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Specialized Services for Veterans and Military Added to HSRG

A request for information on services available for veterans and members of the military and their families revealed that Dept. of Veterans Affairs and other government services are well-represented, but nonprofit listings were scarce as this is a somewhat recent need. New nonprofits are being added.

Briefly ...

Other resources new to the HSRG, links to events and programs, and other useful information.

Welcome

Khamthakone Betts has joined the Information Resources unit of CSIPM.

Services for Veterans and Military

Most of the nearly 84,000 veterans in Fairfax County lead healthy, productive lives, but a small percentage is in need of assistance to manage various service-related concerns. Identification of safety net services for veterans has become a focal point for many human services organizations, particularly safe and stable housing for those veterans at risk of homelessness. There are a number of nonprofits that provide access to housing as well as case management services to support self-sufficiency for these veterans. Other employment and health services are available as well.

The military is a strong presence in Fairfax County and the DOD sponsors many resources for its active duty members. However, concerned families of service men and women in need may not be aware of these programs, so a few key resources have been added to the HSRG so that we can be of assistance to families and the service members themselves.

Coming soon: A Veterans/Military search icon will be added to the HSRG main page!

Services for Veterans	
Final Salute, Inc.	Housing
Founded in 2010 by a woman veteran, Final Salute offers transitional housing and housing subsidy assistance to homeless female veterans and their children. Also offers job training, education assistance, child-care, job placement, and counseling services that lead to self-sufficiency for their clients.	
Operation Renewed Hope Foundation	Housing
Founded by two military veterans in December 2011, ORHF provides small loans to “literally homeless” veterans so they can gain permanent housing. ORHF specializes in homeless veterans with families. They also provide supportive services such as job counseling and financial stability plans.	

<u>United States Veterans Initiative</u>	Housing
<p>US Vets offers a support program designed for veterans who might not require a structured program to maintain permanent housing, but who would benefit from continuing supportive services. Veterans living in the community are given access to rental assistance, employment assistance, and access to therapeutic and support groups.</p>	
<u>Veterans Facing Homelessness</u>	Housing
<p>This program offered by Housing Counseling Services provides services to very low-income veterans who are homeless or facing potential homelessness, providing short, intensive case management and temporary financial assistance to address factors that affect housing stability (joblessness, disability, mental illness, credit/budget issues, etc.). HCS is an <u>SSVF</u> grantee.</p>	
<u>Veterans First</u>	Housing
<p>Friendship Place is a Washington, DC, nonprofit that provides permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans and their families in DC, MD, and VA.</p>	
<u>Volunteers of America Chesapeake</u>	Housing
<p>VOAC offers homeless permanent supportive housing for very low income veterans and their families to help them transition to permanent housing. Comprehensive case management services are also provided. VOAC is an <u>SSVF</u> grantee.</p>	
<u>O*NET Resource Center</u>	Employment
<p>O*Net is the nation's primary source of occupational information with a crosswalk tool to assist veterans and military personnel find civilian jobs that utilize their military experience.</p>	
<u>VetSuccess</u>	Employment
<p>VetSuccess is a comprehensive VA program for service members leaving active duty due to medical issues and veterans with service-connected medical issues and disabilities. VetSuccess provides a wide range of services including help for individuals to live more independently, vocational counseling, training, and special rehabilitation services to eligible active service members, veterans, and dependents.</p>	
<u>Virginia Wounded Warrior Program</u>	Mental Health
<p>Fairfax chapter of the state-wide program that provides case management to veterans affected by PTSD, stress-related injuries, and traumatic brain injury. Also provides referrals to benefits, housing, employment and other assistance programs.</p>	

<p>Services for Active Duty <u>Military</u></p>	
<u>Army Community Service</u>	Financial Assistance
<p>ACS provides emergency financial assistance to active duty and retired military personnel and their families. Assistance is provided for rent, food, and other essentials via offices on-base at Ft. Belvoir and Ft. Myer-Henderson Hall.</p>	
<u>Comfort for America's Uniformed Services</u>	Healthcare/Therapy
<p>CAUSE programs support recreation, relaxation and resiliency for thousands of injured service men and women facing months of medical care and rehabilitation far from home. Programs bring fun and relaxation and help wounded service members transition to home and community.</p>	

[Military OneSource](#)

Counseling/Education

This DOD-funded resource provides a comprehensive array of programs delivering information and counseling services on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve members and their families. Services include suicide and sexual assault hotlines. All services are accessible via internet or telephone 24 hours a day.

Briefly ...

- ❖ **New food resource** – [Highview Christian Fellowship Church](#), in partnership with Harvest House Community Development Corp., runs a food pantry located at 4100 Hunt Road in Fairfax. They are eager for your referrals for their fresh produce and packaged foods that are distributed twice a week.
- ❖ **Mobile pantry in Reston** – Capital Area Food Bank is partnering with NCS and Live Healthy Fairfax to provide low-income residents with access to fresh, healthy food by sponsoring a [mobile food pantry](#) at Southgate Community Center the 4th Saturday of the month. (Note: This seasonal service is listed in Seasonal Announcements.)
- ❖ **WFCM thrift store closing** – Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is closing its thrift store as of August 15. The last day for referrals is August 1. WFCM is working with its churches and other non-profit partners to fulfill the clothing needs of the community and hopes to have an alternative in place soon. Thanks to Keisha Dotson for this notice.
- ❖ **Crisislink now offers text line** – The suicide and crisis prevention NPO now offers a [text line](#) to reach a wider audience, particularly young people in crisis. Thanks to Dot Groce for this lead.
- ❖ **Just Announced! PRS and Crisislink are merging** “to transform the delivery of mental health services in response to the community’s growing needs....” The organization will continue to be called PRS and CrisisLink will become a major program area. Thanks to Sophia Dutton for this lead.
- ❖ **Childhood obesity prevention resources** – [A comprehensive list](#) of resources, programs, and providers throughout the region that specialize in childhood obesity issues.
- ❖ **Cell phone program** – The [Lifeline Program](#) is a federal program which provides support to telecommunications companies that in turn offer discounts to millions of eligible low-income consumers who apply through their telecommunications company. Eligible households can receive monthly discounts and additional state support may be available. This service has been in existence for over a decade but isn’t widely known. Thanks to Stephanie Walters for this lead.

- ❖ **ANHSI Gartlan Clinic** – Recently, a unique and successful partnership was formed when Neighborhood Health (formerly known as Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.) began offering primary health care services one day a week at CSB's Gartlan Center. By connecting primary health care with the center's existing behavioral health services, this partnership provides "one stop health care" for both mental and physical needs. Thanks to OP3 and many CSP workers for this lead.
 - ❖ **National Night Out August 5** – Gum Springs Community Center is hosting a [Night Out Against Crime](#) to increase crime prevention awareness and encourage strong neighborhood relationships. Thanks to Kim Hamlett for this lead.
 - ❖ **Housing Locator website defunct** – The [Housing Locator Network](#) has moved to Good Shepherd Housing's website. 97% of clients housed through the network remain in stable housing one year later. Thanks to Yolanda Nicholson for this notice.
 - ❖ **Yellow cards** – I have 5,000 of them! Let me know when you need to restock.
 - ❖ **SharePoint Page for *Time Sensitive Information Folders*** – This webpage is under construction and will be ready for testing later this summer.
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Welcome

Khamthakone Betts joined the Information Resources unit in June to work on the HSRG. Her immediate responsibilities include mapping and implementing a systematic process to update current resource listings. She brings a background in database development and management to this work.



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