-part news series by reporter Connor Wist of ABC Denver/KMGH. Locally, the series was also aired on KRDO, sister station to KMGH. Visit Denver Channel 7’s website to view the stories:

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/transitioning-from-the-service-mt-carmel-helps-service-members-and-families>

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/colorado-springs-area/hundreds-of-veterans-transitioning-into-colorado-and-other-communities-nationwide-each-month>

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/the-next-step-mt-carmel-helps-military-widow-receive-benefits-find-financial-stability>

The Veterans Voice



In an incredible partnership with sponsors USAA and Star Dental Institute, KRDO has launched a Mt. Carmel-focused 30-minute, bi-monthly podcast. Divided into three sections, the show opens with discussion about a partner or program, then features a success story, and then discusses upcoming events. The podcast is shared across websites and social media platforms of Mt. Carmel, KRDO, USAA and Star Dental. In addition to the podcast, the partnership often makes Mt. Carmel a welcomed partner in other KRDO efforts. Recently an entire hour-long morning radio show was dedicated to Mt. Carmel’s Behavioral Health and Wellness program, at no cost. **Please go to <https://veteranscenter.org/krdo-podcasts/> to listen and share!**

Veterans Tribute Walkway



Show your support of our Veterans or pay tribute to a loved one by having a brick or paver engraved in their honor. They will be featured as part of our Veterans Tribute Walkway on the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center campus.

Your contribution helps us to continue providing our essential services to Veterans and their families. Engraving ranges from \$175 - \$200 for bricks and \$700 - \$850 for pavers. They can even be personalized with military emblems.

To personalize a brick or paver, or for additional information, visit www.thatsmybrick.com/mtevcsc.

Remember, as a 501(c)(3), your donation may qualify for a tax credit.



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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 purchases to help Veterans and their families. It's that easy!

Upcoming Events

Domestic Violence Prevention Open-Mic

6 October, 6-9 pm

Mt. Carmel

A forum to share how abuse/trauma affects lives through music, poetry, spoken word, dance, personal stories.

Veteran X Scenario-based Class

9 October, Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 pm

Mt. Carmel

To reduce post-traumatic stress.

Therapeutic Yoga for Veterans

9 October, Tuesdays, 5-6 pm

Mt. Carmel

To reduce post-traumatic stress.

Warriors First Support Group

10 October, Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

Mt. Carmel

For justice-involved veterans.

Networking with Employers & Community Partners

11 October, 5-7 pm

Red Leg Brewery - 4630 Forge Rd.

Military, veterans, military spouses welcome.

Therapeutic Tai Chi for Veterans

13 October, Saturdays, 10-11 am

Mt. Carmel

To reduce post-traumatic stress.

Warrior First Car Show

14 October, 9 am - 3 pm

Mt. Carmel

Benefiting veterans. Car owners/vendors, call: (720) 725-4619.

Construction & Trades Job Fair

16 October, 10 am - 2 pm

Mt. Carmel

Multiple employers/open positions.

Hails and a Farewell



Welcome, Richard A. Gagne Peer Navigator - Veteran Integration Program

Richard is a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant with 21 years of service. Originally from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, he grew up in Aurora, Colorado. He joined the Army as a Track Vehicle Repairer, eventually retiring out of Fort Carson. He enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, Care and Share Food Bank, Toys for Tots, and ESGR. Richard is married and has two daughters and is a proud grandfather. He enjoys helping and giving back to Veterans and their families.

Welcome back, Christina Martinez
Intern Facilitator, Colorado Veteran's Service to Career Pilot Program

Christina is an overachiever with service to both the U.S. Army (Sergeant First Class) and the U.S. Air Force Reserve (Technical Sergeant). She is originally from Alamogordo, New Mexico. Upon graduation from high school, she completed two years of college before joining the Army as a Combat/Flight Medic. After almost 16 years of service, she transitioned from the Army to the Air Force Reserve, where she is currently training out of Schriever AFB, Colorado. Christina is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Sociology so that she can ultimately complete a Master of Social Work. She intends to give back to the Veteran community upon completion of her MSW. When she is not at work, Christina is in the stands cheering on her son in basketball and wrestling.



Farewell, Amber Hargrave

Amber Hargrave, Mt. Carmel Supportive Services Program Manager since Fall 2016, recently departed for an opportunity to directly assist wounded, ill and injured service members as Regional Coordinator with E2i. We wish her the best!

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:

