



# VETERANS TRANSITION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

Empowering Veterans to move from crisis to self-sufficiency

April 2025

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Jennie Nestler

At the Veterans Transition Center of California (VTC), Jennie plays a pivotal role in guiding formally incarcerated Veterans toward a successful transition back into society. As the Director of Transformative Reentry, she oversees rehabilitative programming, housing, and case management, ensuring Veterans receive the support they need both inside and outside prison walls. Through advocacy, hands-on programming, and community partnerships, Jennie is dedicated to creating opportunities for growth, stability, and empowerment.

"My passion for reentry work drives me to see each Veteran as more than their past, helping them build a brighter future."

When Jennie isn't working, she finds joy in the outdoors, getting lost in a good book, and cherishing time with her wonderful family.

Jennie's unwavering dedication has left a profound impact on the Veterans she serves. Time and again, the Veterans speak of her with deep respect and gratitude. Not just for the resources she provides, but for her steadfast belief in them, even when they struggle to believe in themselves. Many credit her with giving them a second chance, by offering guidance and seeing their potential when they cannot.

Her ability to listen without judgment, advocate fiercely, and challenge them to rise beyond their past has transformed countless lives. Through her compassion and relentless support, she empowers Veterans to reclaim their futures with confidence and purpose, proving that with the right guidance, a new beginning is always possible.

## SECOND ANNUAL HOPE FOR HEROES GALA

An unforgettable evening thanks to YOU! Guests enjoyed a breathtaking masquerade ball filled with inspiring fundraising moments. Your support made it all possible, and we can't wait to celebrate with you again next year!





## A CAR FOR ALBERT



It's not every day that a veteran receives the gift of a car, but when it happens, it's truly life changing. Thanks to the kindness of Marina Tire, a deserving Vet is now on the road of opportunities.

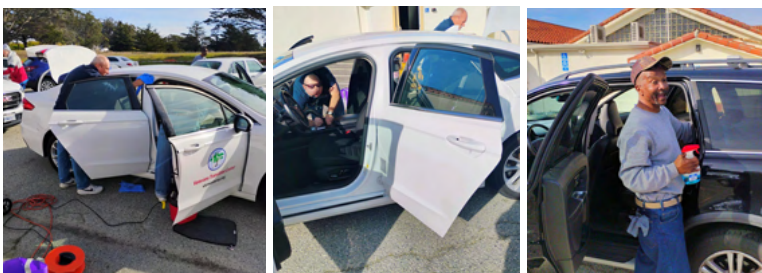
When Marina Tire approached us with the incredible offer to donate a vehicle, we invited our veterans to share how reliable transportation would impact their lives. Among the heartfelt submissions, Albert Pucylowski's story stood out. He detailed the challenges of commuting to his ever changing job sites and the obstacles preventing him from securing a managerial position. An opportunity that hinged on dependable transportation.

Albert's perseverance and dedication made him the perfect recipient, and now, with a reliable car, his future looks brighter than ever. Grateful for this incredible gift, he's ready to embrace new job prospects, travel without worry, and take the next step in his career.

This act of generosity is more than just a car, it's a symbol of freedom, opportunity, and support for those who have served. We're honored to have played a role in making this happen and look forward to seeing Albert's journey unfold.

## VTC FLEET GETS A MAKEOVER

Speaking of cars, our incredible residents came together to volunteer their time and detail our fleet vehicles! These vehicles play a vital role in helping us transport Veterans to appointments, take them on field trips, and meet other essential needs. Thank you to everyone who pitched in, and of course, our fleet manager, Kenny, for making everyone breakfast!



## 2025 DONOR RECEPTION



VTC hosted its first ever Donor Appreciation Reception at Earthbound Farms this past February, and we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude. Whether you attended the event, contributed financially, donated items, volunteered your time, or supported us in any way, we appreciate you.

Your generosity makes everything we do possible, and we sincerely hope you feel just as valued as you truly are. Thank you!



Stay up to date on everything VTC, and see firsthand how your compassion and support makes a difference. Follow us on social media.

**FOLLOW US!**

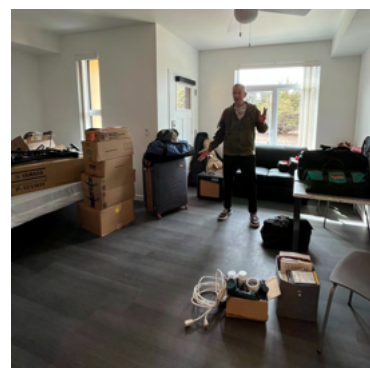


@VTCofCalifornia



# Lightfighter Village is Officially Open!

Saying goodbye is never easy, but we're filled with joy for Kristen and Dan as they begin their new life together. In our last newsletter, we bid farewell to Dan, and November marked Kristen's final day as our incredible leader in GPD. Thank you both for your unwavering dedication and all you've done for our Veterans! Your impact will be felt for years to come.



 THE NASCAR  
FOUNDATION

  
**BE THE  
DIFFERENCE  
JOIN THE  
GIVEATHON**

MAY 13-14

[NASCARDAYGIVEATHON.ORG](https://nascardaygiveathon.org)



The NASCAR community's day of online giving will be a 27-hour period that provides an easy and fun way for the community to support local nonprofits. For more, scan the QR code above, or visit:

[nascar.fanthem.io/share/nascar/67/charities/veterans-transition-center-of-california](https://nascar.fanthem.io/share/nascar/67/charities/veterans-transition-center-of-california)

## Lightfighter Village Short Film

To celebrate the opening of our newest permanent supportive housing complex, Lightfighter Village (LFV), we teamed up with House of 8 Media to create a powerful short film. The story follows VTC resident Timothy Jackson as he embarks on a new chapter of his life at LFV. During filming, Timothy shared with us, "This is my first-ever home that is truly my own."

We're thrilled to announce that move-ins at LFV are officially underway, and we look forward to sharing more inspiring stories and projects with you soon!



Watch it here: [vtcofcalifornia.org/lfvshortfilm](https://vtcofcalifornia.org/lfvshortfilm)





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# *Thank You!*

## SUPPORTER HIGHLIGHTS

Baker's Bacon	Christopher Long
Bernardus Lodge & Spa	Jamie and Christine Miller
Alex Bokde	In Memory of Bill Mitchell
Elissa Boyd	Jon and Linda Monteith
Madra Dawson D	Monterey Peninsula Engineering
Bruce Delgado	Monterey Fire Extinguisher
Candice Depauw	Curtis Myers
Grace Gamble	Francisco and Candice Narewski
Dr. Rich and Holly German	Clif and Sonja Neal
Thomas H. Griffin	Karen Nelson
Don and Carol Hilburn	Stephen Palumbi and Mary Roberts
Linnea Hoffmann	Karen Patriquin
Jay and Kip Hudson	Pebble Beach Company
Austin Kava	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
Thomas Lamphere	Pinnacle Bank
MaryAnn Leffel	Allison Ryan
Cannery Row Company Cannery	Ralph Sirtak
Kasmin Chappell	Brad and Stephanie
Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation, Inc.	Joseph Sweeney
Colonial Dames of America Monterey Chapter	Leslie Sweet
Community Foundation for Monterey County	David Van Beveran
	VFW Post 6849 VFW
	Christine Winge

## VTC HAS A NEW LOGO!



**VETERANS  
TRANSITION  
CENTER  
OF CALIFORNIA**

Empowering Veterans to move from crisis to self-sufficiency

You'll start seeing it pop up soon—same message  
& mission, just a fresh new look.

## AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM!



Huge thank you to Pebble Beach Company for having us out once again for the AT&T Pebble Beach PRO-AM! Our volunteers had an amazing time giving back, and we're incredibly grateful for your generous donation in return for our time. Your support means the world to us!