



The Center's Review

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008

Executive Director:

Edward J. Lowry

Executive Board:

James McNesby - President
Francis Rafferty - Vice President
Joseph O'Hara - Secretary
John Gonnella - Treasurer

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Terry Williamson

Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal

Over 100 veterans enjoyed a traditional thanksgiving meal on Tuesday November 20th, 2007 at the Center with the help of Nicks Roast Beef in Olde City Philadelphia donating and preparing the meal. Joe O'Hara (pictured right) with additional volunteers, served veterans all of the regular Thanksgiving Day fixings. One veteran in attendance stated "I am a homeless, unemployed vet, with very little family to speak of and none in this area of the state. So when I was greeted with a Thanksgiving luncheon by the Center, it certainly put a lift to the spirit of the holiday for me.

This staff is the only family I know at this point."

On December 19th, 2007 the Perimeter (cont on pg 2)



Pictured: Joe O'Hara (Executive Board) serving our veteran clients a Thanksgiving meal. November 20th, 2007.

2nd Annual Doo Wop Festival Recap

\$54,000 Raised!

Our 2nd Annual Doo Wop Festival was held on September 15th, 2007.

Once again it was a great day of music including: The Original Tymes, The Dubs, Cornerstone, Reunion, Street Corner Five, 5 / 3 Woodland,

Memory Lane, Now & Then and Frankie and the Fashions.

Those in attendance also enjoyed The American Bandstand Alumni Dancers with many joining in on the dancing as well.

The festival MC was radio / TV personality Bob Kelly CBS 3 and WOGL 98.1 FM.

With the help of all those who came to support the center in its efforts, we raised a total of \$54,000 to help veterans in need. We thank all of you that attended the festival for your continuing support.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our 3rd Annual Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival on August 9th, 2008!

Save the Date!

**3rd Annual
Doo Wop Festival**

August 9, 2008

Donors Corner

\$10,000 - Phillies Charities, Inc.

\$10,000 - Anonymous donation in Marsha Four's name

\$5,000 - Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation

\$1,000 - Josephine Chan

\$525 - MaST Community Charter School's Toy Soldier Campaign

\$500 - White Rock Baptist Church. Also helped serve our Christmas meal and spread cheer through music, donated laundry bags, personal care items, and food

\$472 - Ladie and Friends (Percentage of patriotic doll sales)

Volunteers from Fannie Mae through Greater Philadelphia Cares - Renovated the kitchen and laundry room at the Perimeter and applied a fresh coat of paint in the computer applications classroom

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter # 63 - Provides lunch twice a month



Pictured: Students from MaST Community Charter School present a \$525 check through their Toy Soldier Campaign to Patricia Pomroy (The Centers Director of Client Services)

David Lang - Veteran Spotlight

David Lang, 33, was born in the Elmwood section of Southwest Philadelphia in 1974.

At the age of 21, David enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His goal was a life long career in the military and he was fulfilling that dream. In the first six years in the Marine Corps he obtained a rank of Sergeant E-5.

During his time in the military, he married and had five chil-

dren. Everything was going according to plan when the problems began.

In 2004, David and his wife separated due to problems with their relationship. Although they were separated, the war between them continued to grow.

In September 2006, David was forced to leave the military and lost custody of his children as a result of the separation. He

later discovered his children were placed in Foster Care.

After seeking help from numerous agencies, David came to the Center in October of 2007. His focus was obtaining employment so he would be able to regain custody of his five children.

The Center enrolled David into our welding program where he immediately excelled.

Upon completion of his training, we referred him to Gamesa for a Mig welding position where he gained employment as a Quality Control Supervisor earning \$17.70 per hour.

David recently petitioned the courts for custody of his children.

We will continue to help David until he is happily in a home surrounded by his five kids.

Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal (cont. from pg 1)

held their annual Christmas luncheon as well.

Once again with the help of Nicks Roast Beef, we were able to provide a nice holiday meal to our veterans that they truly deserve!

Pictured: Frankie Leonard (Center), one of our veteran clients, about to enjoy the Christmas meal.



"This staff is the only family I know at this point."

On the Road Home

The Center has been investing in assisting homeless veterans since opening in 1981, providing referrals, job placement and emergency services. In 1993, it began its move to bringing homeless veteran specific programs in house. By 1996, grants were written in an effort to actualize this aspect of its mission.

LZII: A transitional residence for ninety five homeless males admitting 975 over a ten year period.

The Mary E. Walker House:

A transitional residence for homeless women veterans was established on January 3, 2005. To date, 101 women have been admitted with applications submitted from every corner of our country. There are very few veteran transitional residencies with this level of programmatic elements exclusively for women veterans in the entire country.

The Perimeter: A day service program for veterans on the street and in the shelters of Philadelphia, has proven to

fulfill its basic mission. Approximately 900 veterans visit (over 16,000 homeless visits) annually receiving a full array of services.

Veterans Freedom Gate: A Shelter Plus Care program providing thirty units of subsidized housing for homeless veterans with attached supportive services and case management.

Currently, we are beginning to see the infusion of veterans of the current conflict in our homeless programs.

Employment and Training News

The Employment and Training Program offers veterans various courses and workshops to help veterans gain the necessary skills to obtain a position in the workforce.

Computer Applications Class: A five week course featuring Internet, Email, Windows XP, Microsoft Word and Excel.

A+ Certification: An intense twelve week course prepar-

ing veterans to become A+ Certified. This course features eight weeks of hardware, software, and networking classes and four weeks of testing preparation for the A+ Certification test (cost of test included).

Environmental Services: A two week course focusing on basic janitorial skills including floor care.

A Pilot Welding Program: A

six week course focusing on the concepts, equipment, and safety standards in the Welding industry, certifying veterans in Mig Welding.

Workshops: All training programs include: resume, interview techniques, help with overcoming criminal backgrounds, job applications, personal budgets and human resource workshops.

Veterans Advisory Commission

The first meeting of the re-organized Veterans Advisory Commission was held by the chairman Edward J. Lowry (The Centers Executive Director) on 10/10/2007 at City Hall.

The goal of the Veterans Advisory Commission is to report to the President of City Council, Council members, the Mayor, all City depart-

ments, Boards and Commission on the issues, problems and concerns of the City of Philadelphia's Veteran Community.

The Veterans Advisory Commission will also make a proactive effort to advise men and women veterans as to their rights, privileges, grants, gratuities and other benefits to which they are

legally entitled and to consult with and advise City departments and agencies engaged in the distribution of such benefits.

Through this effort, the commission hopes to propose legislation and programs to the Mayor and City Council to address the identified needs of the City's veteran population.

Staff Years of Service

25+ Years

Edward J. Lowry (27)
Thomas McCoy (27)
Julian L. Grant (26)

10+ Years

Patricia Pomroy (14)
Kathleen Salerno (14)
Bonnie Egan (12)
Marsha Four (11)
Linda Kahlert (11)
Melvin Colston (10)
Nancy Kincaid (10)
Sandra Miller (10)

5+ Years

Yolanda Council (8)
Patricia Burke (6)
David Douglas (6)
Gerald Dawson (5)
Joseph Stever (5)
Richard Tenalio (5)

Less than 5 Years

Nigel Brown
Rick Carter
Ronald Carter
Michele Clark
William Diamond
Amy Hofstadter
William Hughes
Nathaniel Johnson
Carol Kowalko
David Lopez
James Murphy
Robert Pomroy
Lisa Segers
William Strehle
Lincoln Strehle
Stacy Young

The Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service & Education Center, Inc.



Serving those who served

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Our mission is to provide employment, training and related educational services to veterans, regardless of their station in life. Also, to provide social and human services counseling and referrals to less fortunate clients experiencing barriers in finding their way back into the mainstream of society.

Services / Programs:

We provide a variety of free services to veterans in our region including:

- Employment and Training
- Services to Homeless Veterans
- Transitional / Permanent Housing
- Referral Services

Julian Grant - Inside View



A native Philadelphian, Julian attended Germantown High School, and is an Alumnus of the Pennsylvania State University.

Julian served in the United States Army as a Personnel Specialist and was honorably discharged in 1967.

Julian has been employed at the Center since November 10, 1981 and during this time period he has never taken a sick day.

In Julian's capacity as Program Director, he is responsible for the formulation and implementation of training and employment proposals, grants, and contracts under the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry and the US Department of Labor. In addition to these responsibilities, Julian serves as the EEO Officer, Federal Compliance Officer, United Way Coordinator and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Coordinator.

Julian has extensive experience in dealing with homelessness, emergency housing, legal assistance, veterans benefits

counseling, and small business assistance.

Julian is a member of the American Legion, the Chapel of Four Chaplains, the Non-Commissioned Officer's Association, as well as several civic and social organizations.

During Julian's tenure at the Center, he has received numerous awards and certificates from the US Department of Labor, and the US small Business Administration.

Julian's hobbies include chess, gardening, racquet ball, and canoeing.

Julian has been married for 43 years. He has two children, two grandchildren, one of which is an Engineering major at Pennsylvania State University.