



The Center's Review

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

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Winter 2009

www.PhilaVets.org
215-923-2600

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Edward J. Lowry

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From the Desk of Edward J. Lowry, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Fellow Veterans, Friends and Supporters,

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the Holiday Season will be over, we will have a new President and Spring will be right around the corner. I hope all of our friends had a wonderful Holiday Season and I wish you a prosperous New Year.

This year we were honored to celebrate a Christmas luncheon for our Gold Star Mothers, as has been our tradition for the past 20 years. In addition, The Center, through the kindness and donations of our supporters, provided an outstanding turkey dinner for over 150 homeless Veterans for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The preparation was generously donated by John Gonnella and Jack Calhoun, proprietors of Nick's Roast Beef, 15 S. 2nd Street. In addition each Veteran received a Christmas gift of underwear, warm socks, a sweatshirt, gloves, wool cap and a knapsack full of toiletries. This was all made possible by the generosity and kindness of our supporters during our Holiday Fund Drive for our homeless, unemployed and less fortunate Veterans.

We look forward to working with the new Administration in bringing critically needed funding and programs to our region's homeless, disabled, unemployed, elderly and less fortunate Veterans. We are trying to enhance our transportation services by establishing a fund to purchase an additional van. This van will double our capacity to provide transportation, medical care, emergency food, housing, admittance into the shelter system, and a variety of other human and social services.

Homeless statistics nationwide have shown a decrease in the homeless population. However, in our region we have experienced an increase in homeless Veterans. We are committed to meet the needs of those Veterans coming to our door in need of services.

Please remember, "Veterans are not honored by what they receive, they are honored for what they have given". Please accept my heartfelt thank you for helping us help those who have served. Keep the faith; as I said, Spring is right around the corner.

VA Medical Care Hardship Program

The VA Medical Care Hardship program may help you qualify for VA Health Care enrollment.

If your income has recently changed, you may qualify for enrollment even if it was denied previously based on your household income. Or, perhaps you have put off applying for enrollment because you think your income is too high. Now may be the time to provide updated financial information or apply for enrollment. For additional info call 1-800-409-8771

Center Program Updates

Employment & Training - 44 Veterans began training classes on Monday, February 2nd, 2009. These Veterans will learn the necessary skills in computer repair, computer applications, and environmental services to compete for better paying jobs.

Shelter Plus Care - The Center was able to provide permanent housing for 47 homeless Veterans since July 1st, 2008.

The Perimeter - The Center helped 63 homeless Veterans off the Streets of Philadelphia and into Shelters / Transitional Housing since July 1st, 2008.

Donors Corner

Fannie Mae Foundation - \$12,000
Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation - \$5,000
Int'l Union - UAW S.E. PA CAP Council - \$1,400 / **L3 Communications** - \$1,000, Underwear, socks, turkeys, and toiletries / **Shirley Spear Fullington Estate** - \$1,000
James & Helen McClafferty - \$1000 / **Bookkeeping Plus** - \$750 / **Mast Community Charter School** - \$535.26 / **Nicks Roast Beef Old City** - \$500 Veterans Day Dog Tag Drive / **DAV Vietnam Memorial Chapter 85** - \$500 / **The John and Barbara Charitable Fund** - \$500 / **Bruno & Patricia Rosica** - \$500 / **Thomas & Helen Weber** - \$500 / **Janet McManus, In memory of Gerard J. McManus** - \$500 / **AOH Div 51** - Phil Bowdren, Uncle Kel and the members of AOH Div 51 raised \$500 along with hundreds of pounds of food at their Annual Fill the Cart Food Drive for homeless Veterans / **General Smedley D. Butler Unit Marine Corp League Aux** - \$450 / **Anna Constantine** - \$400 / **Mark Starskey** - \$200 / **Metavante Lending Solutions** - 21 Turkeys and over \$200 / **Fannie Mae** - Employees from Fannie Mae painted the 4th floor of our employment and training facility, donated cash, socks, underwear, gloves, and hats / **John DeBella** - Radio Personality from 102.9 WMGK FM provided 10 pies for the Veterans Holiday Meal / **The Pride of North Philadelphia Temple #657** - 2 Turkeys and various canned goods for the Veterans Holiday Meal / **AJ Adams & Ariana Martinez** - Students from Visitation Grade School coordinated the collection of 900 pairs of socks for homeless Veterans / **Purple Heart Chapter 170** - Provided socks and underwear for homeless veterans / **U.S. Mint** - Coat drive and food drive produced 79 boxes organized and delivered by U.S. mint police / **PHGI Assoc.** - Doctors and nurses served Christmas dinner and provided turkeys, pies, underwear, socks, hats, and gloves / **White Rock Baptist Church** - Ladies of the Good Sheppard Circle served Christmas dinner / **Our Lady of Consolation Parish** - Token Donation



A Penny for your . . . Search?

What if The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center earned a penny every time you searched the Internet?

Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support PVMSEC and the Veterans we serve? Well, now it can!

PVMSEC can now earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online with

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Search the web with Yahoo-powered **GoodSearch.com** and they'll donate a penny to PVMSEC each time you search!

Shop at more than 600 **GoodShop.com** merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to PVMSEC as well!

We have already raised over \$95.00 without anyone spending a dime!

Please spread the word by telling your family and friends

Each day you can make a difference on Veterans Lives

Celebrating the Holiday's with our Veterans



Art Therapy Sessions for Veterans

Angela Libby, a graduate from Drexel University, recently began an internship offering art therapy services to veterans of the Center.

As an art therapy intern, Angela uses the creative process and the issues that come up during art therapy to help each veteran increase his or her insight and judgment, work through traumatic experiences, cope better with stress, increase cognitive abilities, have better rela-

tionships with family and friends, and to just be able to enjoy the life-affirming pleasures of the creative experience.

Art therapy is a mental health profession that focuses on non-verbal communication. For experiences which are "hard to put into words", the art making provides a less threatening way of exploring and releasing feelings. The creative process, together with the facilitation of a trusting, safe environ-

ment, may enable the veteran to acknowledge and express particularly strong or difficult emotions.

Art therapy may also give the veterans the opportunity to take an interest in and enjoy art while encouraging a developing sense of one's creativity and artistic message.



Golf Outing for Veterans In Need

The 7th Annual George C. Mahon Memorial Golf Outing will be held on **Sunday, May 3rd, 2009** at the John F. Byrne Golf Club, Frankford & Eden Streets, below Grant Avenue. Shotgun start at 9am sharp. \$100.00 per golfer. All proceeds benefit PVMSEC and their direct assistance to Veterans in need. Call Tom McCoy at 215-923-2600 Ext:15 or Joe O'Hara 215-632-7083 for further information. **Food and beverages will be provided. Come have some fun for a great cause!**

Doo Wop Festival News

The 4th Annual Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival will be held on **Saturday, August 8th, 2009** and is once again part of the Penn's Landing Summer Concert Series. Last year we had a great show and a wonderful turnout. So please save the date and tell all of your friends and Family. All proceeds benefit PVMSEC and their direct assistance to Veterans in need.

Please visit www.phillydoowopfestival.org for future updates and further information.

The Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service & Education Center, Inc.



"Proudly Serving Veterans Since 1980"

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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**



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

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 or ask us about obtaining no cost life insurance to benefit Veterans. Call 215-923-2600 Ext: 43 for more details

United Way: Employees working in organizations supporting United Way can use Donor Choice #04308 to directly donate to PVMSEC

Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees can donate directly to PVMSEC by using CFC Contribution Code #48126

Web www.PhilaVets.org

Call 1-800-923-VETS