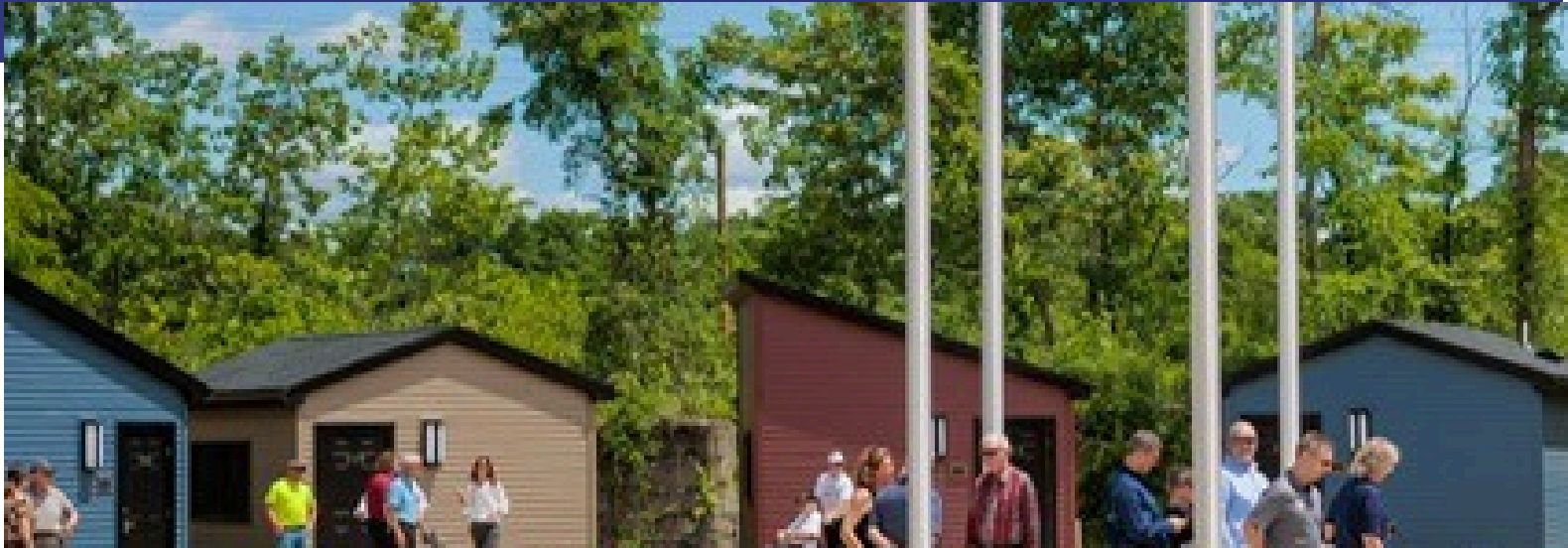


ON THE HOME FRONT

NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS OUTREACH OF PA



Dear VOPA Ally,

We were excited to welcome 10 veterans to our community this summer, and, since then, we have witnessed many heartwarming successes and major new discoveries!

One of our first observations: our participants are tired. Many have gone months, or even years, without a good night's sleep. Rarely, if ever, did they feel a sense of safety during their dark days without a home. Haunted by strange noises in the night, battling extreme temperatures and past trauma, and often hunger, life was a series of challenges --but here, in the tiny homes, that sense of safety has returned for the first time in a long time.

It is uplifting to witness our veterans sleeping, and regaining their health. Before we can tackle the root causes of homelessness, that mission is Job One.

We promise to share the success stories to come. Read on for more news, and stay tuned for our plans to honor Veterans Day and ring in the holidays! Thank you for being a friend of VOPA!



Yours in Service, Tom and Team

WRITING SUCCESS STORIES

In mid-August, our Therapeutic Community Program celebrated a significant milestone as our first two participants successfully completed Phase 1. These veterans, who joined the program at its inception, have shown remarkable dedication and resilience.

During Phase 1, they committed to the foundation of orientation, personal growth, stability, and recovery. Their progress has now allowed them to advance to Phase 2—the Transformation Phase. Here, they will dig deeper into their healing journey, addressing the root causes of their struggles and working closely with their peers and staff to build a stronger, more resilient self.

As they move into this next phase, they are focused on healing past wounds and preparing for the ultimate goal of independence in the community. Their journey is a testament to their strength, and we are proud to support them as they continue to transform their lives.



Jere Gish and Tom

8 Who Care

ACCOLADES ON THE WAY

WGAL News 8 has chosen our Co-Founder and CEO Tom Zimmerman as a finalist in their “8 Who Care” competition. Tom is quick to point out that this award is not about him, but veterans, and the “village” who has poured their hearts into supporting veterans.

Watch for more news about whether VOPA will win—and, if so, our Veteran community receives a generous cash prize. Special thanks to WGAL anchorman Jere Gish, who interviewed Tom about the VOPA story on Sept. 13 and the vision we are bringing to life.

DONATE TO \$15 for 15

VETERANSOUTREACHOFPA.ORG/15-FOR-15



4th Annual Red, White and Blue Golf Outing Hits it Out of the Fairway

More than 140 golfers took strong swings at combatting homelessness for veterans on the expertly manicured greens of Manada Golf Course on Aug. 23.

It was a day filled with golden sunshine, much-needed camaraderie, valuable prizes and mouth-watering food. A popular live auction item included a one-of-a-kind set of three patriotic prints painted by a 90-plus-year-old Vietnam veteran.

We also enjoyed some tasty, tender barbecue by DJ's Smoke Shack, our loyal partner; music by Brenden Orth of Orth Entertainment; and drone shots and photos by Jack Harlacker of Skyview Aerials. Thank you to our many sponsors and the board members who devoted their time and muscle to a very busy day. Our major sponsors included Adare Asset Management, Emerald Penn, and AHF. With your help, more than \$33,000 was raised ! Hooah!



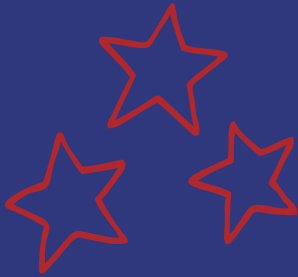
We are pleased to spotlight Residential Facilitator Darleen “Dee” Wilson, who has been with us since the very beginning! As one of the first staff hired, Dee is our 6am-2pm Residential Facilitator, providing direct support and counseling to residents, helping with goal-setting, life skills development, individualized care plans, and more.

Dee shows up every morning with a smile on her face, ready to help our residents start their day on the right foot. She makes sure our days run smoothly and coordinates logistics for outside appointments, ensuring every participant gets to their appointments in the community. Dee is a retired Army Veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) (2008-2010) and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2005 to 2006.

She earned the Distinguished Service Medal in March 2021 for her 18-plus years of distinguished service in the New Mexico National Guard. She also earned the Good Conduct Medal in 2005 for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity in active federal service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She is working on her bachelor’s degree in Psychology to further enhance her skills and her incalculable value to our veterans. We salute Dee.

MEET DEE WILSON



Hoodies, Hats & More Being Collected

As the heat of summer yields to the chill of winter, we are asking for the community’s help in collecting hoodies, hats, scarves, boots, and winter coats. New women’s undergarments are also needed. If you can help, please email info@veteransoutreachofpa.org to arrange a pick up or plan a Thursday drop-off .

These donations are also needed:

**Gift cards for gas
Paper towels**

**Napkins Toilet paper
Bathroom Cleaning Products**

**Notebooks
Tissues**

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 10, we will accept donations at Veterans Grove on Thursdays from 10 am -- 2 pm. If this time is difficult for you, we will be happy to arrange a pick up. Please follow Facebook for updates. Thank you for giving to those who have given so much!



Summer “Fun-raisers” to Remember

Some of our exciting fundraisers this summer included

- Throwdown in the Vines, sponsored by the Rothrock Foundation (led by Rex and Deanna Rothrock) at Cassel Vineyards
- Derby Day at Greystone Brew House in Dillsburg
- Rumble in the Night Car Show at Antique Auto Museum, led by James Rice
- The Stonebridge Clay Shoot at Blue Ridge Sportsmans Gun Club
- Battlefield Brew Works Car Show in Gettysburg
- Crystal Hartz, with PA Hospitality Management
- Pampered Chef with Theresa Murphy-Roush
- American Legion Riders Chapter 998 in Lawnton



ARE YOU PART OF \$15 FOR 15?

VOPA ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO SIGN UP FOR AN EASY, AFFORDABLE WAY TO GIVE CONSISTENTLY TO VETERANS WORKING TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO STABILITY. FOR \$15 A MONTH, BE PART OF THE GROWING LIST OF SUPPORTERS WHO HELP IN OUR ONGOING MISSION TO COMBAT ENTRENCHED HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS. IF YOU ALREADY CONTRIBUTE, WE SINCERELY THANK YOU!

[VETERANSOUTREACHOFPA.ORG/15-FOR-15](https://veteransoutreachofpa.org/15-for-15)



Our Board

A special thanks to our board members, who have each brought their unique community connections and skill sets to our mission and devoted countless hours, thought and energy to fulfilling our shared mission .

Tracey Alfano-Douty

Tim Deery

Deb Donahue

Don Enders, Jr

John Hickey

Ben Lipschutz, Treasurer

Marc Migala

Louis Motley

Conner Porterfield

Mike Reardon

Bill Reed, Vice Chair

Lisa Zimmerman

Tom Zimmerman, Chair

