



VCHC VETERANS & COMMUNITY
HOUSING COALITION

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



**Come one, Come all,
we are having a Ball!**

Veterans Ball

The Hall of Springs

108 Avenue of The Pines, Saratoga Springs

Sunday, November 12, 2017

5pm - 9pm

Dinner ★ Live Music ★ Cash Bar ★ Silent Auction

Featuring the Lasalle Institute JROTC Cadets

&

The Joey Thomas Big Band

To Purchase Tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2911838

For more information, contact Mianna at mmagliocca@vchcn.org





I have had the honor of meeting with the Veterans served by VCHC at several events this year.

Those meetings helped me to re-focus on why this agency must continue our

efforts to accomplish our mission.

Listening to their stories is very humbling and motivating.

I have realized that our efforts would not be successful without the ongoing support of so many in the Community.

These very deserving men and women sacrificed so much to ensure our freedoms, I am proud to be a part of helping them regain their dignity while achieving success.

I send a special thank you to our Veterans, staff, Board of Directors and Community supporters.

**President of the Board
Norm McFarlane**



There have been more exciting changes at VCHC. To meet the needs of the physically disabled female Veterans at Guardian House, we have relocated our Administrative Offices. This has allowed the ladies to utilize the downstairs offices as bedrooms and not have to navigate up the stairs.

The Community continues to show unwavering support to our Veterans in so many ways. The monetary donations, donations of clothing, household items, furniture, personal care items, dinners and their valuable time helps us achieve our mission.

The development of two affordable housing projects in Saratoga will provide units specifically to our Veterans at Fair Market rent. This will help eliminate some of the barriers Veterans face in securing housing.

VCHC remains committed to ensuring all Veterans & their families have the resources they need to live with dignity in our Community.

**Cheryl Hage-Perez
Executive Director**

Visit us at our new Offices!
20 Prospect Street
Building 2 Suite 313
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Visit our new web site!
www.vchcny.org

Why are there homeless Veterans?

There are many reasons some Veterans become homeless. The reality is after serving our Country and protecting *our* homes and liberty they return to civilian life with no job, limited job skills, loss of family, and identity and eventually homelessness.

Many veterans fall into homelessness or poverty because the skills they learned in the military aren't transferable for the civilian workforce. Post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD, and substance abuse contribute to problems that lead to homelessness or risk of homelessness for veterans. This is often compounded by a lack of family and social support networks.

For many the adjustment of "choice" is difficult to understand. While serving in the military they are told what to wear, when to go to bed, what time to get up, what they will eat, where they will go and with who. Then all of a sudden they are discharged and for many, find it difficult to accept their freedom.

These issues along with feelings of isolation, loneliness, and worry about finances often lead to severe depression, substance and alcohol addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and many other "invisible" disabilities.

Without a job, income, family support, and just not knowing how to put all the pieces together, the Veteran finds themselves homeless.

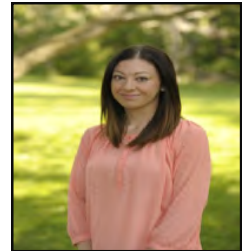
At VCHC we support each Veteran as an individual. Staff guide them through each step they take towards independence and a productive life in our Community.

PROGRAM UPDATES

The Saratoga Veterans Apartment Program is a new program that VCHC has started in the spring of 2017. This permanent supportive housing program includes 14 units of housing to veterans and their families in Saratoga County. Case management services are provided to the families to help maintain stable housing and remain self-sufficient in the community with support services.

The Guardian House, our female veterans transitional homes continues to be the home to 5 ladies that have selflessly served our country. The Vet house remains fully occupied and provides service to 14 male Veterans.

With all of our diverse programs, we have been able to meet the need of all identified homeless Veterans in the seven Counties that we serve.



Leigha Rosenberger
Associate Executive Director



Stan Urbonowicz
Facilities Director

The maintenance department has been very busy ensuring the safety of our Veterans. At VCHC our standards are high for the quality of the homes and apartments we provide for those we serve.

The Northern Pines Apartments are receiving a major renovation, including new roofs, doors, windows, appliances and other replacements to ensure they meet our standards.

With the two transitional houses, fourteen apartments that we own and 40 apartments that VCHC manages the maintenance team has plenty to keep them busy.

We are proud of our work and standard of excellence we maintain in all of our units.

Currently the housing program is administering to over 250 families in various housing assistance programs.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (formally Section 8) is currently assisting 221 families in Saratoga County. Ten of families are utilizing their Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers in Saratoga County.

Nine families are in the Nursing Home Transitional Diversion program which works with Department of Health to help individuals and families stay in their own apartment, or transition into an apartment from a nursing home setting.

Twenty six families are participants with the Town of Wilton Housing Authority. The Town of Wilton has much to offer to families in terms of employment, schooling, recreation and medical needs.

Nine formally homeless individuals with disabilities and their families are enrolled in the Rental Assistance Program of Saratoga County. In addition to receiving rental assistance, participants are assisted with supportive services by their referring provider and must enter into a contract to follow up with their service plan.



Colleen O Smith
Housing Director



Karen Follett
SSVF Director

SSVF has been working with HUD and our local Continuum of Care to reach out to Veterans who are homeless in the community and link them with local housing providers to permanently house Veterans quickly.

SSVF has also been working towards International Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) which demonstrates our commitment to provide quality services, our focus on the unique needs of the person served, and our dedication to effect change.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families program has assisted 130 Veteran families this year with housing and case management services. Our next grant year starts October 1st with a target to assist another 130 Veteran households!



Veterans Ball

We are VERY excited for this year's Veterans Ball. Last year was amazing and we expect this year to be even better.

The night will begin with the Color Guard presented by the LaSalle Institute JROTC Cadets followed by a special tribute to local WWII Veterans.

You can dance the night away with live music from the Joey Thomas Big Band, while enjoying special foods prepared by the Hall of Springs.

A Ceremony honoring local Veterans from all branches of service and conflicts will be held as well as a special tribute to a Fallen Hero.

We look forward to welcoming all to support our homeless Veterans Housing Programs. Sponsorships are available and we thank all of our sponsors. Remember all donations are tax deductible!

www.veterans-ball.info

For ticket purchases:

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2911838



Standown!

Stand Downs are typically a one day event providing free supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers.

The 2017 Capital Region Veteran's Standown will be held on October 14 at the Colonie BPO Elks. It is located on 11 Elks Lane in Latham.

All Veterans who are homeless or at risk to become homeless are welcome to participate in the day's activities.

All services and goods are totally free!

The program starts with a home cooked breakfast at 7:00 am and ends at about 1:00.

If you know of any Veteran who will benefit from this opportunity please let them know. It will be worth their time.



All Proceeds benefit our homeless Veterans Programs!!

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/VCHCvethelp/

VCHC and the Community



Adirondack Corvettes Club
3rd Annual Vettes for Vets fundraiser.



Staff of VCHC, board members, veterans, and community members all came together for the Veterans Cook Off BBQ, it was delicious.



Did you see us in the parades this past summer? The veterans & staff of VCHC worked together on building a replica of our logo for a parade float. Special Thanks to Brownell Construction for their guidance and help in building the float.



Exalted Rule of the Ballston Spa Elks, Carol Turney presents a donation to VCHC



The Knights of Columbus prepare a Surf & Turf dinner served to our Veterans by the US Navy volunteers



Our Veterans enjoy a wonderful Bar B Que and generous donation from the Saratoga Wilton Elks



Mianna Magliocca, at the Saratoga Race Course for Community Day



VCHC staff with Saratoga Chamber's Veterans Business Council celebrate the donation of a car to one of our Veterans by H&V Collision and Geico



Galway Lions Club and Galway Fire Dept. hosts "Roar on the Road" to support our Veterans



Carol Lucey, president of NY Overpasses for America presents VCHC with boxes of food and funds to help the Veterans Programs



Dennis Sullivan, Commander of the Department of NYS VFW visits the programs with a generous donation of food



Veterans & Community Housing Coalition

20 Prospect Street

Building 2 Suite 313

Ballston Spa, NY 12020



Yes, I want to donate to support the programs of VCHC. I will do so by:

Making a monetary donation of \$ _____

Making a material donation _____

Planning a fundraiser event _____

Other _____

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

**Thank you for
your Support!!**

Return to: VCHC 20 Prospect St. Building 2 Suite 313, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

DONATION WISH LIST:

- 10 & 30 Gallon Trash bags
- Paper Products
- Personal Care Items
- Laundry Soap & Dryer Sheets
- Bath Towels & Washcloths
- Fitted & Flat Sheets (Twin)
- Quilts & Comforters
- CDTA Bus Passes
- Gift Cards (groceries & gas)
- Food Items
- Feminine Products
- Cleaning Supplies
- Furniture
- Household Items

Please make sure your donation is in good condition for our Veterans