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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48242
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MIFREEDOMCENTER.ORG
MICHIGAN ARMED FORCES HOSPITALITY CENTER, INC.

FR  **ED**  **M**
CENTER
Serving Those Who Serve Us.

“

Recently a young vet entered the Freedom Center and used his VA ID card as proof of being a veteran. I commented that he had the 'old' card and that he should ask at his local VA hospital to get the new card. He proceeded to tell me he was an Operation Iraqi Freedom vet and lived right here in Detroit.

After more conversation, he indicated how many problems he has had over the past several months just getting an appointment to see his doctor. The next day, I reached out to my contacts at the Dingell Veterans Administration Medical Center and asked if there was something that could be done to help.

Within two hours, the Dingell Center called him to confirm a new appointment within the next seven days.

I feel that there is more to the Freedom Center than just passing out coffee and donuts. We must be able to assist a veteran with any problem they might be facing, either directly or by pointing them in the right direction.”

Tim, Freedom Center Volunteer

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center has been in existence for more than three years. During that time, through our two Freedom Center facilities, we have had the opportunity to meet the travel needs of more than 150,000 military personnel and their families.

Each day we welcome hundreds of service members and offer them refreshments, a place to relax and the opportunity to recharge before continuing their journey. Our staff of volunteers is dedicated to providing a world-class hospitality center to meet the needs of our guests.

Sometimes the need is as simple as a request for a snack or beverage. At other times we're able to assist by smoothing out disrupted travel plans, helping with re-bookings, securing overnight lodging or contacting an overseas duty station. On occasion, when severe weather slows down travel, we accommodate stranded travelers overnight. Whatever the need, the Freedom Center staff has the resources and desire to provide the military traveler with a home-like atmosphere.

Of special interest this year is the completion of our first year of Freedom Center activity in Troy, Michigan. This facility serves new recruits and their families as they proceed through the enlistment process. Needless to say, this is a life-altering experience. The resources and talent of our staff help to provide a smooth transition for both the enlistees and their families.

Based on the success of the Freedom Center in Troy, we are currently in the process of establishing a third location in support of the enlistment center in Lansing, Michigan. This

facility will begin operation during the first quarter of 2015.

In addition, we are continuing to develop plans to expand our airport operations to include an additional facility inside the North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). This will allow us to meet the travel needs of an estimated 25 percent more service members than we currently serve in our present location.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers and generous donors. On a daily basis, airport passengers place individual contributions in our donation box located at the entrance to our facility near Gate A-43. In addition, we receive financial contributions from organizations and corporations located throughout Michigan. Support is also gratefully received in the form of in-kind donations of food, beverages, supplies, furniture and equipment.

However, it is important to note that we do not receive any form of government funding.

Our growth and extended outreach requires additional resources. We are currently seeking to partner with donors throughout Michigan to help us continue "serving those who serve us." As you review this report of last year's success, I invite you to consider how you could become a partner in helping us meet next year's goals.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth S. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth S. Pratt
President

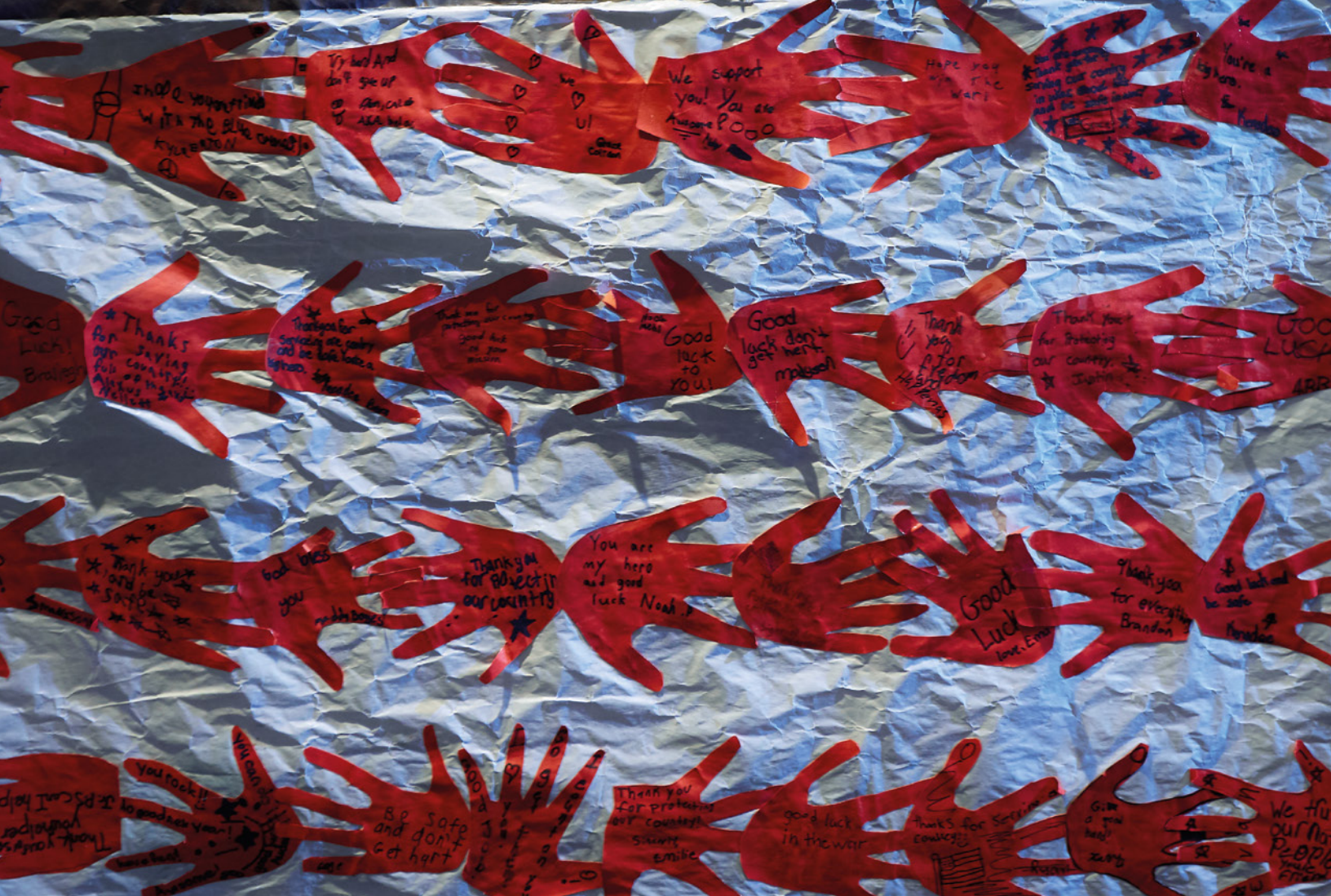


“Wonderful and welcoming center! I can't express how nice it is to have a facility where you can relax during this life-changing time.”

Freedom Center Guest

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MICHIGAN ARMED FORCES HOSPITALITY CENTER, INC.

How It All Started

In December 2010, for the second year in a row, a group of Delta Air Lines employees organized a temporary Holiday Military Lounge within the McNamara Terminal at DTW. During a three-week period, volunteers from Delta, military veterans organizations, the TSA and other groups assisted more than 2,400 members of our armed forces and their families. The effort was an overwhelming success and clearly demonstrated the need for a permanent hospitality station.

Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc., a Michigan nonprofit, was created to provide the necessary organization and fundraising for a year-round facility called "Freedom Center." The original Center is a permanent military lounge adjacent to Gate A-43 in the center of the McNamara Terminal at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW).

On Veterans Day 2011, dedication ceremonies for the Freedom Center marked the grand opening of our permanent military lounge at DTW. Hosted by a dedicated staff of trained volunteers, the special needs of military

“*Thank you for the great hospitality and the great coffee. God bless the USA.*”

Freedom Center Guest

travelers are being met seven days a week, 365 days a year. Many of our guests are transiting DTW to or from overseas duty stations.

Our Mission Is Simple

Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc. is dedicated to providing a world-class reception and hospitality station that meets the needs of in-transit military service members. Staffed by volunteers and supported by various organizations, we also welcome retired members of the military and our veterans. In addition, we welcome members of the military from allied nations. The Freedom Center is dedicated to "Serving Those Who Serve Us."



“

This is the first I have ever heard of a place like this. I love it. Smart idea! Thanks for coming up with a place like this.”

Freedom Center Guest

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Detroit Metro Airport/McNamara Terminal Daily Operations

Our flagship Freedom Center at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, located inside the McNamara Terminal, has served more than 150,000 personnel since its inception. In the past twelve months alone, we've welcomed more than 50,000 guests. This represents a 20 percent increase over last year's utilization and highlights two important points. First, we are constantly reminded that knowledge of our location and mission is still filtering out into the military community. Every day, guests walk in expressing a great sense of relief and joy exclaiming how happy they are to have discovered the Freedom Center military lounge. Second, it underscores how very important our work is.

Freedom Center Lounge in Troy

With the help of 14 volunteers, we were able to serve more than 24,000 guests in our Troy Freedom Center in 2014. The volunteers dedicate their time five days a week working eight-hour shifts.

We are most proud to be able to support the families of those serving our country through our Freedom Center Family Support Group. We arrange for guest speakers to help and better educate our members and ease the stress and sadness of absence. We stay connected within our community to raise an awareness of the needs of our service members and have found local schools, churches, etc. are eagerly wanting to help.

In addition to committing time in the Center, volunteers participate in many

“The volunteers were great! I don't think I would have made it through the day without the much-needed food.”

Military Member

support activities, such as hosting packaging parties to send care packages to our deployed service members, and collaborating with the Marine Corps Reserves to collect donations for Toys 4 Tots. They also participate in many patriotic events including Wreaths Across America, the Memorial Day parade, Stars for Our Troops, K-9 Veterans Day, the Selfridge Air Show and many more.

Most volunteers will say they walk away with so much more than they offer to our recruits and their families.

Departures	Operator	Partner	Sld	Status	Gate
Green Bay, WI	DL 6035	DL	5386	3:46p	Canceled
Greensboro, NC	DL 3707	DL	7882	2:05p	Canceled
Greenville, SC	DL 3290	DL		7:35a	Canceled
Greenville, SC	DL 4118	DL	8569	2:04p	Canceled
Greenville, SC	DL 6496	DL	9467	3:41p	Canceled
Harrisburg, PA	DL 3474	DL	2907	3:25p	Canceled
Hartford Springfld	DL 6384	DL		8:53a	Boarding
Hartford Springfld	DL 2580	DL	5412	3:55p	At Gate
Houston, TX	DL 6710	DL	7304	3:25p	Canceled
Houston, TX	DL 5089	DL	5637	5:45p	Canceled
Huntsville, AL	DL 3880	DL	9279	4:00p	Canceled
Indianapolis, IN	DL 3473	DL		2:05p	Canceled
Indianapolis, IN	DL 6354	DL	5641	3:40p	Canceled
Ithaca-Cortland, NY	DL 3761	DL	5404	3:26p	Canceled
Jacksonville, FL	DL 4281	DL		9:00a	At Gate
Johannesburg	DL 200	DL	2871	2:55p	At Gate
Kalamazoo, MI	DL 3439	DL	9246	3:53p	Canceled

Severe winter weather resulted in numerous flight cancellations



“Monday nights are my favorite night of the week. That is when I get the opportunity to give back where it really matters. I consider it a blessing for me to have the ability to offer a cold drink, a bite to eat, and a place to rest, for often times weary travelers. Thank you Freedom Center for giving me that opportunity! And thank you to all who have served past, present, and all your families. It is my honor and pleasure to serve you.”

Paula, Freedom Center Volunteer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



Kenneth S. Pratt
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Colonel, USAF (Ret)



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& Specialty, Meritor**



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Board Member
**Brigadier General,
USAF (Ret)**

BOARD AND STAFF TESTIMONIALS

“This is my first year on the Board of Directors and it has been exciting to serve others and provide some well-deserved hospitality. Our mission is to provide a welcoming environment at the Freedom Center so that all military members, veterans and their families may seek a respite from the rigors of travel as they pass through the Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

“Travel is a way of life for military members, as they are often called upon to serve around the world in ongoing military and humanitarian operations. Military families also experience travel to a new duty station every two to three years, temporary duty assignments and resident training opportunities.

“At our second location in Troy, Michigan, we provide a friendly welcome to family and new enlistees as they process through the Military Entrance Processing Station and begin their military experience. As you may guess, this can be quite exciting in a young person’s life and is also filled with some anxiety. Family members say goodbye to their loved ones as they depart for Basic Military Training. Our volunteers help ease that transition as many are parents of military members themselves.

“In the past three years of operations we have proudly served over 125,000 military, veterans and family members at our two locations.”

Col. Michael “Tiger” Greiger
Board of Directors

“The Freedom Center is more than snacks, a beverage and a place to relax. The Freedom Center Care Team are specially trained volunteers who are on call 24/7 to assist Military Honor Guards, Escorts, and the families of our Fallen Heroes. Care Team members are also available to assist with special circumstance situations. As the Freedom Center continues to expand its operations, we have the opportunity to touch more lives and make the day a little easier for more military travelers.”

Charlotte Tripp
Freedom Center Director at Detroit Metro Airport

“Being an immigrant from the Middle East, I truly understand the price of freedom and the sacrifices made daily by those who serve to ensure it. My family made the choice to come the United States to escape war, to offer a better life for us all and to have an opportunity to have that freedom. I never thought I would ever be facing the fears my mother had about my brothers going to battle in a war, but it happened; my son made the choice to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. Although I supported him, I was devastated. So I became deeply involved with a mom’s support group and that’s when I learned about the Freedom Center. I then stepped up to be the lead volunteer, and later recruited others to join me.”

Sal Haji
Troy Freedom Center Staff

“

The Freedom Center Care Team are specially trained volunteers who are on call 24/7 to assist Military Honor Guards, Escorts, and the families of our Fallen Heroes.”

Freedom Center Staff







“ *Very comforting and made to feel welcome for such a major change in my family’s life.*”

Military Family

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

“In 2014 my son graduated from high school and announced he was joining the Marines. To be honest, I wasn’t thrilled at first but his passion and commitment was so apparent that it quickly made me change my way of thinking. Soon after, I met a wonderful lady from the Freedom Center Family Support Group who understood every emotion I was feeling and urged me to join. The Freedom Center has truly been a lifesaver for me and I volunteer there once a week. I see the range of emotion each recruit is facing but in spite of the unknown, they board that bus to begin their military journey. They do this mostly for the love of their country, but more importantly for you and me.”

Mary Bourdage

Troy FC

“Every week, I see the ‘night testers’ reading the briefing book and break the ice by saying, ‘you generally do better on a test with food in your stomach.’ A few always follow me into the Freedom Center to grab a soda or perhaps toast a bagel. They ask about my military career and I tell them it’s what YOU put in that determines what your takeaway will be. You know your short conversation mattered when they come back to grab a few pieces of candy and want to shake your hand. I don’t mind; it feels good to shake hands with America’s future!”

Steve Gorsline

Troy FC

“I have a group of special memories from the Freedom Center. These parents and family members, specifically the moms, are so scared. It takes me back to the moment I had to send my son off to boot camp. I feel I am giving back every time I’m at the Freedom Center. I help make it a little easier for those parents and recruits and it makes me smile.”

Sue Moschino

Troy FC

“For the last year I have spent Tuesday mornings opening the doors of our hospitality room to new recruits, their families, and Center personnel. We offer conversation and sometimes a little ‘mothering’ to the many excited yet anxious recruits. We offer tissues and comfort to family members whose loved ones are embarking on their military journeys and let them know about the support group. My favorite part, though, is standing by the door as the recruits leave for their bus. We wish them good luck and hand them a star of a once-flown American flag with a message that their service to our country is appreciated and they will not be forgotten.

Sharon Kaiser

Troy FC



“ *The Freedom Center makes the switch from regular life to shipping out more tolerable. Good food, good coffee. Enjoyed it!*”

Military Member

OCTOBER 2013 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2014

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME

Direct Public Support		
Corporate Contributions	\$	10,000.00
Fundraiser	\$	1,935.00
Direct Public Support - Other	\$	126,977.64
Total Direct Public Support	\$	138,912.64
Investments		
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	\$	22.81
Total Investments	\$	22.81

TOTAL INCOME	\$	138,935.45
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GROSS PROFIT	\$	138,935.45
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EXPENSE

BANK CHARGES

Paypal Fees	\$	11.63
Bank Charges - Other	\$	381.02
Total Bank Charges	\$	392.65

CONTRACT SERVICES

Accounting Fees	\$	7,050.00
Total Contract Services	\$	7,050.00

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Rent, Parking, Utilities	\$	2,424.46
Total Facilities and Equipment	\$	2,424.46

MEPS-TROY

Food and Beverage	\$	1,232.92
Maintenance	\$	670.28
MEPS-TROY - Other	\$	3,261.72
Total MEPS-TROY	\$	5,164.92

OPERATIONS

Books, Subscriptions, Reference	\$	448.37
Fuel Surcharge	\$	185.00
Fundraiser Decorations	\$	151.00
Fundraiser Entertainment	\$	400.00
Fundraiser Food and Beverage	\$	3,038.32
Fundraising Expenses	\$	172.45
Office Supplies	\$	181.26
Postage, Mailing Service	\$	550.00
Printing and Copying	\$	1,205.12
Supplies		
Beverages	\$	16,756.78
Paper products	\$	3,935.90
Snacks and General Food Product	\$	37,297.97
Toiletries	\$	110.91
Supplies - Other	\$	850.50
Total Supplies	\$	58,952.06
Total Operations	\$	65,283.58

OTHER TYPES OF EXPENSES

Insurance - Liability, D and O	\$	2,699.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	\$	2,699.00

PAYROLL EXPENSES

Taxes	\$	5,145.78
Wages	\$	40,750.08
Total Payroll Expenses	\$	45,895.86

TRAVEL AND MEETINGS

Travel	\$	684.26
Travel and Meetings - Other	\$	35.40
Total Travel and Meetings	\$	719.66

TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	129,630.13
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NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$	9,305.32
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NET INCOME	\$	9,305.32
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“*Thank you so much. You're awesome. So respectful. Made the ship day feel not so terrible. I'm taking off today to Fort Benning. Thank you again. See you soon.*”

Military Member

LEADING SPONSORS

The Freedom Center operates entirely on monetary and in-kind donations from our sponsors and contributors. Without the following companies and individuals, Freedom Center would not exist. We appreciate the continued support and generous contributions of the following sponsors.



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Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 259

Wayne County Airport Authority

Wayne County Airport Authority Employees

News/Talk 760 WJR, Paul W. Smith

World Duty Free Group

Special thanks to Meritor and Lapeer Industries for their support in the preparation and printing of this annual report.



“*My son is so excited to join the U.S. Marine Corps and we are also excited for him. Your volunteers are awesome and very helpful and nice as can be. God bless all the young men and women and keep them all safe.*”

Military Family



FREEDOM CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

FREEDOM
CENTER
Serving Those Who Serve Us.