



Still Serving Veterans

Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2009

Special points of interest:

- Expanded Service Initiative
- Upcoming Events
- Individual Stories
- Changes in the Office
- Is SSV Looking for You?

Inside this issue:

<i>Expanded Service Initiative</i>	3
<i>4th Annual Golf Tournament</i>	4
<i>In Memoriam</i>	2
<i>Grant Writers Wanted!</i>	3
<i>Case Highlight</i>	2
<i>In Memoriam</i>	5
<i>TARCOG Supports SSV</i>	2

Message from the Executive Director

Still Serving Veterans is now in its third full year of operation. Over the span of these three years we have evolved tremendously, serving our wounded warriors, their families and our community. We have given our veterans and families hope, realized their dreams and made them feel part of our community fabric. We have returned to the community in real dollars 4.5 million dollars in increased benefits and jobs for our veterans & families—all with an annual expenditure of around \$275,000 dollars. This is a great return.

Our dedicated staff spend countless hours helping all our veterans and families, this is not your 8-5

job. It requires weekends as well as week nights to help our veterans and families overcome daily problems in life. Still

Serving Veterans has been blessed to have a staff who cares and loves their work. In 2007, eighty two percent (82%) of funds were expended on our veterans and families and in 2008 eighty seven percent (87%), as audited by Mercer Associates. SSV will continue to strive for improvement and we will continue to look to our supportive community to assist us in the goal of



helping every veteran and family that needs help. It is a difficult time with economic downturns, layoffs of workers, loss of tax revenue and other associated factors. As long as we have the community support, Still Serving Veterans will be there for our veterans and families. It is the least we can do, for all they do for us.

VA Claims Assistance

During an “outreach” presentation, to a local Man-to-Man group, our Senior Case Manager met a 70 year old retired Marine who had spent two tours of duty in South Vietnam. This veteran has prostate cancer, which has metastasized. Grant invited him and his spouse to the office where he helped him prepare his claim for service-


connected disabilities to the Veterans Administration (VA). Although the VA was extremely slow in responding, they (with Grant’s prodding) ultimately awarded this veteran a service-connected rating of 100% for Prostate Cancer and 100% for Bone Cancer as a secondary condition. He now receives \$3,143 a month from the VA, plus \$35,000

in retro-active compensation; complete medical care through the VA, at no cost to him; has an application pending for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) with the Marine Corps; and when he passes, if the death certificate indicates prostate or bone cancer as a cause of, or contributing cause of death, his widow will be

eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) in the amount of \$1,154 for the rest of her life. NOTE: “ALL” VA compensation is tax-exempt. The veteran’s comments: **“I’ve learned more than I could have ever imagined – Thanks SSV for your professionalism, tenacity, and wonderful service.”**



Still Serving VeteransSM



An unprecedented number of American service members who deployed to protect us during the Global War on Terror have had their lives tragically altered. Their plans, dreams, families and careers have been disrupted by life changing, severely disabling injuries. These magnificent heroes have done noble things in dangerous places on our behalf...and we can't forget their self-less service. We owe them the best we can give them..to empower them and lift them to new opportunities to serve.

Still Serving Veterans offers a holistic, support services approach to job training and career enabling, counseling, and assistance with Veterans Administration, medical, and other existing counseling programs. SSV partners with responsible agencies to accomplish its mission, goals and objectives. Key SSV partners are the Departments of Defense, Labor, Veterans Affairs; the Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2); Easter Seals; the Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation; Alabama Vocational Rehab; and many others. SSV complements and builds on these excellent initiatives...focused on continuing the nurturing and enabling of wounded warriors in their new long term career goals.

SSV assistance to the veterans and their families begins with the caring, knowledgeable case managers. This is critical to the SSV program. Case managers document the veterans' and spouses' individual needs, desires, limitations, and abilities to ensure needs are met (home, work, transportation, medical, etc.) along with any counseling services required.

Workforce transition planning is based upon case managers' recommendations, in consultation with responsible agencies (VA, Alabama Vocational Rehab, DOL, etc.). Case managers provide guidance in career decision/development and volunteer affiliated partner matching. A Workforce Transition Course of Action (COA) plan is devel-

oped, executed, and revised (as necessary) to ensure individual needs are being met. SSV case managers determine if a medical consultation is needed, depending on the wounded warriors' level of physical and/or psychological impairment. SSV serves as a clearing house, referring wounded warriors to a broad spectrum of capabilities in a variety of support organizations. The SSV case manager represents the veteran's interest to the medical community and the support organizations. This makes medical case management crucial from the beginning. SSV case managers earn the confidence of the veteran and family.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Caring, knowledgeable case managers doing personal individual assessments and follow up
- Proactive counseling, guiding and coaching
- Bridging the gaps/connecting the dots between veterans and existing support services
- Orchestrating and leveraging already existing Federal and State support
- Optimizing communications with other agencies (VA, TRICARE, OSD, DOL)
- Facilitating good decisions, stress reduction and counseling veterans on what to expect
- Orchestrating the entire process more efficiently

Specific Examples of Some of the More Popular Services Provided:

Assistance filing VA claims and appeals

Resume writing

Developing long term and short term cohesive plans

Information dispersal on education benefits, federal resumes/application procedures, financial matters and more.

Donation Information

www.stillservingveterans.org



#12606

Or mail to:

Still Serving Veterans,
2939 Johnson Road SW,
Huntsville, AL 35805

Case Highlight

You may already be aware that more than 14% of today's military is comprised of women. Additionally, women in today's military are in roles that take them into direct contact with local nationals outside of secure facilities/areas. Still Serving Veterans recently had an opportunity to provide services to a returning, disabled, female veteran.

The particulars of her situation have been generalized for confidentiality. Although she remains a strong individual, the stresses involved in being a mother, wife and coping with a disability became overwhelming. Her husband was geographically separated, her chil-

dren were testing their limits, the VA system was becoming too much to keep track of and she alone was in charge of the family's finances. In the midst of keeping everyone together and learning to live with a disability, she was victimized by theft. She allowed SSV to provide counsel and help track the many factors that were occurring simultaneously. SSV provided assistance on prioritizing tasks and clarity on what each system was going to provide. This assistance coupled with the help she should have from each source empowered her to make these decisions for herself. SSV also provided counsel and assistance in filing necessary paperwork that will

allow for her husband's assignment with his family.

There were hurdles that had to be crossed in order to get the proper authority's signatures. These hurdles were crossed by the individual, but advised upon by SSV. The assignment of her spouse is expected in a few months. The counseling that was done took hours upon hours to complete. The primary assistance SSV provided was not financial in this case, it was time, attention and caring and knowledge of the system.



In Memoriam

Saying a few words about veterans who have passed on is always difficult. Whether the passing is after a long a prosperous life or the sudden fall in battle, the moments are always difficult for loved ones who survive them. We all remember fallen heroes in different ways and many choose to continue work on their behalf.

SSV has been part of the remembrance of veterans and their families. This past year marked the passing of an SSV co-founder's mother. As a way of supporting the causes held dear to this family, a donation was made in

"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."

—Bob Hope

honor of her life and beliefs.

In doing so, SSV can continue to serve in cases where she no longer can.

If you would like to remember a loved one through a donation to SSV, your donation is tax deductible.

Top of Alabama Regional Council Of Governments (TARCOG) Supports Still Serving Veterans

You may have noticed some changes in the faces around the office. SSV now has two ladies that jointly share the responsibilities to greet our visitors both on the phone and in person. This is not always as straight forward as it may seem and they have both done an excellent job in adjusting.

Beverly Grubbs works the morning and Katherine Davis works the afternoon. They both have personal connections to the veterans population. Beverly was married to a veteran for many years and Katherine is the widow of a veteran.

They both come to SSV due to their

involvement in TARCOG. For those unfamiliar with the program, it is a senior program aimed at re-integration into the workforce through use of federal funding dollars and in support of community service organizations.

MESSAGE FROM THE SSV PRESIDENT

SSV'S Expanded Service Initiative

The brutal terrorist war has had a tragic, life changing impact on hundreds of thousands of American service members. Nearly 5000 American heroes have lost their lives during the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Several hundred thousand more suffer the physical, spiritual, emotional, and psychological wounds of battle. Still Serving Veterans (SSV), a Huntsville, Alabama based 501(c)(3) charitable service organization founded in 2005, has helped over 1000 wounded warriors and veterans, and has become a role model/center of excellence grassroots orchestrator for reintegration of wounded veterans. As such, the Offices of the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense, the Army Wounded Warrior Program, and the Veterans Coalition Innovation Center, have encouraged SSV to expand its service to help severely disabled veterans in other regions of the country. SSV's challenge is resourcing the growing need to help wounded veterans and their families in areas that don't have an SSV-like community reintegration coordinator. We are anxious to optimize SSV's service to more wounded warriors and their families, so financial support would provide operational funding to plan and prepare for that expanded reach, and expedite ex-

panding our Huntsville hub/control center to link wounded warriors with existing Veterans Administration, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement and counseling organizations. This expansion of community reintegration services for wounded warriors is critically needed. The Global War on Terror is causing an unprecedented number of traumatic, life changing injuries. Over 35,000 service members have been physically wounded, with over 6000 of those severely disabled. Over 500,000 American veterans are now suffering from the devastating affects of post-traumatic stress disorder and combat trauma. Traditional military support systems need help handling the overwhelming needs of wounded warriors, so support from community organizations like SSV is essential.

SSV has stepped in to bridge the gaps and help veterans connect with existing Federal, State, and local support services. Reintegration into new careers and communities is best done by a regional,

grassroots organization like SSV, because government organizations are focused on recovery and rehabilitation...and the reintegration phase requires local jobs, mentors, and counselors. SSV's critical services are caring, knowledgeable, user friendly assessments; vocational, benefits, and medical needs counseling and referrals to other organizations; and a broker/safety net/clearing house focus to keep veterans from falling through the cracks of the bureaucratic Federal and State support systems.

Reintegration into careers and communities is best done by a regional, grassroots organization like SSV.....

To optimize SSV's support to wounded warriors, we seek your support to expand our organization into a Huntsville-based national advocacy center for wounded warrior reintegration. SSV would be a hub/control center...a "think and do tank". We will maintain our model as a caring, knowledgeable clearing house that connects the dots, linking veterans with existing support organizations. In Huntsville we are blessed with a "perfect

Continued on page 7

Grant Writers Wanted!

If you have experience writing, preparing and/or submitting grant proposals - SSV could use your help. Volunteering your time and services to a non-profit organization like SSV is a worthy cause. We are in



need of experience both at the state and federal levels. There are many sources of funding already in place that SSV is eligible for.

SSV works with severely wounded veterans and their families. We provide services

to transition and rehabilitate and veterans of all services and eras. If you know of someone who would like to get involved, our contact information is below.

Please contact SSV at admin@stillservingveterans.org or (256) 883-7054.

4th Annual Golf Tournament Proudly Sponsored by Analytical Services, Inc. and The Cherokee Ridge Community

This fall will mark SSV's fourth annual golf tournament to benefit wounded veterans. Every year is an event that we can look forward to in anticipation of having a great time.

We are excited to already have several sponsors committed at different levels. The organization and planning is moving along and we hope for another a great turn out.

Donations, sponsors and volunteers are all in high demand. There



are approximately 16-20 volunteers needed, so keep the event in mind even if you do not golf. Additionally, raffles have been a great way to donate in the past. Some past donated prizes included dinner, gift certificates, and more. Services and merchandise can be accepted and are, as usual, a tax deductible contribution.

Please keep this event in mind as the fall approaches. You can help by spreading the word about

the tournament to local golfers and supporters. We have an information page that can be easily emailed or printed for distribution.

Friday, October 2nd

Registration 6:30-7:45; Opening Ceremony 8:00-8:30 Shotgun Start 8:30

Platinum Level Sponsor - \$5,000 or Greater

- Golf and lunch for 8 players
- Sponsor recognition signs on 4 golf holes
- Sponsor recognition signs on 8 golf carts
- Formal recognition in tournament program
- Formal recognition at awards presentation

Gold Level Sponsor- \$2,500

- Golf and lunch for 8 players
- Sponsor recognition signs on 2 golf holes
- Sponsor recognition on 4 golf carts
- Formal recognition in tournament program

Silver Level Sponsor- \$1500

- Golf and lunch for 4 players
- Sponsor recognition on 1 golf hole
- Sponsor recognition on 2 golf carts
- Formal recognition in tournament program

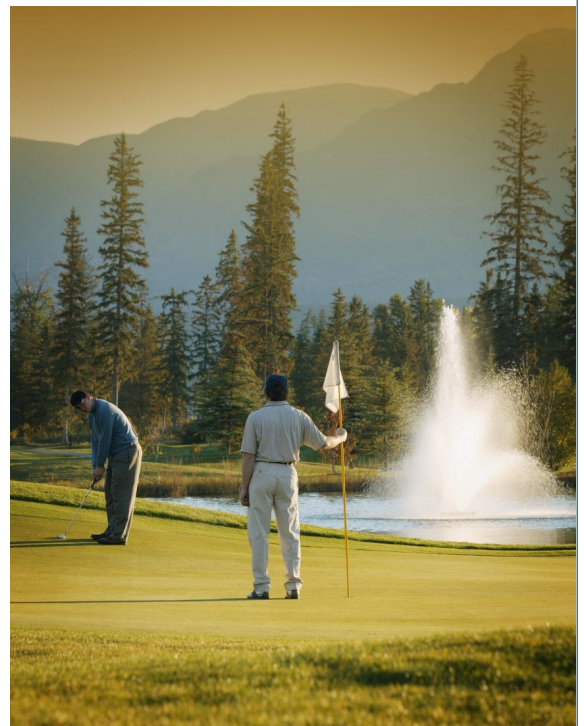
Hole Sponsorship \$250

- Sponsor recognition on 1 golf hole
 - *Multiple purchases available!*

Individual Golfer \$150

- Includes golf & lunch

For Sponsorship Questions please contact:
Shannon Nelson
(256)562-2135



Expanded Service Initiative continued from page 5

storm” of support and supporters, partners, a booming and diverse job market, a supportive command group and military facilities at Redstone Arsenal, and a patriotic, giving, defense-focused community that make Huntsville the perfect location for a national advocacy center for veteran reintegration. To efficiently expand SSV’s reach and service, we are pushing the envelope on structure, partners, and supporters. We are working closely with and would like to integrate a dynamic group of partner organizations, all fully committed to developing a community-based program that helps to eliminate significant service gaps in areas such as treatment of traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, family support, and new career assessment and job placement. SSV’s key Huntsville partners who are committed to optimizing care for wounded veterans and their families include the Semper Fi Community Task Force, Redstone Arsenal’s Community Based Health Organization, the Army’s award-winning AUSA chapter, the Huntsville Rehabilitation Center and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. National organizations that support SSV as a center of excellence include the Veteran’s Coalition Innovation Center, Easter Seals, the Association of the United States Army, Military Ministry and the American Association of Christian Counselors, the VA Gateway Initiative and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The synergy of these outstanding partners helps us optimize service to wounded warriors.

The potential of the synergy between SSV and its partner organi-

zations creates a moral obligation for an integrated center of excellence highlighted by our shared values, perspectives, and focus on helping wounded warriors and their families. By partnering with these outstanding, caring organizations, our expanded service to veterans

Funding support will allow us to replicate best practices, leverage relationships and expand our model.

and their families will be multifaceted and greatly multiplied.

Funding support will allow SSV to plan and prepare the expansion of our successful service to disabled veterans and their families. Additional resources will allow us to replicate best practices, leverage relationships, and expand our model. Bottom line, we will expedite improved employment training, placement, and vocational rehabilitation programs for wounded veterans and their families. With your support, SSV will provide the operational catalyst to expand the programs.

We're on the Web!

www.stillservingveterans.org

**STILL SERVING
VETERANS**

2939 Johnson Road
Huntsville, AL 35805



Phone: (256) 883-7035

Fax: (256) 883-7166

E-mail: admin@stillservingveterans.org

Thousands of Americans who went overseas to protect us by fighting in the war on terror have had their lives ripped apart. They are service members with diverse dreams that range from going to college, to raising a family, to life-long military service. They have various backgrounds, ages, and experiences. Their plans, dreams, and careers have been disrupted as a result of tragic injuries while serving all of us in America. Some have lost limbs; others have disabling injuries; still others suffer emotional trauma.

They are our finest heroes and need our help.



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