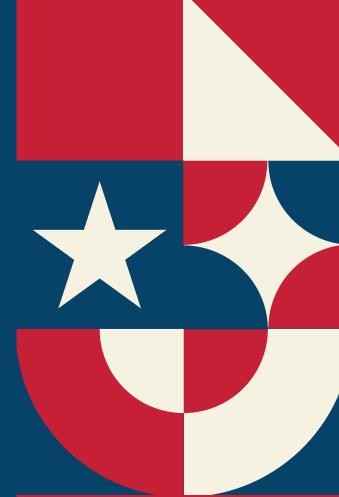


ANNUAL REPORT 2024



THE VISION OF VETERANS PLACE

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

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.



our history



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.



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.



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.





Platinum Transparency **2024**

Candid.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

P2
P3
P4
P8
P9
P10
P11
P12
P13



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.



In 2024, Veterans Place proudly opened two transformative facilities: the Multi-Purpose Center, providing housing, healthcare, and wellness services for homeless veterans, and the Duquesne Light Workforce Development Center, which offers job training and employment support to help veterans achieve long-term stability. "Having accessible community supports is fundamental to recovery," said DDAP Secretary Dr. Latika Davis-Jones.

"This funding will directly improve care delivery and recovery services by addressing the four main areas of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community."

🛧 WHAT'S NEXT

Veterans Place is excited to announce the receipt of a grant from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to fund a new Recovery Support Program, which will begin serving veterans in July 2025. This grant will allow us to enhance our services for veterans, providing crucial recovery support and resources for those struggling with substance use disorders.

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

2024 was a year of significant growth for Veterans Place, as we proudly continued our tradition of excellence in serving over 1,000 veterans. Our commitment to empowering veterans through housing, counseling, job training, healthcare, and community support remained steadfast, helping them become self-sufficient and productive members of society.

We expanded our services with the completion of two new facilities: the Duquesne Light Workforce Development Center and our new Multi-purpose Facility, which includes efficiency apartments, a gym, and a Wellness Center in partnership with Allegheny Health Network. These additions enhance our ability to provide holistic care for veterans transitioning to stability.

In 2024, we received the highest recognition from the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and ensured that over 90% of our financial resources were dedicated to service delivery. Our partnership with the Veterans Administration also expanded our Transitional Housing Services by 15%, allowing us to assist more veterans in need.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our community, partners, and donors. Looking ahead, we remain committed to innovating and expanding our services to meet the evolving needs of our veterans. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission.

Sincerely, Mark Wechsler Board Chair, Veterans Place of Washington Boul<mark>evard</mark>

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on the progress and challenges of 2024, we are reminded of the unwavering dedication and resilience of the veterans we serve. This year has been one of remarkable growth, expansion, and impact for Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard, and I am both honored and humbled to share some of our significant achievements with you.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our staff, and the partnership of local organizations, we have been able to provide essential services to homeless veterans in our community, helping them navigate healthcare, secure stable housing, and find meaningful employment. The opening of our new multi-purpose facility has been a transformative moment for our organization, offering veterans access to single-occupancy apartments, comprehensive wellness services, and on-site healthcare from Allegheny Health Network.

Another proud accomplishment that will significantly enhance our services is the opening of our Duquesne Light Workforce Development Center. This center will expand our employment services to veterans with the support of the Department of Labor and Duquesne Light, providing invaluable opportunities to those seeking to build sustainable careers.

Despite the significant strides we've made, our work is far from over. We remain deeply committed to addressing the ever-evolving needs of our community's veterans and ensuring that they have the support and opportunities they deserve. We are excited to continue expanding our services, improving our facilities, and forging new partnerships to ensure that no veteran is left behind.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the launch of a new Recovery Support Program, funded by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). This program, which will begin serving veterans in July 2025, will offer comprehensive recovery services, supporting veterans in their journey toward healing and long-term stability. We are confident that this new initiative will greatly enhance our ability to serve veterans facing substance use and mental health challenges.

On behalf of our dedicated staff and the veterans we serve, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to building a future where every veteran has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to fulfill our mission and bring hope to those who need it most.

With deepest appreciation, Kevin Kordzi, M.Ed Executive Director, Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard

MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER GRAND OPENING









In November 2024, Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard celebrated the grand opening of its new Multi-Purpose Center, a transformative facility designed to support homeless veterans on their journey to stability and independence. The ribbon-cutting ceremony, held on Veterans Day, was attended by special guests, community leaders, and veterans who came together to commemorate the opening of this state-of-the-art facility at 945 Washington Boulevard in Pittsburgh.

The three-story center features 8 single-occupancy apartments, providing veterans transitioning from homelessness with a safe and supportive environment to rebuild their lives. In addition to housing, the facility houses a Wellness Center equipped with commercial exercise equipment, promoting the physical and mental well-being of residents.



A key feature of the Multi-Purpose Center is the medical office, which partners with Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health to provide critical healthcare services for veterans who are ineligible for care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This partnership is instrumental in expanding healthcare access, addressing gaps in care, and offering holistic, veteran-centered services.

With this facility, veterans not only gain access to essential housing and healthcare but also a comprehensive support system aimed at ensuring they can live healthier, more independent lives. The grand opening event showcased the facility's offerings and allowed attendees to engage with the veterans who will benefit from its services.

The opening of the Multi-Purpose Center would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders, partners, laborers, and community supporters. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped bring this facility to life, and to the community members who have supported our mission over the years. Your commitment and collaboration have made this transformative project a reality, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support in helping us serve those who have served us.



PROGRAM ENTRY

Veterans are referred to Veterans Place by our community partners or 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



WELLNESS CENTER

Veterans have access to a state-of-the-art gym as part of their treatment plan. Those without VA healthcare can be screened by our on-site RN, receive assistance with Medicaid and Social Security applications, and access medical services through our partner, Allegheny Health Network.



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.

 \star Service Intensive Transitional Housing \star Bridge Housing \star Low Demand Housing



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Veterans can then be referred to our workforce development program through 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.

CARF Accredited for Services Coordination



THE VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (VRC) is one of only 15 drop-in resource centers nationwide, providing vital support to veterans in need. Veterans Place conducts outreach Monday through Friday, picking up veterans from shelters, encampments, and the streets to ensure access to essential services. The VRC offers a computer lab, a state-of-the-art Smart Classroom, a commercial kitchen, free laundry and shower facilities, and an on-site food pantry. Additionally, veterans receive a hot breakfast and lunch daily. Through the Low-Income Veterans and Families Program, the VRC assists homeless and at-risk veterans by offering crisis case management and emergency financial assistance for utilities, rent, and other critical needs to prevent homelessness.



Wilkins Elks 577 Lodge and Woodland Hills High School students team up to serve veterans lunch.







Being at Veterans Place is truly a blessing and a privilege. This place is helping me rebuild my life, and the support and kindness I've received here is unlike anything I've ever known. I'm so grateful to have a roof over my head and no longer be homeless. Best of all, I get to stay with my dog, Scrappy Dew, my emotional support companion who brings comfort to me and those around him.

– Veteran Bill S. & Scrappy Dew

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

CARF Accredited for Community Housing



VETERANS PLACE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, one of the region's only VA-funded, campus-style programs, has expanded to serve 60 veterans with the addition of a multi-purpose facility and eight single-occupancy apartments. This growth enhances flexibility to support female, transgender, and wheelchair-bound veterans while providing comprehensive care, including individualized services, an on-site food pantry, employment assistance, financial literacy classes, and art therapy.









My name is Derrick Dennis, and I'm a veteran who has experienced firsthand the life-changing support that Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard offers to those of us who have nowhere else to turn.

After serving my country, I found it challenging to adjust from the structured life I knew to the uncertainty of life without it. I was homeless, disconnected from my family, battling depression, and unable to find steady work.

Veterans Place gave me a roof over my head, job training and emotional support tools to rebuild my life. They didn't just offer me help, they gave me a community and a renewed sense of purpose. Now I am standing on my own again. I'm proud to say I'm no longer homeless. I have a sustainable income and most importantly. I am looking forward to the future.



- Veteran Derrick D.

Cher Dennis

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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



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 and has been recognized as an exception grantee by the Department of Labor.



101 Veterans Placed in Sustainable Employment



100% Veterans Trained Through HVRP







In 2024, Veterans Place, in partnership with Duquesne Light Company (DLC) and the U.S. Department of Labor, proudly unveiled the Duquesne Light Veterans Workforce Center—a dedicated workforce development space designed to support homeless and low-income veterans in the Pittsburgh area. Thanks to a \$325,000 investment from DLC, the formerly vacant two-story building was transformed into a state-of-the-art facility offering activity areas, meeting rooms, and virtual training programs to help veterans navigate their job search. The center serves as a hub for career development, connecting veterans with top local employers, including DLC, and expanding access to job training, internships, and career opportunities. The ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 25 marked a significant milestone in Veterans Place's mission to empower veterans with the resources they need to achieve long-term stability and success.





>> 10TH ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

The 10th Annual Cornhole Tournament, held at Acrisure Stadium during Ribfest, was a huge success in 2024, bringing the community together for a day of friendly competition and support for homeless veterans.



>> VETERANS DAY

The 2024 Veterans Day event at Veterans Place was a meaningful celebration dedicated to honoring and supporting our nation's heroes. This special event united community members, veterans, and supporters to recognize their service and sacrifices. Volunteers from Wal-Mart joined the celebration, contributing their time and



support while participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new multi-purpose facility. Their presence helped highlight the importance of community partnerships in enhancing services and resources for veterans in need.



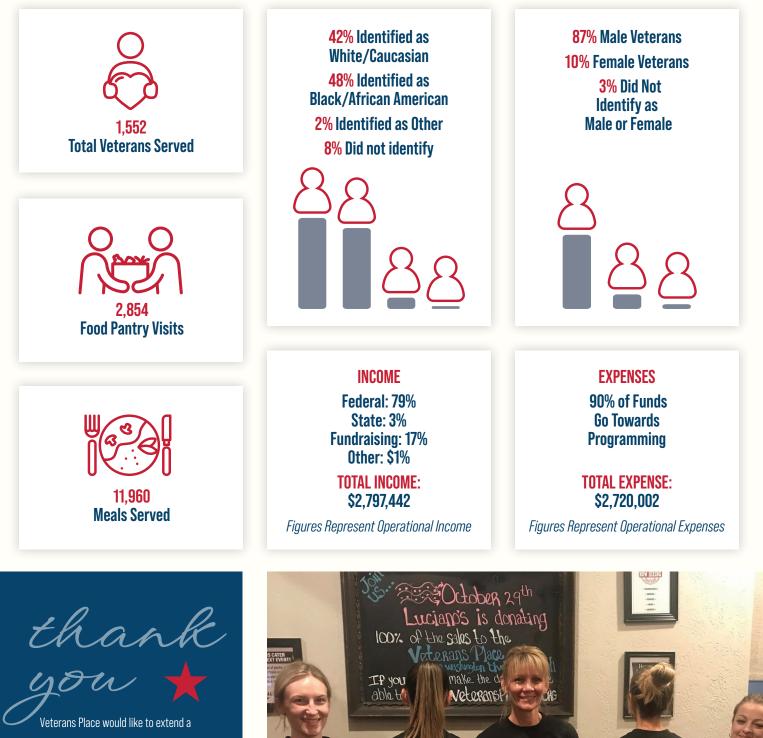


>> HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season can be especially challenging for the veterans we serve. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and generous donors, we provide warm meals, companionship, and essential support to ensure no veteran feels alone during this time.



IMPACT & FINANCIALS



on October 29th, 2024.

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.

ETERANS PL ETERANS PLA Luciano's Restaurant staff giving back to our veterans by donating 100% of all sales for the entire day

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84 Lumber

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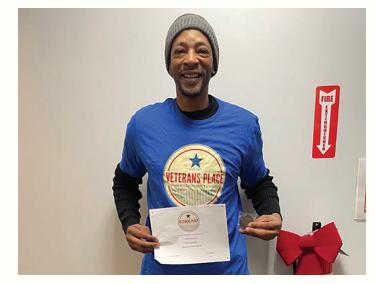
Chank you TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS PLACE

VETERANS OF THE MONTH HIGHLIGHTS



EMPLOYMENT >> JULY 2024 >> JOHN R.

John came to Veterans Place by way of the community. He served in the Marines from 2008 - 2011 as an Automotive Maintenance Technician and was discharged honorably as an E4. Through the efforts of our HVRP team, we are excited to say that he has accepted a position with Veterans Place as the Facilities Manager. Congratulations to John on his continued success! We are grateful to have you on the team!



Veterans on the Path to Stability

EMPLOYMENT >> NOVEMBER 2024 >> ERIK

Erik served in the U.S. Army from 2006 – 2009 as an Administrative Assistant, earning an honorable discharge at the rank of E5. He joined Veterans Place through the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) and, with the support and dedication of HVRP, has secured a job with one of our Community Partners as a Cook, earning \$19.00 per hour! We couldn't be more proud of Erik's continued success.



ARTIST >> GEORGE W.

Veteran George has been diving into the Expressive Arts Program with enthusiasm since the end of April! In his very first group session, he was introduced to the fascinating world of mandalas and was invited to craft a piece that reflects his life. The term "mandala," from Sanskrit, means "circle" or "completion," and Carl Jung saw the circle as a powerful symbol of life's wholeness. George eagerly embraced this idea, filling his circular canvas with vibrant elements that capture his identity. The cityscape, the winding path, the warm sun against a cool purple and blue backdrop, the dice, and the intricate symmetry—each piece brims with meaning and reflects different facets of George's life.

ARTIST >> BILL S.

Many veterans face challenges such as PTSD, anxiety, depression, and trauma-related disorders, especially around the holidays, and art therapy can be a powerful tool in their recovery journey. Veteran Bill S. creates intricate models in the Art Therapy Program. He shared that building one of these models can take up to three hours or more due to the small pieces that connect all the larger components. One of his favorite aspects of building these models is how it keeps him occupied, helping him avoid dwelling on thoughts that may not be the healthiest to focus on.



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