



ANNUAL REPORT

★
2022



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MISSION



THE MISSION OF VETERANS PLACE

is to empower veterans' transition from homeless to home, ending the cycle of homelessness, and to assist all at-risk veterans to become engaged, valuable citizens who contribute to their communities.

VISION



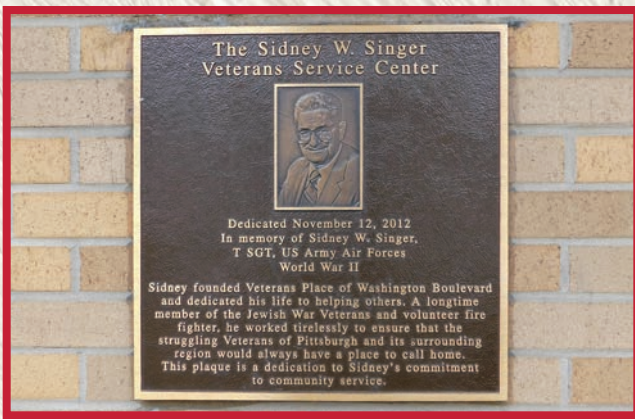
THE VISION OF VETERANS PLACE

is a community where veteran homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring and where veterans are valued, productive, and respected citizens who contribute to their community.



our history

1996



Jewish War Veterans Post 718 purchased a parcel of blighted property with run-down row houses on Washington Boulevard. Over the next ten years, Sidney Singer fought tirelessly to raise over \$2.5 million in government and foundation grants to transform the site into an administration/service building and 13 townhouses that can accommodate up to 48 veterans.

2008



Initial townhouse renovations were completed and Veterans Place started our Transitional Housing Program, becoming the only single-room occupancy, transitional housing center for homeless veterans in the region.

2019



Veterans Resource Center renovations were completed. With support from Walmart, Kozi Media Design, and many others, Veterans Place Veterans Resource Center incorporated a smart classroom, food pantry, computer lab, and laundry and shower facilities for veterans that seek assistance.

2022



Veterans Place completed infrastructure upgrades to the existing 13 townhouses where veterans live while receiving assistance to obtain stable employment and a permanent home. Upgrades included new roofs, windows, doors, and flooring as well as refurbishing each basement foundation. Veterans Place also hired its first female Executive Director in September.

WHAT'S NEXT



The year 2023 will be very exciting for Veterans Place. We will break ground on our new Multipurpose Building and will celebrate the grand opening of the Duquesne Light Company Veterans' Workforce Development Center. Veterans Place will also continue to grow our programs and services to meet the emerging needs of the homeless veteran population in our community.

★ A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP ★

This past year promised to be an exciting time at Veterans Place, and it didn't let us down! Thanks to the generosity of multiple grantors and private funders we were able to complete the infrastructure renovation of our existing campus townhouses – on time and under budget! Additionally, our government partners were able to secure all of the required construction funding for our new three-story building which will sit on campus adjacent land donated by the City of Pittsburgh and facilitated by the Urban Redevelopment Authority. We anticipate breaking ground this Spring and hope to complete the project by the end of 2023, providing eight additional units for veterans and a much needed “Wellness Center.” We are also grateful to Duquesne Light for funding the renovation of one of our existing townhouses for utilization as the base of our Workforce Development program which we anticipate will find sustainable employment for over one-hundred veterans during 2023, helping them to achieve self-funded sustainable housing. As this Annual Report reflects, Veterans Place continues to achieve unsurpassed performance metrics in support of its mission. During 2023 we will continue to focus on not just these important campus projects but also the array of services that focus on the unique needs of the region's ever-increasing population of homeless veterans.



>> **I.W. GOLDFARB, MD | BOARD PRESIDENT | U.S. ARMY VETERAN**

The year 2022 provided Veterans Place with a platform to thrive, adapt, and improve our services. With the ongoing dedication of our staff, board of directors, and funders, we were able to achieve established performance goals on multiple fronts. We completed a \$1.2 million infrastructure upgrade to our existing townhouses, continued to move forward in the process for breaking ground on our three-story Multipurpose Building, and finalized plans for our Duquesne Light Company Veterans' Workforce Development Center. We are happy to share that the Workforce Development Center and Multipurpose Building will each begin construction in Spring 2023. Additionally, Veterans Place was presented with opportunities to provide programmatic support to other organizations after being recognized as “the standard” by multiple grantors. As the newly appointed Executive Director, it has been my honor and privilege to lead Veterans Place. Thank you to our network of support and most importantly to the veterans, for allowing us to continue to serve you!



>> **SHANNON HAGY, MSW, LSW, CWC | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

★ A YEAR OF GROWTH ★



In April, Veterans Place was awarded a \$2 million grant from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). This grant will be used to construct a Multipurpose Building on our campus which will include 8 handicap-accessible transitional housing apartments, a wellness center, and additional space for behavioral health and other supportive services. This project will allow us to expand our services for homeless veterans and address the barriers that veterans face every day. We look forward to breaking ground this year.



>> RACP: REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM



Throughout the year, Veterans Place worked on important infrastructure upgrades to our 13 existing transitional housing townhouses. These upgrades included new roofs, windows, doors, and flooring as well as refurbishing each basement foundation. Future upgrades will focus on new kitchens and bedroom furniture to create relaxing, comfortable spaces for our veterans to continue to heal.

>> INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES COMPLETED



Veterans Place was honored to host the July public hearing on veterans' homelessness by the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee. During the hearing, Veterans Place made the following requests: continue and expand funding for homeless veterans and opioid use disorder through the Veterans' Trust Fund; offer funding for transitional housing and help address the lack of affordable housing in southwestern Pennsylvania; and help expand veterans' eligibility in coordination with Veteran Affairs. Our very own Veteran Wilson spoke about the importance of services for veterans and the impact Veterans Place has had on his life.

>> PUBLIC HEARING ON VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS

★ PROGRAMS & SERVICES ★

PROGRAM ENTRY

Veterans are picked up across southwestern PA from the streets, encampments, under bridges, at shelters, hospitals, and other places not meant for human habitation. Veterans are transported to the Veterans Resource Center for supportive services.



VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (VRC)

Veterans go through the initial intake process for a referral to one (1) or more of our CARF Accredited VP programs such as:

- ★ Transitional Housing
- ★ Employment
- ★ Substance Use Support
- ★ Food Bank
- ★ Minority Veteran Program
- ★ Female Veteran Program
- ★ Other Supportive Services



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Veterans can be accepted into one (1) of our three (3) transitional housing programs through referrals from the VRC, Veterans Administration (VA), or other community partners.

- ★ Service Intensive Transitional Housing
- ★ Bridge Housing
- ★ Low Demand Housing



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Veterans can then be referred to our workforce development programs from any of our internal programs or by our community partners:

- ★ Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)
- ★ Post 9/11 Employment Program
- ★ Transitioning Veteran Employment Program



VETERAN ALUMNI PROGRAM

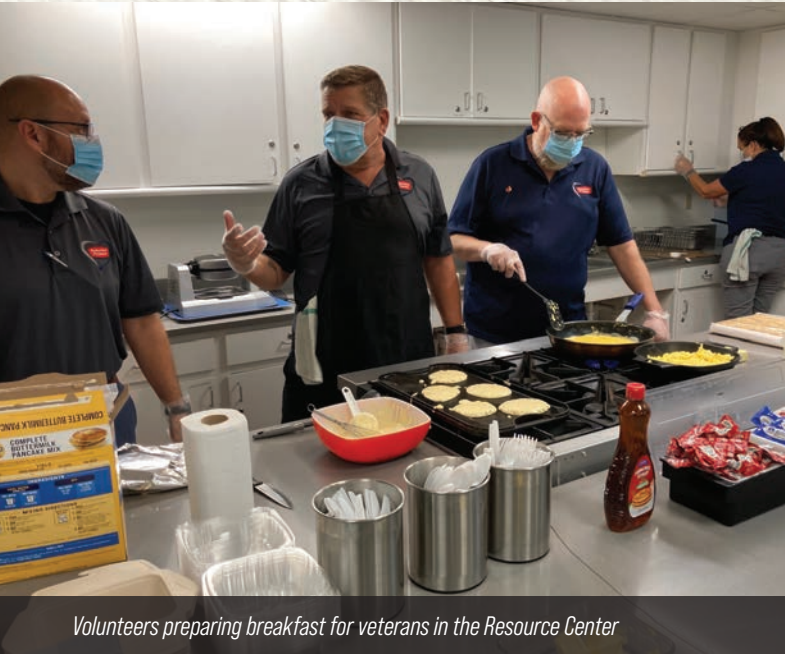
Veterans Place continues to work with veterans regardless of program completion and re-engages all veterans through an array of community events. This includes ongoing access to the VRC.



★ VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER ★



CARF Accredited for Services Coordination



Volunteers preparing breakfast for veterans in the Resource Center

VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER is 1 of 15 drop-in resource centers nationwide and offers veterans access to a computer lab, state-of-the-art Smart Classroom, commercial kitchen, free laundry and shower facilities, and an on-site food pantry. In December, the Veterans Resource Center extended its hours and is now open 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday. This ensures the homeless veteran population access to meals, clothing, showers, laundry, and other essential services that may not be available elsewhere on the weekend. We anticipate opening 7 days a week in 2023.

FEMALE VETERAN PROGRAM provides resources and services designed specifically for the needs of female veterans. The Female Veteran Program began in 2019 with the assistance of Highmark.

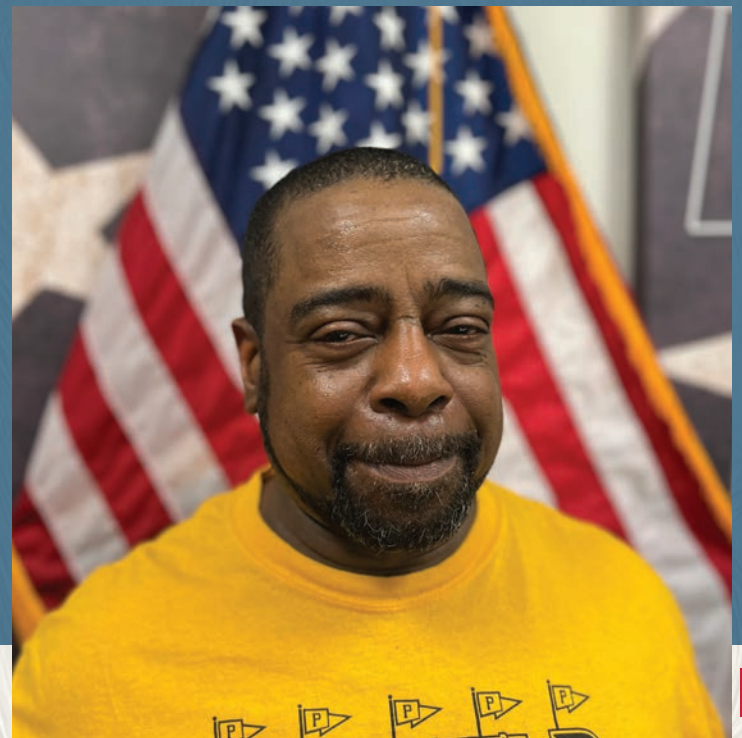
OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM, funded by the Veterans Trust Fund, as part of Governor Wolf's response to the opioid pandemic, is one of the only opioid specific programs in the region designed for veterans. Veterans Place connects veterans to inpatient, outpatient, and recovery related services.

LOW INCOME VETERANS AND FAMILIES PROGRAM provides assistance to veterans and their families to aid in essential financial support, such as utilities, clothing, and rental assistance.

COMMUNITY CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM is a VA-funded Grant and Per Diem program, which offers veterans follow-up case management for up to 6 months after moving into permanent housing.

With assistance from the Pittsburgh Foundation, Veterans Place created a more advanced **MINORITY VETERANS PROGRAM** on our campus. The funding gives us the opportunity to offer minority veterans (African Americans, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) resources such as what federal benefits they may qualify for, assistance with applying for those benefits, and referrals to other organizations and resources that will help meet the growing needs in these underserved communities.

VETERAN TORRANCE PHILLIPS served in the United States Army from 1982 to 1985 as a Corporal in the 7th Infantry Division. After his mother passed away in 2015 and his family residence was demolished, Veteran Phillips was faced with the hardships of homelessness. He survived the harsh winters with nothing but a mattress, thin sleeping bag, and his own breath for heat. After years on the streets, Veteran Phillips walked through the doors of the Veterans Place Veterans Resource Center in 2018 and was welcomed by friendly staff, a warm meal, and a hot shower. He enrolled in our Workforce Development program where our Employment Specialists not only helped him to secure a job, but also assisted him in obtaining all the work-related essentials to get started right away. Veteran Phillips still accesses services through the Veterans Resource Center, finding the laundry facilities and assistance obtaining bus passes beneficial for his daily needs. He also enjoys participating in Veterans Place's festive activities and events throughout the year. Veteran Phillips has recently secured his own housing and hopes to achieve his future employment goals while working with Veterans Place staff.



★ TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ★

CARF Accredited for Community Housing



7.5 Months
Average Length
of Stay



82% of Veterans Served
Through the
Transitional Housing
Program Moved into
Permanent Housing
and Had a Sustainable
Income at the Time of
Discharge from Program



Veteran Mike preparing a meal in his on-site townhouse

VETERANS PLACE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING is one of the only VA funded campus-style transitional housing programs in the region, offering temporary on-site housing to 48 male and female veterans. This setting creates a continuum of care, in which veterans can receive individualized services, in addition to access to all of the resources offered, such as an on-site food pantry, employment services, financial literacy classes, art therapy, and much more. In 2022, we expanded our Veteran Alumni Group. Through this group, we encourage both current and former veteran participants to meet weekly as a group with a Case Manager to discuss any barriers they encounter, recent barriers they have overcome, and provide peer support for our growing community of veteran alumni.

VETERAN AUDREY BLAND served in the United States Army for 24 years as an E4 Specialist. After being discharged in 1992, Veteran Bland was overwhelmed with feelings of confusion and struggled with her self-identity. Before coming to Veterans Place, she faced financial hardship and was burdened by depression and anxiety for several years. Upon coming to Veterans Place in 2020, Veteran Bland had 3 goals, all of which she has been able to accomplish through the programs and services provided at Veterans Place. One of her goals was to obtain financial stability and save money. Through consistent and individualized Case Management and budgeting support, Veteran Bland has successfully secured a place of her own to call 'home.' During her time in the Transitional Housing program, Veteran Bland enjoyed Sunday dinners on the deck where residents would eat together as a family. She remains connected with Veterans Place staff who have encouraged her to continue working towards her educational goals. Veteran Bland regularly attends the Female Veteran Group every Friday and is grateful to have a safe place to connect with other female veterans. She is enrolled in the Peer Support Program at CCAC and will be starting classes this summer.



★ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ★



**CARF Accredited for Community Employment Services:
Employment Supports & Job Development**



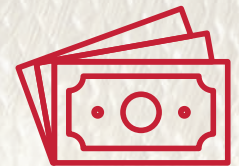
Members of the Workforce Development team at a community outreach event



**97 Veterans
Placed in Sustainable
Employment**



**100% of Veterans Enrolled
in the Program Attained
Sound Employment**



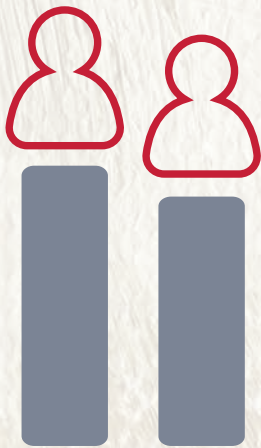
**\$17.29/Hour
Average Placement Wage**

HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP), funded by the Department of Labor, provides all-inclusive services for unemployed and underemployed veterans. This program assists veterans in resume building, mock interviews, connection to competitive employment, and access to job-related education and materials needed for employment. Veterans Place HVRP consistently meets and exceeds goals set by the Department of Labor and takes great pride in helping veterans secure their chosen career path. Throughout 2022, our Workforce Development team focused on creating new partnerships with employers and increasing outreach to veterans in need at local colleges and universities.

VETERAN HUNTER HOWELL II served in the United States Army as an active duty E5 Sergeant from August 1993 to December 1998. Veteran Howell continued to serve as a Reservist from December 2008 to December 2014. Upon discharge, he faced a divorce and struggled through other family and financial hardships. A chance meeting with a fellow veteran brought him to Veterans Place where he immediately began receiving services through the Veterans Resource Center. His greatest priority was finding a job and he soon began working with our Workforce Development team. Through hard work and dedication, our Workforce Development team not only helped Veteran Howell secure a job, but also alleviated some of his initial expenses by providing him with a complete work uniform and gas cards to help him get to and from work. Veteran Howell regularly visits the Veterans Place campus to access the food pantry, which he describes as a lifesaver for his family.



★ IMPACT & FINANCIALS ★



47.5% Identified as Black
42.4% Identified as White
10.1% Identified as Other



86.5% Male Veterans
13.3% Female Veterans
0.2% Did Not Identify
as Either Gender



Over 800
Veterans
Served in 2022



9,434
Veterans & Families
Fed in 2022

INCOME

Federal: 77%
State: 8%
Fundraising: 15%

TOTAL INCOME:
\$2,779,527

EXPENSES

Program: 86%
Administrative: 4%
Fundraising: 10%

TOTAL EXPENSE:
\$2,915,174

thank you

Veterans Place would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our corporate and community partners who play an important role in our mission to end veteran homelessness. Through volunteer hours, much needed supplies, funding, and in-kind support, our veterans receive the support and commitment they need as they transition to stable and productive lives.



Volunteers weeding and mulching flower beds on the Veterans Place campus

★ EVENTS ★



Cornhole Tournament

Our 8th Annual Cornhole Tournament took place in partnership with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Acrisure Stadium. We had over 80 teams compete in our biggest tournament yet!



Veterans Day

In honor of Veterans Day, Veterans Place hosted VeteranPalooza for our veterans.

Veterans enjoyed playing carnival games, eating good food, and having the chance to win awesome prizes throughout the day!

This event serves as a way for us to celebrate our veterans and recognize the sacrifices they have made.



Overdose Awareness Event

Veterans Place hosted our Overdose Awareness Event that focused on education, training, and providing resources to veterans struggling with substance abuse and those who are close to someone struggling with these issues.



★ VETERANS PLACE TEAM ★



At Veterans Place, our unshakable commitment to veterans starts with our team. Our employees are dedicated to our mission and pull together to accomplish our goal to provide lifesaving and life changing services to veterans. We invest in professional development and team building initiatives to create a hard-working and dedicated unit.

In 2022, Veterans Place established a veteran staff group, updated our staff training and development plan, and implemented a new onboarding process for all new employees.

HIRE Vets Award

Veterans Place was honored to receive the 2022 HIRE Vets Medallion Award from U.S. Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh. Veterans Place earned the Small Platinum award that recognizes our commitment to recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans.

Employee of the Month

Our Employee of the Month program recognizes a Veterans Place team member that goes above and beyond in their work and dedication to helping veterans. Employees are nominated by their colleagues and honored through internal communication and across our social platforms.



TOTAL STAFF: 27 STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS: 19%

Thank you to our generous donors for their commitment to Veterans Place.

★ COMMUNITY PARTNERS ★

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Huff-Guthrie Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc.
I.B.E.W. Local 5
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Key Environmental Incorporated
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L.A.O.H. Division #21
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Network For Good
Oakmont American Legion Home Association
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PGH Networks
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In 2020, Veterans Place introduced the Giving Society, recognizing individual donors at a commitment level of \$500 or greater annually. We sincerely thank the following members.

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Many thanks to our family of supporters.

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I. WILLIAM GOLDFARB, MD President

Dr. Goldfarb, the President of the Board of Veterans Place, is a graduate of The Chicago Medical School and completed a surgical residency at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has served as the Director of the hospital's Burn Center and as the Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgery. He has held numerous administrative positions including serving as the Chief Medical Officer at both The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and Allegheny General Hospital. Dr. Goldfarb served in the U.S. Army at the rank of Major.



MARK WECHSLER Vice President

Mark Wechsler graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in Computer Science. He has worked for major technology vendors and consulting organizations such as Hewlett Packard, Ernst & Young, and KPMG. He is currently Vice President of Advisory Services and Vertical Industries at ConvergeOne (formerly Arrow Electronics). Mark has a clear understanding of the practical contribution technology can make to successful business solutions. In his current role at ConvergeOne, he provides guidance that bridges the gap between IT/Telecom and business founded on deep industry knowledge acquired over his 40 years of experience.



MARVA L. BROWN, CPA, CC, ALB Treasurer

Marva L. Brown, CPA, is a native Pittsburgher, having graduated from Duquesne University with a degree in accounting. Prior to attending university, Marva was a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years. She currently works at PNC Bank as a Risk and Control Advisor and, prior to that, spent 18 years in Corporate Risk and Compliance at BNY Mellon. Marva has served on several boards in Pittsburgh, including the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and is a past President of the National Association of Black Accountants. She actively participates in formal and informal mentoring programs.



BRADLEY HARRISON, MS Secretary

Bradley D. Harrison graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree and received a Master of Engineering Management degree from Washington, D.C. based Catholic University of America. Bradley served in a variety of positions in the U.S. Navy following graduation, including as the Officer of the Deck on the USS Oklahoma City and as a Department Head at Strategic Systems Programs. He briefly served in the United States Congress as the District Director for Representative Timothy F. Murphy and as the Military Legislative Assistant for Representative Robert J. Wittman. Bradley is currently the President and Managing Partner of the boutique real estate and investment firm Creekside Capital as well as the Vice President of Procurement and New Business at E.H. Schwab Company. Bradley was elected to the Fox Chapel Borough Council in November of 2021 and resides there with his wonderful wife and three active children.

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BOARD MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS: 63%



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