



2023 Programs

Military Chaplains Association

Brotherhood of Saint Andrew

Vet to Vet Tennessee

“Leave No Veteran Behind”



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MISSION

Since 2011, Our organization aims to reduce Veteran suicide, homelessness, and incarceration through PTSD awareness, intervention, prevention, and resolution training, mental health first aid, peer support, and mentoring. We advocate and work with federal, state, and local agencies to accomplish our goals.

OUR 2023 PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

- Celebrate Recovery
- Ethos Student Art
- Expungement Clinics
- Korean War Ambassador for Peace Medal
- QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention
- Repairs for Heroes
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council
- Veterans Courts/Tracks
- Veterans Mentoring Training
- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations
- Vietnam War Commemoration
- We Honor Veterans
- “You’re Worth It” faith-based mental health/suicide prevention play.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

An internationally recognized Christ-centered program that supports and educates individuals to help them overcome their hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

This program emphasizes personal responsibility and teaches participants to that wise choices must be made in immediacy while offering comfort in the power of Christ, which helps make difficult changes.

This program incorporates the 12 Steps with accompanying Scriptures along with the 8 Principles based on the Beatitudes which offers participants a clear path to salvation and discipleship.

The overarching goals are to introduce hope, freedom, sobriety, healing, and the opportunity to give back

one day at a time.

Vet to Vet Tennessee has been partnering with Celebrate Recovery since 2017.

ETHOS STUDENT ART

The mission of our project is to promote the values of respect, teamwork, commitment, and gratitude among students.

Through our Ethos Student Art (ESA) program, we will combat the issue of social isolation faced by East Tennessee middle school students due to Covid-19's disruption of school and community functions.

ESA is a service-learning experience for students to collaborate and produce artistic emblems for each Military branch of service to display within their school. Service learning builds each student's sense of responsibility for and connection within their community.

ESA can strengthen our future communities' foundations for civic knowledge and commitment.

Co-developed by Dr. Amber Patty in 2021 and implemented at the Brown Middle School in Sweetwater, TN.

EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

The Tennessee Expungement statute allows people with criminal records to file a petition to expunge all dismissed charges for free after the charge is dismissed and court costs are paid, and to file a motion to expunge up to two eligible low-level convictions after a five-year waiting period. Reading a criminal record and determining if charges and convictions are eligible is not easy; therefore, this program exists to assist in the understanding and actions necessary for this process.

We have conducted five clinics in Cocke, Jefferson, Knox, and Monroe counties in partnership with the University of Tennessee College of Law and Professor Joy Radice.

For free legal assistance, call the UT Clinic hotline at 865-974-677

KOREAN WAR AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL

The medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to US servicemen and women who served in the Korean conflict.

To be eligible for this honor, the veteran must have served in the country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.

If a veteran was a Navy service member and served aboard a naval vessel, then he or she is eligible if the naval vessel was assigned to Korean waters sometime between 1950-1953.

This medal recognizes women in service, such as a nurse, clerical and administrative, and other positions that were predominantly held by women service members.

The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.

To date, VTVT has assisted 626 Korean War Veterans from 254 different towns, 50 states, and 5 countries. One (2) POW, 3200 posthumously. Numerous Chosin Reservoir Campaign heroes.

QPR GATEKEEPER SUICIDE PREVENTION

This training is provided free to veterans, first responders, faith-based, hospice/home care, SUD & Mental health, and educational organizations.

The program is supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the QPR Institute, and the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN).

Classes are provided at 60 or 90 minutes pending the needs and availability of the organization or individual.

Vet to Vet Tennessee has a youth mental health/suicide prevention program for middle school children. The program was co-developed and approved by the QPR Institute.

Vet to Vet Tennessee has trained over 100 certified QPR Instructors and two (2) QPR Master Instructors.

Please call us at 865-336-2624 for more information.

REPAIRS FOR HEROES

This program assists veterans with services that help repair the mind, body, spirit, and home.

The program provides resources via the Department of Veterans Affairs, including suicide prevention Chaplain services and other community-based organizations.

The program informs veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Improvement Structural Alteration (HISA) program. This benefit provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/ Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from the primary residence.
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll-in showers)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom roll-in or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks)

- Improving entrance paths or driveways in the immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through the construction of permanent ramping
- Improving the plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to the installation of the home medical equipment

A HISA application is a VA prescription NOT a claim.

KNOXVILLE REGIONAL VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

The mission of the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council is to help foster, encourage, and promote the honor, recognition, and support of all persons who are now serving, will serve in the future or have served in the past in any branch of the United States military. To promote and support programs that will foster physical, emotional, religious, and cultural improvements, personal growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and a sense of worth for veterans adjusting to a non-military community and environment. To establish a network of federal, state, and community agencies and organizations that can assist veterans and their families in times of need or emergency.

To create, train and expand a base of veteran and other non-veteran advocate volunteers who can serve as peer-support facilitators and/or mentors to veterans, their families, and their communities in identifying and resolving veteran-oriented issues and needs.

To promote awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), its effects on veterans and their families, law enforcement, and other first responders, and to help remove the stigma of associating it solely as a mental illness or disorder.

To conduct outreach, education, and services on pertinent veteran issues in both urban and, especially, rural areas throughout the state.

VETERANS COURT/TRACKS

The mission: is to sponsor programs that help keep our veterans out of the criminal system and back to leading healthy and productive lives.

The Veterans Court centers around the premise that a growing number of veterans suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions (such as PTSD), and trauma (such as traumatic brain injury) and that these issues may be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Research continues to link substance use disorders with service-related mental illness.

Such conditions increase the likelihood of involvement with the justice system. In fact, **81% of justice-involved veterans** (JIV) had a substance use disorder before incarceration, and **25% were identified as mentally ill**.

Monroe County Veterans Court Judge Dwaine B. Thomas has been conducting Veterans Court for over eight (8) years. Four (4) Veterans Court Tracks have been established in Bradley, McMinn, Polk, and Rhea Counties.

The recidivism rate is one of the best in the United States, after operating for over eight (8) years, the Monroe County Veterans Court/tracks have a **recidivism rate of 4%**.

VETERAN/MILITARY-FRIENDLY CONGREGATIONS

The Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation program (VMFC) was conceived to promote a sense of community, acceptance, and support for Veterans and their families.

This idea was launched by the Knoxville Regional Mental Health Council's Faith-Based Committee in February 2012 and has become an integral part of the Faith-Based Initiative. 188 VMFCs are currently enrolled in 121 cities and 21 states.

This idea expanded in January 2018 when it was launched nationally by the Military Chaplains Association of the United States.

There are only three simple enrollment requirements, making this an effortless way to positively network to assist our veterans. Enrollment is online at <https://vmfc-usa.org/enroll-now>

Veterans are 10 times more likely to go to clergy than all other Mental Health Providers according to the Department of Veterans Affairs

GRATITUDE

We collaborate efforts with various community partners to serve those who served in the Military. From suicide prevention to housing to judicial issues, we certainly cover many areas of need.

Ask about free suicide prevention training for your church or community group or how your organization can be added to the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)'s list of "Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations/Ministries".

Donations are always welcome to benefit veterans/military and their families. 100% of the donations received by Vet to Vet Tennessee go directly to the Vets. Vet to Vet Tennessee is a non-profit 501 c 3 veteran advocacy organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

We are grateful and blessed for the prayers, support, and honor we have received from thousands of veteran advocates. Peace.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Operation Military Masterpiece Middle School Student Winning Art

Zoey Brown - Baylee Bohrer - Jeremiah Wilson - Cassandra Cabrales Otero – Katie Bowman – Azzie McSpadden