

Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center Newsletter

WWW.CAPEVETERANS.COM



Winter 2019



Message from the President

Fellow Veterans and Friends:

Our mission to support Cape Cod veterans with a food pantry, counseling, housing, and holistic therapies continues to be the sole reason we exist. The needs on the Cape are more than the VA and the various veteran non-profits can handle within their current capacities, but we remain determined to expand our capacity to serve.

Our Cape delegation recognized our efforts and increased our state aid last year. **State aid supports about 33% of our budget and we must fight for that support each year.** This past June the Town of Dennis succeeded, after a three year appeal by an abutter, to win the case and be able to move forward with the planned home to house five veterans.

We have initiated a \$1 million capital campaign to construct the home and currently have raised \$400,000.00 in funds, donated materials and labor. We hope to complete the construction by late summer next year. While this is a major effort for us, our other services continue to grow as we reach out to the communities and expand our contacts with veterans. **Later in this newsletter you will learn more about our services and a questionnaire which I hope you will take the time to answer so we may learn more about where we should focus our services.**

Please visit our website at www.capeveterans.com to see more about us and if it is within your ability, support us with a donation or a membership. I would like to wish you a peaceful holiday season and successful year ahead. **The mission continues.**

- LTC, William Burke, USA, (Ret), President

Special points of interest:

- VETERANS HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
- PROGRAM IMPACT
- VETERAN PROFILE
- BECOME A MEMBER
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
- PROGRAM IMPACT

Veterans Needs Survey: We Need Your Help!

Included in this newsletter you will find a Veterans Needs Survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand housing and supportive services needed by veterans and their families, **perhaps like you and yours**, now and in the future. **The information collected is essential to the CIVOC mission and to our ability to serve veterans** of all eras, past, present and future. Please take the time to complete and return this survey.

As a sign of thanks every returned survey and/or membership card will be entered to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. This survey can also be completed at www.capeveterans.com/survey.

Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to learning about your needs as you begin to learn about our organization.

www.capeveterans.com/survey

Cape and Islands Veterans

Veterans Home Capital Campaign

Where do you call home?

For nearly 1,000 veterans in Massachusetts their "home" is a park bench, empty alley, cold woods, or no home at all. This is unacceptable.

That is why CIVOC is now launching the **Veterans Home Capital Campaign** in an effort to **end chronic veteran homelessness on Cape Cod**. The Dennis Veterans Home is an innovative, first of its kind collaboration between CIVOC, a town on the Cape, and multiple community supporters.

To learn more about the \$1,000,000 capital campaign, how to support the effort and to see the progress of this new, five-bedroom home for otherwise homeless veterans, visit:



www.capeveterans.com/dennis-veterans-home

2019 CIVOC Programs at a Glance

1,119 Counseling Sessions	81 Individuals Kept from Homelessness	6 Veterans Transitioned to Permanent Housing
1,505 Served from the Food Pantry	\$134,772 SSVF Dollars Disbursed	387 Holistic Therapies Delivered to Relieve Stress
16 Families Kept from Homelessness	20 Homeless Veterans Housed by Transitional Housing Program	42,653 Community Contacts Made Promoting Veteran Issues

"IT TAKES COURAGE AND STRENGTH FOR A WARRIOR TO ASK FOR HELP."

Veteran Profile

Anthony is a highly decorated combat veteran who served our country in the U.S. Army, last stationed in Iraq for 13 months.

After his return from deployment, he, like so many of his fellow veterans, struggled with PTSD, serious substance abuse, homelessness, and failing relationships – all characteristics of those who suffer from the physical and emotional damages of war. Anthony has worked with our counselors, and when he struggled with housing due to the seasonal nature of the construction business, he utilized our Supportive Services for Veteran Families program for support with first month's rent and a security deposit to move into a private apartment.

To achieve even higher levels of stability, Anthony began attending Cape Cod Community College in a full-time, two-year engineering program. After learning of our scholarship program for veterans pursuing higher education Anthony applied and was awarded the Captain Eric Jones Memorial Scholarship to assist with the cost of his education.

Anthony has now completed his Associate's Degree and is pursuing his Bachelor's degree at UMASS Dartmouth. Anthony has also purchased his own home and is rebuilding his relationship with his young daughter. Anthony has come full circle and now volunteers with CIVOC helping serve other veterans.



Learn about other veterans and our supporters at www.capeveterans.com/about

Membership Levels



Assisting: \$5 per month
Support Outreach Programs and Increase Awareness

Bronze: \$25 per month
Provides 2 Food Pantry Visits a Month

Silver: \$50 per month
Provides 1 Counseling Session

Gold: \$100 per month

Provides a Veteran 6 months of wraparound care Or Provides 2 Homeless Veteran Families 1st Month Rent and Security Deposit to a Private Rental

Platinum: \$200 per month

Support Construction for New Low Income, Homeless Veteran Housing

www.capeveterans.com/membership

To deliver and sustain our current programs and services, as well as manage the increasing needs of our veterans, we must raise **\$325,000** of our operating budget annually. Additionally, to address the lack of housing for veterans on the Cape, we must also raise an additional **\$1,000,000** to complete current housing projects.

Sustained Member support through small, recurring monthly gifts are the life blood of our organization.

Please consider becoming a member at www.capeveterans.com/membership, or complete and return the enclosed membership card. Together, with your support, we can serve those who served us all. Ever new member with a completed survey will be entered for a chance to win a **\$100 Amazon Gift Card**. Drawing to be held January 31, 2020.

Message from the Executive Director

Our services are interconnected with each of our own programs and with those outside of our organization with which we collaborate. This allows us to serve as the portal into expanded services regardless of the veteran's need.

When you arrive our staff members will listen to your specific needs. We will ask the pertinent questions required to determine which of our own programs, and/or those programs within our network of collaborators, will best suit that need.

The questions are asked in privacy with empathy and the promise of confidentiality. Our only interest is in helping you if we are able. Through our interviews we will be able to determine what type of housing support will work for you, or whether or not our food pantry or one of our counselors could assist you.

If appropriate we will direct you to the Veteran Service Officer with whom we work closely, to determine whether you may be eligible for financial assistance through Chapter 115, or some other form of VA compensation. We will connect you to the veteran representative at MASSHIRE if you seek employment counseling, or to the VA Community Outpatient Clinic, right next door, for any medical needs you may have.

CIVOC exists to support Cape Cod veterans of all eras, of all branches, of all backgrounds. Please visit to see if there is some way we may be able to help you.

- Regina Giambusso, Executive Director

Did You Know?

1. The **Veteran Population** on the Cape represents **6%** of the total veteran population in the State.
2. The **Homeless Veteran Population** on the Cape represents **21%** of the State's Veteran Homeless Population.
3. The **Allocation from DVS to Barnstable County** through CIVOC represents **2.7%** of the total DVS Allocations For Outreach and Homelessness



Support Veterans and
be Entered to Win a
\$100 Amazon Gift Card
This Holiday Season!

Thank you



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Serving Veterans of All Eras.

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