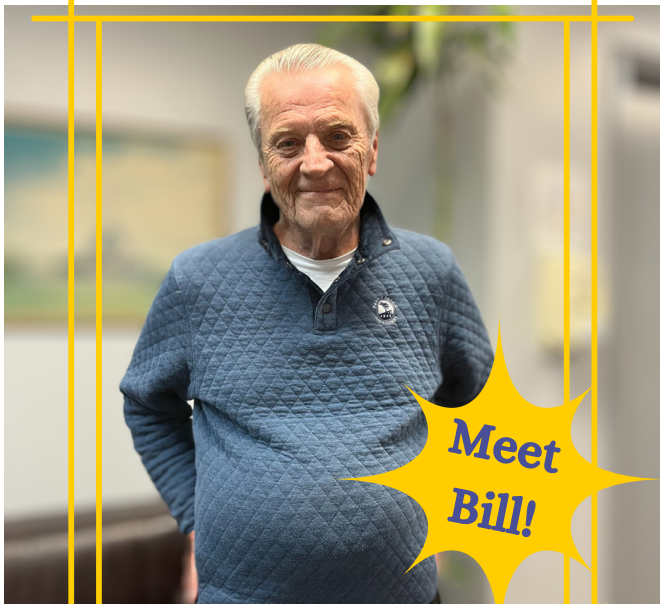




VETERANS TRANSITION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

Empowering Veterans to move from crises to self-sufficiency



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The VTC team dedicates so much to helping our Veterans, and we want to introduce you to one of our hard-working Case Managers. **Bill Gilreath** started with the VTC in 2018, though he's attempted to retire more than once! As an Army Veteran who served in Vietnam, Bill enjoys serving his fellow Veterans and has come to terms that he's not a fan of retirement. When the COVID pandemic first surfaced, he attempted to retire again. He's returned to continue his work here part time, and we're so grateful he's back! He checks in with our residents four times a week, connects them with health benefits and Veterans services, and assists in obtaining identification cards. When he's not hard at work, Bill is off riding his motorcycle or spending time with his wife and kids.

SPECIAL THANKS

Huge thank you to **Bayonet & Black Horse, ClubCar, Pat Jones, & Joe Murphy** for their generous donation of two golf carts to VTC! These carts play a vital role in our operations as they allow us to transport our residents to and from case management services.

LETTER FROM THE CEO *September 2023*

Dear VTC Supporters:

As you know, our Veterans face significant barriers to reintegrate into civilian life - physical and mental trauma, isolation, and so much more. At the Veterans Transition Center of California, we are dedicated to providing wraparound services to Veterans and their families, including housing, food, clothing, case management, mental health resources, benefits assistance, substance abuse counseling, and employment support.

Our team has been working hard as we expand our programming and prepare for some exciting new projects:

We are very proud of the construction of **Lightfighter Village**. This 71-unit complex will provide permanent supportive housing for low-income Veterans and their families, and, once complete, the number of Veterans we serve will nearly double in size. Partnering with EAH Housing and Huff Construction, we are planning an official groundbreaking ceremony this autumn - keep an eye out for updates as details are finalized!

I'd like to highlight our **Long-Term Offender Reentry Recovery Program (LTORR)** - we now partner with correctional facilities across the state to assist Veterans being released from prison. This smooth transition into VTC housing and connection with our programming makes it easier for Veterans to find stability, build healthy habits, and become productive members of society. LTORR serves as a model for successful reentry, with a **0% recidivism** rate for Veterans in our programs.

With the support of the State of California, we have built the nation's first **Veterans Hub at CTF Soledad**. This Veteran-dedicated yard allows us to provide group therapy and other enrichment opportunities that link up with the services we provide on the outside once they are released.

This work is all made possible by contributions from generous supporters like you. We hope you will take a moment to donate to this worthy cause! Thank you for all you have done to ensure our heroes are not left behind nor forgotten.

Sincerely,

Kurt Schake, PhD, Colonel USAF (ret.), CEO





VETERAN TESTIMONIAL

I am a 42-year-old Veteran. I served four years in the Army, including one tour in Iraq. Since that time, I've discovered that riding a bicycle is an activity that promotes quality of health and peace of mind. Indeed while I was living in Arizona, I believed that cycling kept me sane. However, upon moving to Marina, I realized that my single gear road bike on the sandy and inclined trails was now much more arduous and dangerous.

Then the VTC and BESV changed my life. I was referred to a job working with Joby Aviation and gifted a remarkable bike that would restore my enjoyment and quality of life. I was blown away by the fact that not only was this a sleek and extremely sturdy electric bicycle, but it was actually big enough for me. You see I am 6'6" so it's not always easy to fit into cars, clothing, or onto bicycles. After using the simple articulation in the handlebars and seat, I was comfortable enough to ride as long as the battery would last. And last it did! With a full charge I can make the round trip of 7.2 miles round trip to and from work every day, with even more energy to spare.

I just want to say how much I love my BESV E-Bike. I'm able to ride fast with the confidence that the solid construction, electric speed, beefy tires and well illuminated lights, will help keep me safe as I work towards a better future.

Thank you for the opportunity and my wonderful new BESV E-Bike.

**THANK YOU SEA OTTER CLASSIC
FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT
AND DONATIONS OF EBIKES TO
OUR RESIDENTS**

LIGHTFIGHTER VILLAGE UPDATE

We are another step closer to the construction of Lightfighter Village (LFV). Huff Construction has been hard at work preparing the site of this affordable housing community for our Veterans. Derelict buildings have been demolished, old pavement has been torn out, and the site is leveled.

This three-story, 71-unit housing structure will rest on 2.3 acres and consist of 64 studio apartments and seven two-bedroom family apartments reserved for low-income Veterans and their families. Residents at LVF will have access to support services here at VTC, a community room and courtyard, computer lab, pet wash station, meditation room, fitness center, laundry facility, community garden, play structure, and solar carports.

We want to thank EAH housing for teaming up with us to turn this dream into a reality so Veterans and their families can live with the dignity and security they have earned.



UPCOMING EVENTS

To celebrate the beginning of construction for Lightfighter Village, VTC and EAH Housing will host a groundbreaking ceremony in autumn of this year. Details are being finalized - be sure to follow us on our social media sites to see updates.

Sip, Savor, Salute & Support 2023

Want to support our Veterans while enjoying an evening out? Come to The Heinrich Team Thursday November 9th at 5:30 PM for an elegant fundraiser that will include wine, appetizers, live music, & raffle prizes! Scan the QR Code to reserve your tickets!





LAST CHANCE MERCANTILE

The Last Chance Mercantile (LCM) at the ReGen facility in Marina is a unique and favorite shopping experience and important partner with the Veterans Transition Center. The store offers an extensive inventory of one-of-a-kind items ranging from books to boats, scrap lumber to furniture, and clothing to household treasures.

They are serving the community and the planet by redirecting used goods and discards that still have life from the landfill. LCM sells goods that have been donated or salvaged. Please consider donating items to LCM; proceeds benefit the VTC, Veteran employment, and our programs.

GET INVOLVED

More housing needed!

We are raising funds for **four fully-accessible Accessory Dwelling Units** on properties owned by VTC to provide housing for more Veterans with limited mobility.

Veterans suffer **almost double the rate** of disability, significantly increasing the need for accessible and affordable housing. Adding more housing units that serve Veterans who use mobility aids will support them aging in place and living with the dignity they deserve.

Please join us in this endeavor and donate today!

Reusable goods are welcomed as a tax-deductible donation.



PROGRAM OF THE QUARTER

There are nearly 7,000 Veterans incarcerated in California, and reintegration into society rarely is easy for them. That is why we have teamed up with CTF Soledad to build the nation's first dedicated yard for Veterans, providing them with tools they need for successful reentry. Upon their release, our **Long-Term Reentry Recovery Program** assists Veterans with finding housing, obtaining a job, participating in group counseling, and many other services. The strength of this program is clear - our participants have maintained a 0% recidivism rate. No Veteran has reoffended under our care, compared with the State average rate of 46%. The numbers speak for themselves.





SPECIAL THANKS

Shout out to these individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Veterans Transition Center of California this year. We can't do this without you.

INDIVIDUALS

- Myron Seres
- James Turner
- Pauline Herlien
- Jon Monteith
- Lisa Hoivik
- Daniel O'Brien
- David Huey

ORGANIZATIONS

- SLV Management & Stephen Vagnini
- Rotary Club of Carmel Valley
- American Legion Riders
- Marina Club Casino, LLC
- Barnet Segal Charitable Trust & William Brodsley

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

STIIZY CANNABIS DISPENSARY

Thank you for your generous monthly support to our food pantry!

FOLLOW US

Stay up-to-date on everything VTC and see first hand how your support makes a difference by following our social media accounts.

@VTCofCalifornia



Like what you read?
Please consider donating - your support is essential to our work.



The Veterans Transition Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
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