

FOCUS



Veteran Newsletter

Commitment

Work diligently to serve Veterans and other beneficiaries. Be driven by an earnest belief in VA's mission. Fulfill my individual responsibilities and organizational responsibilities.

Stand Down Needs Us to Stand Up

Heart of America Stand Down for Homeless Veterans Needs Your Help! Do you know a homeless Veteran? Someone who has served our country with honor but has struggled after returning home? Please urge them to come to the Heart of America Stand Down on June 5 and 6. Homeless and at risk Veterans in Kansas City receive clothing, shoes and boots, toiletries, haircuts, showers, ongoing community services (including housing, employment and medical assistance) from more than 100 organizations, and a hot lunch. Since 1993, the event -- run entirely by volunteers -- has helped hundreds of homeless Veterans get back on their feet. This year the Stand Down will be at Manual Career and Technical Center, 1215 E. Truman Road, Kansas City, MO. Veterans need disposable razors, deodorant and other toiletries, First Aid kits, men's and women's underwear and blue jeans (new or used), boots, t-shirts, sweatshirts, ponchos



and men's dress and casual slacks. All donations are tax deductible. Please drop off donations on Friday, May 22 at the Union Hill Vietnam Veteran's Hall, 3027 Walnut, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. For bulk items pickup, contact Dennis Johnson at 816.510.9802, or bring donations to the Stand Down on June 5 and 6. In-kind and cash donations are welcomed. Join Kansas City Mayor Sly James, Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders, Missouri State Representative Randy Dunn, Kansas City Council Member Scott Wagner and more as we honor and serve our area Veterans. <http://www.kestanddown.org/>



Get Out of Your Chair

KCVA was honored to have Tyrone Flowers of Higher M-PACT speak during the May 2015 Spinal Cord Injury Program.

We applauded Tyrone for who he is and what He does. His success story can shared amongst all Veterans.

Tyrone Stated: "I am not the Disability and the Disability is not who I am." You can overcome anything.....

Post-it Notes

Kansas City Stand Down
- See Article for Details

Patient Orientation
13 June
RSVP by 6 June @ (816) 861-4700
Ext: 57927

Courts Celebrates Graduates

The Kansas City, Mo., Municipal Court recently held graduation ceremonies for successful participants of its Veterans' Treatment Court and Drug Court programs. To qualify for graduation, the 10 Drug Court and eight Veterans' Treatment Court participants had to complete at least one year with their program and six months of treatment. They also had to demonstrate at least six months of sobriety. The programs are two of the City's problem-solving courts that provide qualifying offenders with services like substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment in lieu of jail time. Drug Court began in 2002. For a minimum of one year, participants receive intensive treatment, live in sober and stable housing, submit to random

drug testing and review their progress frequently with the Drug Court judge and the Drug Court team. This ensures they are attending treatment as expected, staying clean and sober and obeying the law. They are rewarded for doing well with small incentives and may be sanctioned when they do not comply with a court order or condition of the program. Veterans' Treatment Court began in 2009 and offers substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment to veterans with an identified treatment need. They often connect with the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center for the first time through the court. The Municipal Court also has a third



program, Mental Health Court, which focuses on non-military offenders needing mental health treatment. Studies show that these therapeutic justice approaches reduce recidivism and, for those with drug addiction, are more cost effective than incarceration or traditional probation and treatment.

The Veterans Voice

A Veteran Writes: I wanted to recognize a friend of mine that turned me on to the KCVA. She has been hounding me for at least 3 years to come and get registered. She finally invited me to a New Patient Orientation on April 22, 2015 and I came. I was very impressed with the orientation, I thought it was very helpful to explain some of the processes veterans have to go through to get registered and receive care through the VA. She was actually one of the presenters and I was also impressed with her knowledge of the VA considering she has only worked for the VA a short time. She was professional yet spoke in terms anyone in the room could comprehend. She was willing to answer any questions or concerns any of us had to ask. The information she gave on how the VA operates and her compassion towards the veterans is heartwarming to say

the least. I am of course speaking of Dawn'e McCumber. It is obvious through her demeanor and the way she converses with the veterans she truly cares about their visits and their wellbeing. If it weren't for her insistence I would not be a patient at the KCVA. Even though Dawn'e was working throughout the day, she continued to check on me and my status for registration and made sure everything was complete before I left as I live 2 hours from KCVA, and don't really have the time or money to make several trips back and forth. I will be going to the Nevada clinic and hope I receive the same treatment from the staff there! Dawn'e has set a standard many should try to emulate! I also felt that the New Patient Orientation is of great benefit to the veterans and I gained some much needed and very interesting information from it.

Farmers Market

Each Thursday morning local farmers and others will bring the country side goodness to our front door.

Visit them out front on your way in for your appointments.

KCVA
FARMERS
MARKET



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www.kansascityva.gov

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