

Veteran Community Initiatives, Inc. (VCI)



727 Goucher St.

Johnstown, PA 15905

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www.vciinc.org

A Glance At Your VCI Program

Not the VA! Supplement / Compliment to VA programs and services – We provide and deliver services and programs to all Veterans at NO COST.

- Location- Wing A, Hiram G. Andrews Center, 727 Goucher St., Johnstown, PA 15905
- 1993 organizational start-up (28 yr. Anniversary), Founder- Tom Caulfield- prior to start-up was Labor Relations, HR in Corporate America
- 22 person Community Board of Directors; Private (501c3) Non-Profit – No ongoing government funding; Funding for program includes direct donations from many community sources, fundraising efforts, and competitive grants.
 - o Currently 4 regular employees, Senior Employment Employee, College, AmeriCorps, and HGA intern(s) as determined each year.
 - o Member of 13 Chambers of Commerce covering 14 counties: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield (Greater Dubois & Greater Clearfield), Clinton, Elk, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata/Mifflin, and Somerset.

Programs

- A. Job Search / Career Counseling / Resume Preparation/ Job Fairs / Workshops / Networking
- B. Rural Veterans Outreach Program – bring REPS HAVING DIFFERENT RESOURCES AND SPECIALTIES WITH US. Bring Services and Programs to rural veterans rather than vet going to 'VA' (Urban areas) all the time; go to the soldiers, rather than having vets travel to them; 10-15 rural outreaches per year
- C. Veterans Court Program – Cambria County; Veterans Court Peer Mentor Training and Coordination of Peer Mentors; PA County Recruitment – Veteran Court Start-up Implementations + Training
- D. Veteran Assistance Care Program (VACP): Raise awareness and provide services and programs to better improve assistance to needy veterans and the VETERAN'S FAMILY. Programs include coaching and mentoring to support physical and mental health challenges to our veterans. We work with the VA, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and other established programs to determine how we can best help our VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES including financially.

August 2021

- E. Vet Assistance Outreach Program (VAOP) – ‘A HAND–UP, NOT A HAND–OUT’; one-time payment (maximum) of outstanding bill(s) dues to hardships
- VCI holds an annual (16th in Year 2021) Returning Veterans Symposium that deals with Veteran Issues / Concerns – Developing a Community Response
 - We continue to maintain Murtha Statue / Veterans Park Beautification Project, recently added a POW – MIA Fountain; Financial Supporter
 - Active in numerous community activities: 2017 VCI – Chambers’ Cultural Affairs Award; Community Director – 2017 Woman of the Year – Non Profit; VCI Board Member/client– 2018 + 2020 Woman of the Year(s) – Lady Liberty; Received PA statewide recognition for our efforts on “behalf” of veteran state (PA DMVA) agency grants, Census Bureau assistance
 - VCI holds numerous Veteran Related Recognitions and Events including:
 - Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Event, March 29th (Yr. 2021- Warriors Rock TV Show)
 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 7, 2021 Annual Program
 - Memorial Day Program @ Veterans Park on Saturday before Memorial Day
 - Active Nursing and personal care home visits – on veteran related holidays and recognition days.
 - July 4th Veterans Bkfst Club Event supported by Richland Amer. Leg, VCI
 - POW-MIA Recognition Day Event- Sept 17, 2021
 - Assist with Veterans Day Parade, Bkfst, Brunch in Nov and Dec; Quilts of Valor
 - Active participation in Wreaths Across America Program – Dec 18, 2021
 - Participant/member of quarterly Van Zandt Veterans Advisory Council
 - Participant in CAMBRIA/SOMERSET COVID-19 VACCINE TASK FORCE
- F. Once a week, VCI in conjunction with PA VVA has a Veteran Claims Professional available all day for assistance in filling out CLAIMS!

In Addition

Active with local OVR’s, Southern Alleghenies Work Force Development Board; Cambria County Job Fair Committee, Veterans War Memorial Committee, Conemaugh Valley Veterans

A Number of events held to recognize those who consistently Support Veterans

- Multi-year selection- “Veteran Community Initiatives Ed Cernic, Sr. Community Support Recognition Award” Awardees
- Host prestigious Chapel of 4 Chaplains Legion of Honor Ceremony and Reception bi-annually - October 11, 2021; SALUTE TO VETERANS DINNER
- Supports Somerset Military Family Support Group, PA & Local Special Olympics programs, Salvation Army, YWCA and other community projects



Office Hours M-F 8:00AM – 4:30PM

Evening hours available upon request. Emergency monitoring 24 x 7

August 2021