



The Veterans' Place, Inc.

Transitional Housing and Programs for Veterans in Vermont

We offer a Hand Up, Not a Hand-Out

2019 ANNUAL PROGRESS / HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

Dedicated in honor of Bonnie Chouinard



Since opening its doors in September 2009, the Veterans' Place, Inc., has touched the lives of more than 400 homeless area veterans in need of a chance for change. Through our transitional housing and support programs, we have successfully transitioned 73% of our residents, the highest rate in the state.

We greatly appreciate the generous support of our donors, sponsors, friends, volunteers, and community partners, without whom we could not do what we do.

220 Vine Street, Northfield, VT 05663 Tel: (802) 485-TVPI (8874)

A Letter from the President: *Overcoming Adversity*

As I write this, the world as we know it has changed dramatically, and with it, so have we. Overcoming adversity is nothing new to our veterans, nor is it a stranger to the Veterans' Place. The year 2019 ushered in its share of challenges, including turnover in staff, changes in leadership, and the untimely passing of one of our youngest residents from an accidental drug overdose. But through it all, we stayed the course, strengthened our resolve, and emerged even more stable and robust as a result.

The ability to keep going when the going gets tough is a characteristic shared by our residents. On the opposite page, you will read about some of their successes, penned in their own words. Please know, they are where they are today because of you.

If you are reading this, you are a valued friend, loyal donor, dedicated volunteer, committed community partner, hardworking public servant, or indispensable sponsor of the Veterans' Place. This year's report, dedicated to Bonnie Chouinard for her outstanding generosity, is for *all* of you, with heartfelt gratitude for *everything* you have done—and are doing—to transform the lives of Vermont's homeless vets.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our residents, and our staff, ***THANK YOU!***

Yours in Service,



Michael J. Krause, Ph.D.
Colonel, United States Army, Retired
President, TVPI Board of Directors

Our Mission

The Veterans' Place, Inc. (TVPI) is a community-based, non-profit, 22-bed, substance-free transitional housing program located in Central Vermont, dedicated to reducing Vermont's homeless veterans population. TVPI provides secure and sober housing, along with supportive services and programs, to homeless veterans for up to two years.

TVPI works in conjunction with the Veterans Medical Facility in White River Junction, along with other Veterans' facilities and state agencies around Vermont in a coordinated effort to offer affordable housing, nutritious meals, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, along with employment and volunteer placement assistance, among other supportive services.

“We don't know them all, but we *OWE* them all.”

—author unknown

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.



Veteran Testimonials

“I am one of a number of veterans residing at the Veterans’ Place, Inc. In reflecting on my year I continue to be amazed at the amount of support I have received in a very short period of time: clothing, daily meals, and shelter, to list a few. If you would have told me a year ago that I would be on my way to renting an apartment, saving money for a car, and/or securing a stable job, I would have told you it was impossible. Veterans’ Place, Inc. has in no small way made all of this possible and I am eternally grateful to the staff and those who have donated to make it possible. Thank You!”

**—Harry Olin Simpson,
current resident**

“After several years of a walkabout initiated by financial disaster and subsequent domestic dissolution (fancy phrase for divorce), I found myself in Vermont camped outside Brattleboro. Enrollment with the VA led to being persuaded to apply to the Veterans’ Place. I was skeptical that this was going to be of any value, but as I became more familiar with the Village and the opportunity afforded me to settle amongst people I could relate to, it was a very good decision. Veterans’ Place was the springboard for finding a home, good job, and friends. I will be eternally grateful.”

**—James Savanna,
former resident**

“Having arrived at Veterans’ Place in February 2018, I was greeted by a very friendly staff that had my interests as their goal. Upon arrival I was asked to write a Goals Plan on which to base my stay. In July 2018 I was admitted to WRJ VAMC for surgery. After my recovery I was greeted back at TVPI in August. At that point the staff assisted me in applying for SSDI. In December I was awarded 100% disability, thus completing another of my goals. From August 2018 to June 2019 I dedicated my time to finding suitable housing to meet my medical needs along with giving back to TVPI as best as I could. I strongly support the TVPI’s mission and their excellent assistance for the Veterans fortunate enough to come through the front doors and leave a better person afterwards.”

**—Tom Wright, newly
transitioned resident**

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

—Christopher Reeve



On Veterans' Day weekend 2019, Vermont country singer Jamie Lee Thurston (JLT) performed a special benefit concert at Norwich University to raise funds for the Veterans' Place.



Left: Healing Waters Fly-Tying activity.



Right: Middle-schoolers peel potatoes they grew themselves.

Activities such as fly-tying, fundraisers such as concerts and motorcycle rides, and celebrations such as holiday dinners, not only make the community aware of our residents' needs, but also serve to connect TVPI residents with their community.

Norwich University and the Veterans' Place: a match made through service



One of Norwich University's guiding values is "Service to Nation and others before self." This credo explains why, several times a year, students enrolled at the nation's oldest private military school volunteer their time to participate in activities that directly benefit the residents of the Veterans' Place.

From socializing and playing games to helping with meals, ground maintenance, and small housekeeping tasks, students and veterans get to know each other and share stories. But the real fun begins when students organize holiday dinners and fundraising events, such as the annual Legacy March.

The year 2019 marked the tenth anniversary of the 3-day, 50-mile hike from Norwich, Vt., to Northfield. Held every fall during peak foliage season, upwards of 50 cadets suffer blisters, sore feet, and sleeping on hard floors for a worthy cause.

Their efforts pay high dividends. Last year the march and follow-up JLT concert raised in excess of \$18,000.

Cadet Eli Hollingsworth, an organizer of last year's event, believes he has an obligation to help those who came before. "Whether through the money we raise, or just playing cards on a Thursday night, I believe that we, as the next generation of Norwich cadets, will continue to support the Veterans' Place in any capacity we can as the world changes around us."



Story by Diana Weggler; photos by Mark Collier.

2019 Monetary Donations Honor Roll

American Legion 5th District / Springfield VT
American Legion Dept of VT Golf Tournament
American Legion Dept of VT
American Legion Post #10 SAL Squadron
American Legion Post #14 / Vergennes VT
American Legion Post #19 / Bristol VT
American Legion Post #36 / Ludlow VT
American Legion Post #50 / Bomoseen VT
American Legion Post #9 / Randolph VT
American Legion Post #48 / Hartland VT
American Legion Post #63 Northfield VT
American Legion Riders Post #10 / Barre VT
Amy Woodbury Tease
Andrea Hough
Andrew Ward
Anne Donahue
Anne Fleming
Barbara Saylor Rodgers
Barre Lions Club
Betty Barclay
Beulah Chapter 15-OES
Big Y Foods
Bill Schultz
Bonnie Chouinard (*This year's special honoree.*)
Burnham Family Trust
Carolina Diaz
Charles and Rosemary Averill
Chris Braun
Colleen Kottenbach
Community Bank Foundation
Dale Farrar
C. Dart Thalman
Debra Blumberg
Denise Commons
DeRoss Kellogg Jr.
Dick Simpson
Donald and Betty Tisdale
Donald Shedd
Doris Fournier
Doug Isham
Doug Smith
Douglas and Charlotte Taft
Edward Miller
Elizabeth Gilligan
Emily Fisher Gray
Emily Levan
Ernest and Chris Cioffi
Errol Briggs
Frederick and Mary Bashara
Friends of Middlebury Football
George and Gabrielle Lucke
George and Janet Burnham
George Smith
Gerald and Jean Tucker
Gerald and Karen Arel
Geraldine Check
Gillespie Fuels
Gisele Lahro
Glenn and Gail Smith
Gordon and Christine Perkinson
Goslant Granite
Green Mountain United Way
Greg Hooker
Henry and Jacqueline Gifford
James and Diane Baraw
James and Doris Graves
James and Elizabeth Campbell
James and Ruby MacIntyre
James Radack
Jasmin Auto Sales
Jayne Greenlun
Jeanette McMahon
Jeffrey Olson and Kate Donley
Joachim and Anita Palm
John and Carolyn Stevens
John des Groseilliers
John Mott
Joseph and Ruth Nelson
JSK Fitness LLC and DBA Anytime Fitness
Judy Cookson
Justin King
Kathleen Jenkins
Kathryn Retchless
L. Brown and Sons Printing
Larry Spargo
LaValley Building Supply, Rutland/Ludlow
Lea Williams
Lenore and Gene Robinson
Linda Laplaca and family
Marcia Clinton
Margaret Lewis
Mark Richter
Mary Aschenberg
Mary Schmitt
Michael and Deborah Krause
Mountain Tamers
Mystic Star Phoenix Lodge 97
NALC Branch 0617
Nancy Sanborn
National Life Group (Share the Good) matching donation / Christopher Tanguay
Network for Good
Nicole DiDomenico
Norma Ryan
Northfield Community Dev. Network
Northfield Pharmacy
Northfield Savings Bank
Norwich University

Pamela Knight
Pat Thompson
Patricia Geraghty
Patricia McCullough
Patricia Murray
Paul and Hazel Gordon
Rachael Kasper
Randy and Debra Miller
Reba Hill
Richard and Gioia Cattabriga
Richard and Julie Sharon
Rick Gray
Rita Bassett
Robert and Beverly McMullin
Robert and Nina Nothstein
Ronald and Barbra Gallant
Ruby Gibson
Ruth Nelson
Sandra Davis
Sandra Doyle
Second Congregational Church
Sid and Jo Anne Smith
Sons of American Legion Squadron #7/Hardwick
Springfield Elks Lodge #1560

Square and Compass Club of Barre VT
St. Johns the Evangelist Church
Stephen and Connie Weston
Stephen Belitsos
Stephen McElroy
Steve and Diane Martin
Steven and Phyllis Bullard
Teresa Doyle
The Milton and Colleen Seaver REV Trust
The Rustic
Town of Hartford High School Athletic Fund
Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company
United Motorcyclist of VT
Vermont State Grange
VFW Post #790 / South Barre VT
VFW Auxiliary Post #7823 / Middlebury VT
VFW Ladies Auxiliary District 3
VFW Post #1767 / Winooski VT
Werner and Christa Linder
William and Katherine Schellong
William Lyon
William Pemberton
Worcester United Methodist Women

In addition, The Veterans' Place received in-kind donations valued at more than \$45,000.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
Anonymous
Barre Elks Lodge
Beth Allen
Beth Dawley
Bill Carran
Bill Gaidys
Bill Langley and family
Blue Star Mothers of Vermont
Bonnie Carleton
Cambridge Christian Fellowship
Central VT VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Controlled Technologies
Dale Farrar
Dan Norris
Deborah Carling
Diana Weggler
Eastern Star Ladies Beulah Chapter #15
Glenn French
Gloria Maloney
Graze and Gaze Farm
Hartford VT community members
Jack Bailey
Jason and Amber Mosley
Jim Breer
Jim Marsha
Joe and Shannon Doney
John Brett

Kelly Driscoll Smith
Linda Nor
L Brown and Sons Printers
Mary Lou Ulatowski
Michael Johnston
Middlebury VFW
Mrs. Vern Osmer
NMHS 8th graders
NMHS LANE Program
Norwich University
NU Men's Hockey Team
Pearl Butler
Randolph American Legion
Randolph Union HS Students
Rob Strain
Robert Burkner
Robert Henke
Sambel's Catering
Sandra Doyle
Stephen Weston
Steve and Marsha Wimble
Stevie Batch
Valerie Edwards
Vertell's
William Smith, Attorney
Woods Lodge
Worcester United Methodist Church Ladies Group

Despite our best intentions, human error is inevitable. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions, and hope you will notify us so that we may correct them. Please email dweggler@gmail.com. Thank you for your understanding!

Meet Our Board of Directors and Staff!



Michael J. Krause, President

A retired Army colonel, university instructor, and founder of a company that provides management services, security consultation, professional training and leadership development, Michael has been a Northfield resident since graduating from Norwich in 1964. He says, "I want to be able to help homeless veterans here in Vermont gain a vision for their future for as long as I am able to serve."



BG Greg Knight, Vice President

Currently the Vermont National Guard adjutant general, Greg has enjoyed a long and distinguished career, with service in the US Coast Guard, as a Vermont police officer, and in the VT Air and Army National Guards, including deployment to Iraq. He joined the board because "many spend a lot of time talking about what should be done to support veterans—I believe doing is greater than talking."



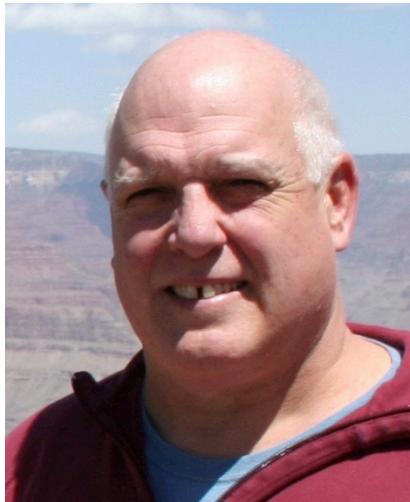
Diana Weggler, Secretary

A wife and mother of four grown children, Diana has been writing professionally since the early 1990s, most recently as the senior writer and editor for Norwich University. She joined TVPI's board so as to try and make a difference. "My only goal in life is to leverage my knowledge, skills, creativity, resources, and compassion to try and make the world a better place."



Thomas Longfellow, Treasurer

A 1994 West Point grad, Tom served five years of active duty in field artillery before entering the field of securities compliance. Having also served in the Vermont Army National Guard, Tom now works at National Life Group in Montpelier. The Barre resident says volunteering for the Veterans' Place, "gives me the opportunity to a part of, and, hopefully contribute to, a worthy cause."



Stephen Martin, Board Member

A 1972 graduate of Norwich University and longtime resident of Northfield, Steve entered public education as a Secondary Math teacher. He retired in 2012 after teaching in the Northfield School system for 35 years. Steve says, "I joined the Veterans' Place Board of Directors in hopes to share my teaching skills in organization and management."



Gordon Perkinson, Board Member

Raised in Virginia, Gordon served in the Coast Guard before attending college in Texas. Following a period of addiction and homelessness, he became a certified Drug & Alcohol Abuse Counselor. Sober for 49 years, he and his certified therapy Goldendoodle rescue, Sophie, visit the VA Hospital and the Veterans' Place regularly. "We speak to our veterans with the voice of experience, compassion and love."



Paul Capcara, Board Member

Currently the clinical director at Collaborative Solutions in Montpelier, Paul has spent his career working with disadvantaged populations. A former Peace Corps volunteer with degrees in both nursing and public health, he volunteers at the People's Health and Wellness Clinic in Barre and on the board of SafeArt. "I am passionate about working with people who have experienced trauma, mental health challenges, or who are suffering."



Bill Gaidys, Board Member

Raised on a local family farm, Bill Gaidys has donated his time and the family beef to raise awareness and funds for the Veterans' Place. A veteran of the US Navy, he has traveled the US as a 5-star chef on both coasts, and is committed to assisting in the Vets' Place kitchen as needed. Bill says, "I enjoy using my capabilities in the culinary arts, wood-crafting, and as an arborist, farmer, and dog trainer, to give back to the military community."



Brian "Pete" Clark, Dinner Chef

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Pete was educated at Seekonk High School and Wentworth Institute in Boston. He joined the staff of the Veterans' Place in 2018, bringing a wealth of experience to the job. Pete has prepared food at such diverse establishments as the Wannamoisett Country Club in Rhode Island, the Rose & Crown Restaurant on Nantucket, and the Northfield Senior Center.



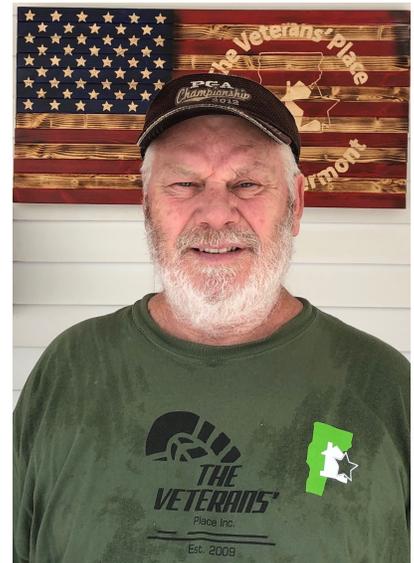
Karen Boyce, Managing Director

Educated at Montpelier High School and VTC, Karen was a woodworker for 20 years. She joined the Veterans' Place staff when it first opened its doors in 2009, serving as administrative manager and dinner cook. In 2020 she was promoted from finance and administrative manager to managing director. As the mother of two sons, both of whom served in the War on Terrorism, she is passionate about serving the veteran community.



Richard Turner, Housing Specialist

Prior to joining the Veterans' Place Staff in June 2020, Rich enjoyed long and productive careers with the Army and Air Force, in civil aviation, and as a forester and arborist. Educated at Norwich University, he holds a BA in Government/Political Science and an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice. His most recent job was as a Team Leader and Recovery Support Specialist at a Level III Recovery Residence.



Mike Ducharme, Facility Manager

Mike joined The Veterans' Place Inc. in April 2019. With over 45 years in the construction/building industry, he has been self employed for the last 15 years and has worked on some important projects, including renovations to the Stratton VA hospital in Albany, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sharon. Innovative and resourceful, Mike has initiated several cost-effective measures at the facility. He and his large family reside in Williamstown.

Statement of Activities

Summary of Financial Position 12/31/2019

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	126,388.44
Fixed Assets (net of depreciation)	900,646.91
Total Assets	1,027,035.35

Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities	47.75
Other Liabilities	11,689.60
Total Liabilities	11,737.35

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	1,007,006.60
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	8,231.40
Total Net Assets	1,015,298.00

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 1,027,035.35

Revenue

VA Grant Per Diem	259,465.52
Donations & In-Kind Gifts	140,327.90
Other Revenue	22,307.98
Total Revenue	422,101.40

Expenses

Operations	413,970.56
Administration	99,960.65
Fundraising	8,673.26
Total Expenses	522,604.47

Change in Net Assets 17,587.92

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The Veterans' Place could not meet its operating expenses without the regular support of people like you. If you would like to make a gift at this time, please fill out this form, place it in an envelope with a check made payable to **The Veterans' Place, Inc.**, and mail it to The Veterans' Place, 220 Vine St., Northfield, VT 05663. **OUR VETERANS THANK YOU!**

Donor Name

Donor Address

Amount Enclosed

Please indicate if your gift is in honor or memory of someone or for a special purpose.

FUNDRAISING NEWS - GRANITE CITY 5K RUN/WALK FOR VETERANS!

American Legion Squadron #10 and Barre Elks #1535 are proud to present the Sixth Annual **Granite City 5K Run/Walk for Veterans**. This year the 5K race/walk will be done *virtually*. Participants may complete the race by November 7, 2020, on a course of their choosing.

All profits from the event will benefit The Veterans' Place, Inc. If you are interested in helping the Veterans' Place by sponsoring this event, simply fill out the form on the opposite page and mail it to The Veterans' Place, 220 Vine St., Northfield, VT 05663.



November 7, 2020

*To ensure the safety of participants, the 2020 5K will be a
Virtual Fundraiser Event!*

2020 SPONSOR PLEDGE

Yes! I want to contribute to the success of the Granite City 5K Run/Walk for Veterans!

Please sign me up for this sponsorship level:

- Friend of the 5K: \$100 to \$249 [Fill in amount here: \$_____]
- Valor Sponsor: \$250
- Tribute Sponsor: \$500
- Veteran Sponsor: \$750
- Presenting Sponsor: \$1000

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Company Name: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration is open for race participants online at <https://legacy.imathlete.com/events/GC5k2020>

Please email your high-resolution logo to lucasjherring@gmail.com

The Veterans' Place; Inc.
220 Vine Street
Northfield; VT 05663

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Thank you for your many years of support, which has resulted in our ongoing success. If you wish to become more involved in our efforts, please call The Veteran's Place at 802-485-8874, and ask to speak to Karen to discuss how you might best be of service. In addition, we accept donations in memory of a loved one or a special hero. Please call to make arrangements, or simply take advantage of the handy gift form on page 10. Finally, a visit to The Veterans' Place by individuals and small groups is always appreciated, provided social distancing protocol is strictly adhered to. Please be sure to call ahead so that we may look forward to welcoming you!

THIS REPORT MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF L. BROWN & SONS PRINTING
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