

FORWARD FLAG NEWSLETTER



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HEROES PROJECT

Forward Flag is one of the honored recipients of the Lowe's Heroes grant in Albuquerque, NM. Lowe's picks a non-profit organization every year and awards them materials to help with a remodeling project. Thank you to Benjamin Marquez, Jen & Cesar Gonzalez for nominating Forward Flag for the Heroes grant! In addition to a roof for our new shed, supplies for a new barber floor, concrete stain and exterior paint we were awarded a ton of great supplies for our art class! Thank you to veterans Randy Wise and Adrian Gonzales for putting the new roof on our shed. If you are interested in taking part in any of our upcoming projects please call Melissa at the NM office, 505-933-0549.



HERITAGE DAYS

The TN Outreach team had the honor of taking part in the Heritage Day celebration in Rogersville, TN on October 10th & 11th. Folks come from all up and down the East Coast for the event and our outreach team had the privilege to talk with them and further our mission of veteran suicide prevention.



The Rogersville Heritage Association describes the event as, "a traditional community celebration of Rogersville's unique heritage. The festival showcases traditional music, storytellers, and dancers, special activities for Children, demonstrations of pioneer skills, antique quilts, cars and farm equipment, a juried craft show, and a food court to delight everyone." Thank you to all for allowing us to take part in this well-known and much-loved event!



VIRTUAL OUTREACH

We all are doing our very best to adjust to life in the time of a pandemic and so many of us are stuck at home, feeling more and more isolated. Since our outreach team is not able to come to our veterans; we are asking our veterans to come to us. If you have any questions about benefits, medical coverage, educational opportunities or just want to chat it up with another veteran, join us for our first virtual outreach. CPSW and active duty National Guard member, Jeanine O'Connell will be joined by CPSW/DAV Service Officer/Army Veteran, Deeno Adkins for our virtual outreach on Wednesday November 25th from 12:00-15:00. Click on this zoom link to join <https://zoom.us/j/2849466139?pwd=Z2YwK0k4TjZoUW9kRjd2M1RxZE4vdz09>



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TN OUTREACH

Our Tennessee outreach team stayed pretty busy for the entire month of October. On the 3rd, they were invited to set-up the coffee bunker at the Dukes of Hazard Fest in Southern TN. While there, our outreach team had a chance to spread the word about suicide awareness and prevention to the over 500 festival visitors. This includes handing out an



incredible assortment of fun S.W.A.G., featuring the VA Veteran Crisis Line phone number, and offering individuals our Organizational Code to take the QPR Gatekeeper training online, at no cost to them. The following week, on October 9th, our outreach team and eye-catching coffee bunker, made it to the Smoky Mountain Knife Works in Sevierville. A great big THANK YOU to Smoky Mountain for always welcoming our team and helping us to continue making connections in the community and reaching our veterans, their family members & friends, with life-saving education and resources. We also want to thank the folks in Tennessee for their continued support and donations. You all have welcomed us with open arms and we are so honored to be a part of your community!



Create, Create, Create

If TN is too far for you, do not fret, we have an incredible art class at our NM Forward Flag site as well; every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00. The NM art class is led by the incredibly talented, Hadria Seidel. Last month the group worked on paper mâché creations. After they finish up the painting and final details they are moving on to the next project, handmade journals. Hadria focuses on re-purposing and re-using items that would normally end up in our landfills. Come join the Saturday group for a relaxing and fun day of artistic creation with wonderful people.

GOING WITH THE FLOW

The fluid art group in our TN office continues to surprise with their inventive and beautiful creations. The cathartic benefits of art therapy and fluid art are too numerous to try to list here. Stop by the TN office Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, join the fun and see for yourself, just how great you feel after a few hours of dripping paint and making things prettier.

