

MARCH 2024

# CONNECTIONS



## THIS ISSUE:

Employee of the Month  
Page 02

Employee Birthdays & Anniversaries  
Page 03

VRC Update  
Page 04

In-House Achievements: Transitional  
Housing  
Page 05

What's Working: Workforce  
Development  
Page 06

Employee Assistance Program  
Page 07

VP Core Values  
Page 08





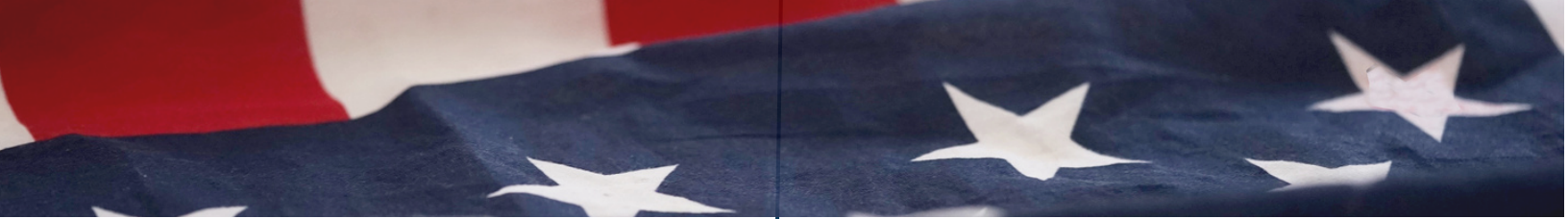
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH IS:

**ADAM  
WADE**



**From Veterans Place staff, we thank Adam for his hard work and for making a difference in our veterans' lives!**





## Employee Birthdays

**Stephen Raiford 3/4**

**Amber Dent 3/5**

**Sheila Woodson 3/29**

## Work Anniversaries

**Eric Raley 3/7**

**Earl Lamar 3/18**

**Sean Glackin 3/28**



## Employee Suggestions Form

Please find attached [here](#) our employee suggestions form. Feel free to use the form for any suggestions you may have to improve Veterans Place. Suggestions can be submitted anonymously if preferred. Thank you for your efforts!

## April Employee of the Month

Vote for the Employee of the Month for April by clicking [here](#)! Nominations/votes will be accepted March 1st-30th and will be announced in the April Newsletter.

The Employee of the Month will receive 1 day of PTO and preferential parking spot behind the admin building.





# V R C U P D A T E



## Veterans Place Announces Exciting Partnerships and Grants

By Rion Paige

In a bid to bolster its mission of supporting veterans in need, Veterans Place is proud to announce two significant partnerships and a generous grant. Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel has confirmed Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard as their Store Partner Organization. This partnership marks a meaningful collaboration, with Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel committing to donating food items to Veterans Place twice a week. Food donated by Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel will be distributed by the Local Pantry on-campus at Veterans Place, ensuring efficient and equitable access to nutritious meals for veterans. The generosity of Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the lives of veterans served by Veterans Place. Adam Wade, Veterans Resource Center Manager, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "This is a big deal, as we have a lot of veterans that love Chick-Fil-A."

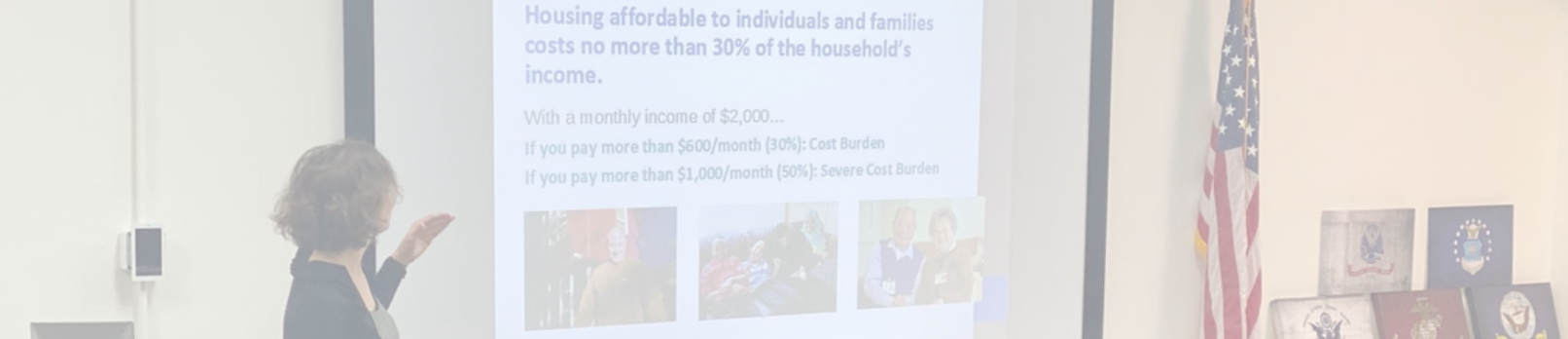
Moreover, Dollar Bank Foundation has pledged a \$10,000 grant to supplement the operations of the Campus Soup Kitchen at Veterans Place. This marks the fourth consecutive year of Dollar Bank Foundation's support for Veterans Place, highlighting their ongoing commitment to the organization's mission.

The impact of these partnerships and grants cannot be overstated. With Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel's regular food donations and the financial support from Dollar Bank Foundation, Veterans Place can further enhance its services to veterans in need.

As Veterans Place continues to expand its efforts in supporting homeless veterans throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania, these partnerships and grants serve as vital resources. They not only provide immediate assistance but also contribute to the long-term sustainability and success of the organization's initiatives.

In the face of ongoing challenges, Veterans Place remains steadfast in its commitment to serving those who have served our country. With the support of dedicated partners like Chick-Fil-A Fox Chapel and the Dollar Bank Foundation, Veterans Place looks forward to making an even greater impact in the lives of veterans in our community.





# In-House Achievements: Transitional Housing



## **Veterans Place Enhances Housing Facilities with Generous Grants**

by Rion Paige

Veterans Place is thrilled to announce significant improvements to its transitional housing facilities, thanks to the support of two esteemed charitable foundations.

The Transitional Housing Department has acquired new stoves for its campus through a generous grant from the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation. With this support, 13 energy-efficient units have been purchased, enhancing the comfort and functionality of townhouses for resident veterans.

Sean Glackin, Transitional Housing Manager, expressed gratitude for the grant, stating, "This enhances our ability to accommodate veterans on campus and those we house on an interim basis."

Additionally, new beds have been procured through a grant from the W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund, further contributing to the well-being of resident veterans. These acquisitions signify a significant investment in the quality of life for veterans served by Veterans Place. By prioritizing comfort, functionality, and energy efficiency, the organization continues its commitment to providing the best possible housing accommodations for those in need.

The support of charitable foundations like the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation and the W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund plays a crucial role in enabling Veterans Place to fulfill its mission of empowering veterans and improving their overall well-being.

With these recent upgrades, Veterans Place remains dedicated to serving those who have served our country, ensuring that veterans receive the support and resources they deserve as they transition back into civilian life.



# What Works: Workforce Development

by Rion Paige

The Workforce Development Department at Veterans Place recently participated in a leadership training event led by renowned Leadership & Business Consultant, Jeff Hancher. The 8-hour workshop, hosted by ac Marriott Hotel – Canonsburg, ran the gamut of subject matter pertaining to the best practices of effective leaders, from trust-building exercises to live situational analysis case studies engineered to stimulate creative problem-solving in the thought processes of participants.

“I think the activities were the centerpiece of the training,” remarks Vanesa Hart, the newest addition to the Veterans Place Workforce Development team. “There was so much for everyone to take away and apply to ourselves, regardless of position.” Hart, who graduated from Point Park University last year with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology, recently joined Veterans Place as an Employment Specialist. In this role, she has the responsibility of working with homeless veterans to build a positive and efficient basis of habits necessary to reintegrate into the professional sector. A formidable task for a department that coordinates job placement for homeless vets throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.



“We have a ton of work to do, even with what we have managed to accomplish thus far,” says Earl Lamar, the tenured Manager of Workforce Development for Veterans Place. “The most important thing we can do is invest in the people that we are counting on to do the work. That comes with training on how to talk to people, so that you can achieve the desired outcomes.”

With renovations well underway on the new home of the Workforce Development Department, Building 919, the department looks to match the undertaking with equally ambitious initiatives pointed towards enhancing service output for veterans. 2024 is slated to be a transformative step in the realization of the greater mission of Veterans Place, and there’s no question that the footprint left behind will read: Workforce Development.



VETERANS PLACE

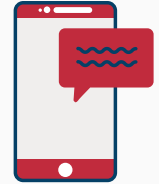
# Employee Assistance Program

## WHAT IS AN EAP?

An employee assistance program (EAP) is a work-based intervention program designed to assist employees in resolving personal problems.



## CONTACT



1(844)833-0527



## WHAT SERVICES DO THEY OFFER?

- Telecounseling services (maximum of 6 sessions)
- Assist in connecting with support groups
- Search for services such as pet sitting, childcare, etc.
- Connection with other UPMC services
- 30 minute financial consultation
- 30 minute legal consultation (not related to employment)



## HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

Services offered by the EAP are free of charge to the employee.



Please reach out to Human Resources with any additional questions



# CORE VALUES

## RESPECT

- » For service to our country
- » For sacrifices made
- » For veterans past and present



## ACTION

- » To get homeless veterans off the street
- » To reach out to veterans in need
- » To spread the word about Veterans Place
- » To create change within the community



## DISCIPLINE

- » To do what is right, stay the course, and do good work
- » To provide a structured environment
- » To fight for veterans individually and collectively



## PROVIDE

- » The right services to those that have served us
- » Evolving programs that serve the community
- » Modern living environments for veterans

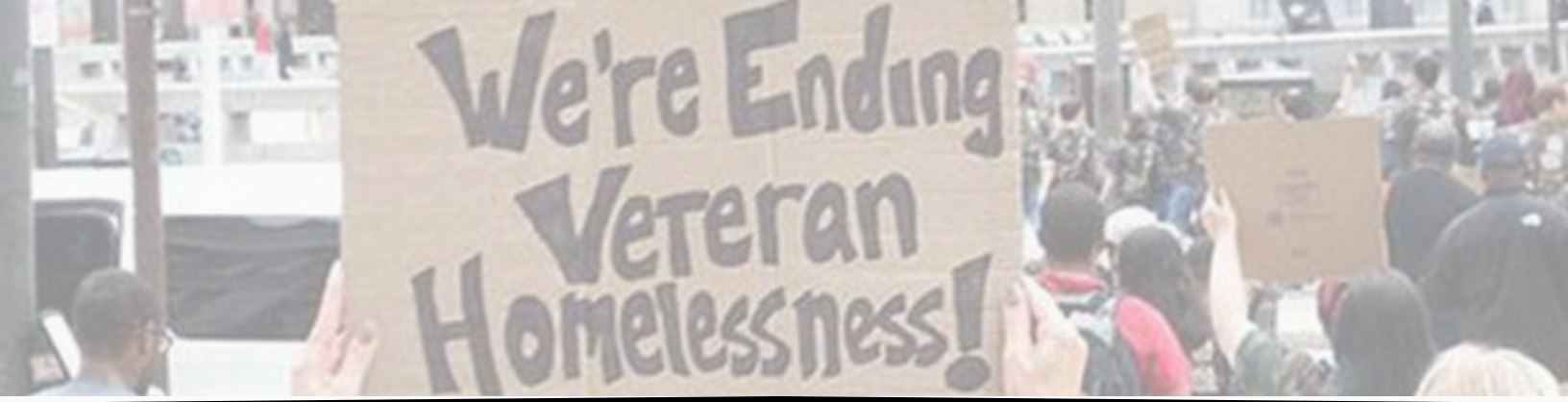


## RESPONSIBILITY

- » To the current veterans we encounter
- » To the community we serve
- » To the next generation of veterans







## EMPOWERING TRANSITIONS: A MAJOR STEP

by Rion Paige

Veterans Place proudly announces the Empowering Transitions project, a major expansion of our mission to support veterans. This initiative includes a three-story multipurpose building featuring eight single-occupancy apartments and a wellness center.

The apartments will offer veterans a safe and stable living environment during their transition to civilian life.

The centerpiece of the expansion is the wellness center, accessible to all veterans on campus. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, it will provide a range of services to promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

With a budget of \$5 million, the project reflects our commitment to enhancing veterans' care. Scheduled to open in late 2024, it represents years of planning and dedication. We're immensely grateful to our supporters whose generosity has made this expansion possible. The Empowering Transitions project signifies a significant step forward in our mission to empower veterans. Together, we're building a brighter future for those who have served our country.





salutes our  
Vietnam War Veterans

# NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



*March 29, 2024*

