



# The Center's Review

A newsletter for donors and friends of:  
The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 2      April 2008

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## From the Executive Director

As The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc. proceeds in its 28<sup>th</sup> year of service to the homeless, unemployed, disabled and less-fortunate Veterans that reside in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey, we take great pride in our accomplishments.

However, The Center's board of directors, the administrative staff, and service providers are vigilant in identifying and addressing the needs of returning Veterans that are fighting the daily war on terrorism. The staff takes a proactive approach to meeting the ongoing problems and needs of Veterans of all eras.

Last year alone, The Center was visited by over 4,500 Veterans. The services requested by these Veterans resulted in 32,101 visits. The homeless service programs administered by the Center provided over 167,000 meals to homeless, unemployed and less-fortunate Veterans.

The success of The Center depends greatly on the help and support of fellow Veterans, Veteran service organizations, and our community of loyal friends and supporters.

In ending, I would be remiss if I did not mention a few of those groups that have helped us help our region's homeless, unemployed, and less-fortunate Veterans.

They are, just to mention a few, the Philadelphia Building Trades Council and affiliated members, the Mechanical Trades District Council of Delaware Valley and affiliated unions, the U.S. Military Order of The Purple Heart (Chapters 63 and 170, and the State Department), the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans of America, John Fries, Jim Walker, Terry and Ilona English, and Bob Lord.

There are so many others that support our efforts on a daily basis that it is impossible to list them all in this edition, however, we are grateful for any and all donations.

**Please remember:** "Freedom is not free" and "Veterans are not honored by what they receive; they are honored by what they have given."

## Support our Vets – 3rd Annual Doo Wop Festival

We would like to apologize for any confusion regarding the date of this year's Doo Wop Festival in our last newsletter. The festival will be held on Saturday, August 9th, 2008, on the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing.

Now for the exciting news! This year's 3rd Annual Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival is a **FREE** event.

As a result of our partnership with the Penn's Landing Corporation, they have supplied the Great Plaza venue free of cost and included our Doo Wop

Festival in their free summer concert series.

Please support the Center and attend this great event!

### Festival Performers Include:

Jimmy Beaumont and The Skyliners  
The Continentals  
Billy Carlucci of Billy and The Essentials  
Billy Harner "The Human Perculator"  
Cornerstone with Golden Voice Harry Reunion  
And many more!

Save the Date  
for the 3rd Annual



Saturday, August 9th, 2008  
on the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing  
Visit

[www.phillydooowopfestival.org](http://www.phillydooowopfestival.org)  
For more information

## Donors Corner

Since our last newsletter, we have received \$32,000 in donations. \$12,000 was donated by Ilona and Terry English to help purchase our new van (pictured) for our LZ II transitional housing program in Coatesville, PA.

The remainder of the donations supplement the training of our unemployed veterans as well as the Center's costs associated with feeding our homeless veteran clients at the Perimeter, Walker House, and LZ II.

Thank you to those who have made a donation to the Center during this period of time. With your help we continue to "Serve those who served".



## \$71,725 Earmark Grant to Train Unemployed Veterans

In February, 2008, US Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey sponsored the Center to receive \$71,725 of Workforce Investment Act funds from the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriation.

In order for PVMSEC to receive this funding which becomes available July 1, 2008, the Center must submit a

proposal to the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration demonstrating that the project is in compliance with the WIA statutory requirements that govern Earmark Projects.

Julian L. Grant (Project Administrator) and Kathleen Salerno (Training Coordinator) have indicated that funds received under this

earmark grant will provide cost effective opportunity for Welding Training (MIG and TIG), Advanced Computer Training (Website Design), skill development, and job placement for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, recently separated veterans, veterans that are unemployed, and veterans with serious barriers to employment.

Funding under the earmark grant will prepare veterans to effectively compete in careers in manufacturing and technology driven employment.

## The Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House "One of Philadelphia's Best Kept Secrets"

Did you know that since 1992, The Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House has been a "Home Away from Home" for thousands of Veteran patients?

Seriously ill Veterans visiting the Philadelphia VA Medical Center for chemotherapy, radiation treatment, dialysis, and a variety of other outpatient services, cannot afford hotel, travel, and related expenditures while battling their illnesses.

The Comfort House has provided 4,199 nights of lodging to ill Veterans and their adult family members since 2003.

For more information about The Comfort House or how you can support this program, contact The Comfort House at 215-387-3040, or visit their website at [www.vetscomforthouse.org](http://www.vetscomforthouse.org)

Please visit  
our newly designed  
website at  
[www.PhilaVets.org](http://www.PhilaVets.org)

## Terry Goins - Veteran Spotlight



Terry Goins spent years suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. His addiction took him to the streets of Chester, Pennsylvania, where he made attempts at self medicating in efforts to deal with the battle of breast cancer facing the mother of his children. His addiction took over every

aspect of his life. Addicted to crack cocaine, Terry alienated his family and lost his children, and eventually ended up in jail.

Coming to the realization that he did have a drug problem, in 2006 he sought help. After completing the VA Substance Abuse Treatment Program he entered into the Center's transitional housing program (LZ II) on the grounds of the Coatesville VA.

While a resident of LZ II, Terry has become a beacon of strength and an inspiration for those following behind

him. In December of 2006, he was hired as a Residence Assistant at LZ II and worked his way up to become the Senior RA. All of this has not been without a struggle. Daily, Terry thinks of his children he had lost due to his addiction. Tormented by his loss, Terry has made tremendous changes in his life. A life where, upon his completion of the LZ II program, he will regain custody of his three small children.

Terry states, "LZ II helps you get back your self-esteem and pride," he continued by

saying the staff "points you in the right direction for you to achieve your goals."

Positive change and successful transition occur every day for individuals who set their minds to making that change. Terry Goins is one of those individuals.

We wish Terry much success and happiness!

## The 3rd Annual Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival "The Best One Yet" by: Bill Diamond

Last year after the Doo Wop festival was over, I was standing on Penn's Landing shaking hands and feeling pretty good about the show we had just put on. Through the crowd a gentleman approached me, shook my hand, and said "very good show, but we can make this so much better, call me" and handed me his business card.

Well, I called. We met in January and he was right, we

are going to make the festival this year the best one yet.

The gentleman's name is James A. Bowman, President of Penn Graphic Associates Inc, and a major player with numerous relationships on the Philadelphia entertainment scene.

Jim Bowman was born and raised in Southwest Philly, an old doo-wop singer at heart, he honed his craft singing

baritone on the street corners of his neighborhood.

He attended Olney High School and was drafted into the US Army in August of 1966 and honorably discharged in 1968.

Through the years, his corporation has been involved with Yo Philadelphia, The Jam on the River, Welcome America, The Tall Ships, and now The Philadelphia Doo

Wop Festival.

Jim is an integral part of the relationship with the Penn's Landing Corporation and also put us in touch with Tierney Communications, a PR firm helping advertise the event this year.

We would like to thank Jim for being a friend to The Center and for donating his talent and professionalism. But most of all, for donating his time for a worthwhile cause!

## Tom McCoy - Inside View

Tom volunteered his draft and was inducted into The U. S. Army in 1963 and served as an Air Defense missile mechanic. He was honorably discharged in 1965.

Tom was the first full-time employee hired by the Center, and over the past 28 years has proven to be one of the most loyal, dedicated

and trustworthy employees the Center has ever employed.

He takes great pride in the many accomplishments and awards he and The Center have shared. He has personally placed several thousand Veterans in jobs, and assisted numerous others with G.I. Bill benefits, Agent Orange

issues, pension and compensation claims, and a variety of social and human service related problems.

In his spare time, Tom can be found on one of the local golf courses, or working on the "do list" around the house. Tom has been married to his lovely wife, Catherine, for over 39 years, and has a son, Thomas, Jr.



## The Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service & Education Center, Inc.



**Serving those who served for over 28 Years**

213-217 N. 4th Street  
Philadelphia PA 19106

**Phone:** 215.923.2600

**Fax:** 215.925.8460

**Web:** [www.philavets.org](http://www.philavets.org)

**Our mission** is to provide employment, training and related educational services to all facets of the community, especially 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 honorably discharged veterans in the tri-state area including:

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



**Once he served his country  
Now he needs our help**

**Please Support:  
The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center**

**There are a number of ways to make an impact on a Veterans life:**

**Web** [www.PhilaVets.org](http://www.PhilaVets.org)

**Call** 1-800-923-VETS

**Mail** in a check payable to PVMSEC at: 213-217 N. 4th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

**Leave a Lasting Legacy:** Name The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc. as a beneficiary in your will

**United Way** Donor Choice: #04308

**Combined Federal Campaign:** #9226